



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

November 2, 2021

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter transmits the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service response, in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management, to the Committees' request for the number of times that a drone incursion has interfered with wildfire suppression activities on Federal lands in the past 5 calendar years, the actions taken to prevent drone incursions, and recommendations to prevent future incursions. This response was requested by June 25, 2021; the delay was the result of multi-program coordination challenges.

In compliance with Public Law 111-88, after 45 days, this report will be posted to the Forest Service website at: <https://www.fs.fed.us/about-agency/budget-performance>.

If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter has been sent to Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Thomas J. Vilsack", is positioned above the printed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

November 2, 2021

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
125 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Murkowski:

This letter transmits the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service response, in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management, to the Committees' request for the number of times that a drone incursion has interfered with wildfire suppression activities on Federal lands in the past 5 calendar years, the actions taken to prevent drone incursions, and recommendations to prevent future incursions. This response was requested by June 25, 2021; the delay was the result of multi-program coordination challenges.

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Thomas J. Vilsack  
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November 2, 2021

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2007 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Chair:

This letter transmits the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service response, in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management, to the Committees' request for the number of times that a drone incursion has interfered with wildfire suppression activities on Federal lands in the past 5 calendar years, the actions taken to prevent drone incursions, and recommendations to prevent future incursions. This response was requested by June 25, 2021; the delay was the result of multi-program coordination challenges.

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If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter has been sent to Ranking Member David Joyce.

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Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

November 2, 2021

The Honorable David Joyce  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Joyce:

This letter transmits the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service response, in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management, to the Committees' request for the number of times that a drone incursion has interfered with wildfire suppression activities on Federal lands in the past 5 calendar years, the actions taken to prevent drone incursions, and recommendations to prevent future incursions. This response was requested by June 25, 2021; the delay was the result of multi-program coordination challenges.

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