

DIVISION G – DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

The following statement is an explanation of the effects of Division G, which provides appropriations for the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Forest Service, the Indian Health Service, and related agencies for fiscal year 2021.

The joint explanatory statement accompanying this division is approved and indicates congressional intent. Unless otherwise noted, the language set forth in House Report 116-448 carries the same weight as language included in this joint explanatory statement and should be complied with unless specifically addressed to the contrary in this joint explanatory statement. While some language is repeated for emphasis, it is not intended to negate the language referred to above unless expressly provided herein.

In cases where the House report or this joint explanatory statement direct the submission of a report, such report is to be submitted to both the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. Where this joint explanatory statement refers to the Committees or the Committees on Appropriations, unless otherwise noted, this reference is to the House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies and the Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Each department and agency funded in this Act is directed to follow the directions set forth in this Act and the accompanying statement and to not reallocate resources or reorganize activities except as provided herein or otherwise approved by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees through the reprogramming process as referenced in this Act. This joint explanatory statement addresses only those agencies and accounts for which there is a need for greater explanation than provided in the Act itself. Funding levels for appropriations by account, program, and activity, with comparisons to the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and the fiscal year 2021 budget request, can be found in the table at the end of this division.

Unless expressly stated otherwise, any reference to “this Act” or “at the end of this statement” shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this division.

Conservation Partnerships.—Funds are available for land management agencies to enter into agreements with youth and veterans organizations as authorized by the John McCain 21st Century Service Conservation Corps Act (Public Law 116–9). The Committees continue to support the partnerships between the Department and the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps and Public Land Corps, which help to engage youth and veterans in hands-on service to our public lands and expects these efforts to continue.

The bill provides \$1,099,000 for the Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses. When combined with salaries and expenses funding provided in the National Forest System appropriation, this activity is funded at not less than the enacted level.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The bill provides a total of \$1,927,241,000 for Forest Service Wildland Fire Management. The Committees believe the Forest Service should include dedicated funding for restoring burned areas in future budget requests. Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the Service is directed to report to the Committees a detailed plan for creating a Burned Area Rehabilitation program, and the potential effects on other programs and funding levels.

WILDLAND SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS RESERVE FUND (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Of the funds provided for suppression, \$2,040,000,000 is provided through the Wildland Fire Cap Adjustment authorized in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141).

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES

The bill provides a total of \$6,236,279,000 for the Indian Health Service (IHS), of which \$4,301,391,000 is for the Services account as detailed below. This reflects the transfer of 105(l) Tribal lease payments to the new indefinite appropriations account and the redistribution of current services funds provided in fiscal year 2018 but reprogrammed by IHS for 105(l) lease costs for a total of \$21,225,000. No new current services funds are provided. The agreement includes full funding for existing agreements between the Service and the Seneca Nation and the Service is further expected to include sufficient resources in future budget requests to meet these requirements. All programs, projects, and activities are maintained at fiscal year 2020 enacted levels unless otherwise specified below. IHS is expected to comply with the instructions and requirements at the beginning of this division and in House Report 116-448, unless otherwise specified below. Language contained in Senate Report 116-123 regarding the Alaska Comprehensive Forensic Training Academy, first aid kit enhancements, prescription