

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.

Continued Directives.—The Committees continue the directives in Public Law 116-94 regarding Dead and Downed Trees, Everglades Restoration, Rural Airstrips, and Domestic Production of Critical Minerals.

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.—The Department of the Interior and the Forest Service are directed to annually post on a centralized agency website the list of Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (Public Law 108-447) projects performed in each fiscal year, which should include a project title, description, location, and amount obligated for each project, beginning with fiscal year 2020.

Federal Law Enforcement.—The agreement notes that the explanatory statement accompanying the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021 directs the Attorney General to ensure implementation of evidence-based training programs on de-escalation and the use-of-force, as well as on police-community relations, that are broadly applicable and scalable to all Federal law enforcement agencies. The agreement further notes that several agencies funded by this Act employ Federal law enforcement officers and are Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers partner organizations. The agreement directs such agencies to consult with the Attorney General regarding the implementation of these programs for their law enforcement officers. The agreement further directs such agencies to brief the Committees on Appropriations on their efforts relating to such implementation no later than 90 days after consultation with the Attorney General. In addition, the agreement directs such agencies, to the extent that they are not already participating, to consult with the Attorney General and the Director of the FBI regarding participation in the National Use-of-Force Data Collection. The agreement further directs such agencies to brief the Committees on Appropriations, no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, on their current efforts to so participate.

Fire Hazard Potential Analysis.—Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior are directed to provide the Committees an estimate of the federal investment required to treat and restore all of the acres (federal and non-federal) classified as being at high or very high risk on the 2018 Wildfire Hazard Potential Map. The agencies are directed to provide an analysis of the acres that need to be treated within the next five years in order to limit the risk wildfires pose to communities and public lands, identifying the acres located in the Wildland-Urban Interface or municipal watersheds, and those acres most likely to spread wildfire into developed areas using the Forest Service's Scenario Investment Planning Tool.

Firefighting Aviation Contracts.—In addition to the direction outlined in House Report 116-448 regarding the report on firefighting aviation contracts and current impediments to the use of longer-term contracts, the Committees also direct the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to consider, as part of this report, whether modifying cancellation ceilings for longer-term aviation contracts consistent