

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.

Facilities.— The bill includes \$54,037,000 for Facilities. Consistent with instructions in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 116–94 that construction of a Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest Supervisor’s Office begin in fiscal year 2020, construction shall continue as needed for a timely completion of the project; the Service shall report to the Committees on its progress within 90 days of enactment of this Act. Additionally, the Service has statutory responsibilities to collect, curate, and display historical items from the agency’s history and should explore partnering with nonfederal stakeholders to ensure public access to these collections in repository and exhibition spaces.

Roads.—The bill includes \$68,895,000 for Roads to be used to increase public safety.

Trails.—The bill includes \$17,439,000 for Trails.

Legacy Roads and Trails.—The Service is directed to continue to track Legacy Roads and Trails accomplishments, including miles of roads and trails improved, miles of streams restored, number of bridges and culverts constructed, and miles of road decommissioned.

LAND ACQUISITION (RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

The bill includes a rescission of \$5,619,000 of prior year unobligated balances.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR NATIONAL FORESTS SPECIAL ACTS

The bill provides \$664,000 for the Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS TO COMPLETE LAND EXCHANGES

The bill provides \$150,000 for the Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges.

RANGE BETTERMENT FUND

The bill provides \$1,719,000 for the Range Betterment Fund.

GIFTS, DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS FOR FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

The bill provides \$45,000 for Gifts, Donations and Bequests for Forest and Rangeland Research.

MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL FOREST LANDS FOR SUBSISTENCE USES