

DIVISION D – DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

The following statement is an explanation of the effects of Division D, 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 2020.

The explanatory statement accompanying this Act is approved and indicates congressional intent. Report language contained in House Report 116-100 and Senate Report 116-123 providing specific guidance to agencies regarding the administration of appropriated funds and any corresponding reporting requirements carries the same emphasis as the language included in this explanatory statement and should be complied with unless specifically addressed to the contrary herein. This explanatory statement, while repeating some language for emphasis, is not intended to negate the language referred to above unless expressly provided herein.

In cases where the House report, Senate report, or this 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 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 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 2019 enacted level and the fiscal year 2020 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.

Bureau of Land Management, Reorganization.—The Department has not fulfilled its obligation to fully communicate the organizational and financial details of the reorganization and relocation of the Bureau’s Washington, DC headquarters. It has not provided Bureau employees, Congress, agency stakeholders or the general public with adequate information regarding this move. Furthermore, it has not explained how it will sustain its operations and remain an effective land management agency following

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The agreement provides a total of \$60,000,000 for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. Of the amount provided, \$5,000,000 shall be for implementation of the SRF WIN Act, as authorized by section 4201 of Public Law 115-270.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The bill continues several administrative provisions from previous years.

The bill directs the availability of not less than \$1,350,000 of funds for the National Estuary Program for competitive grants.

The bill extends the authority for the Agency to hire scientists under 42 U.S.C. 209 until 2025. The Agency is directed to submit a report biannually on its use of this authority to the Committees and to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Science, Space and Technology in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works in the Senate.

TITLE III – RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

The bill provides \$875,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment.

Forest Service Accounting, Budgeting, and Management.—The Forest Service’s (Service) efforts to improve its accounting, budgeting, and management practices are appreciated and ongoing work of the Service, Office of Budget and Program Analysis, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, and Secretary of Agriculture to continue these improvements is expected. To ensure the enactment of these efforts on October 1, 2020, bill language has been included directing the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the “Forest Service Operations” account. The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, is directed to transmit to the Committees a proposal for an alternative budget structure within 45 days of enactment of this Act. Subsequent to the transmittal of this

proposal, the Service shall consult with the Committees to develop a finalized alternative budget structure. The Forest Service's Office of Strategic Planning, Budget, and Accountability, not later than June 1, 2020, shall submit to the Committees:

1. technical assistance on new legislative language for the account structure;
2. comparison tables of fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021 in the account structure;
3. a copy of the interim financial management policy manual addressing changes made in this Act;
4. an outline of the financial management policy manual changes necessary for the account structure;
5. proposed changes to transfer and reprogramming requirements, including technical assistance on legislative language;
6. certification by the USDA Chief Financial Officer that the Forest Service's financial systems can report in the new account structure; and
7. a plan for training and implementation of the account structure.

Forest Service Directives.—The Service is reminded of the directives included in House Report 116-100 and Senate Report 116-123 that are not specifically addressed herein, as well as the new directives in this statement, including the front matter.

Wildland Fire Management.—The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141) provided a budget cap adjustment for wildfire suppression costs and included forest management reforms. The Service and the Secretary of Agriculture are reminded of the multi-year effort to achieve these budget and legislative changes and the expectation that all authorities will be appropriately used to improve the condition of the Nation's forests, as well as the ability of the Service to proactively manage and sustain them for future generations. The Service is also reminded of expectations for more accurate accounting for wildfire suppression costs, especially in light of the Service's ability to access cap adjustment funding for the first time in fiscal year 2020.

FOREST SERVICE FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

The bill provides \$305,000,000 for Forest and Rangeland Research. This includes \$228,000,000 for base research activities and \$77,000,000 for Forest Inventory and Analysis. The Service is directed to provide \$3,000,000 to the Joint Fire Science Program for fiscal year 2020.

The Service is expected to restructure the research program by fiscal year 2021 and to report on the restructuring progress within 30 days of the enactment of this Act. This restructure shall ensure that