

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2022

———, 2021.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Ms. PINGREE, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R.]

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following report in explanation of the accompanying bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022. The bill provides regular annual appropriations for the Department of the Interior (except the Bureau of Reclamation and the Central Utah Project), the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other related agencies, including the Forest Service, the Indian Health Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.

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Forest Stewardship Program.—The Committee recommends \$17,902,000 for the Forest Stewardship Program, \$6,000,000 above the enacted level and equal to the budget request.

Great Lakes Forests.—The recommendation includes \$900,000 for the Forest Service to work with partners to educate natural resource professionals and private woodland owners on the effective land stewardship practices of lower Great Lakes native forests such as woodlot management and agroforestry.

Community Forest and Open Space Conservation.—The Committee recommends \$5,000,000 for Community Forest and Open Space Conservation, \$1,000,000 above the enacted level and the budget request.

Community Forest Program.—The Committee maintains support for the community forest program.

Urban and Community Forestry.—The Committee recommends \$45,000,000 for Urban and Community Forestry, \$13,090,000 above the enacted level and the budget request.

Environmental Justice.—The Committee directs the Service to consider minority and underserved communities which also have relatively little tree cover as a top priority when considering which projects to fund, utilizing best available science and analytical tools. The Service is urged to ensure that such projects are being undertaken in partnership with affected communities.

Extreme Heat Mitigation.—The Committee recognizes the impact of extreme heat in communities with low tree coverage, which uniquely impacts communities in urban settings. The Committee further recognizes that there has been an increase in consecutive days of high heat that requires the proactive attention of the Federal government during fiscal year 2022.

Urban Reforestation.—The Committee continues to urge the Service to address the catastrophic losses to urban forests from Emerald Ash Borer while building resiliency through tree diversity and the protection of existing trees. Nearly eighty-one percent of Americans live in urban areas where trees are critical to human health and to reducing the impact of climate change. Of the funds provided within Urban and Community Forestry, the Committee directs an additional \$4,000,000 to be used for reforestation, to include tree planting, in urban communities most severely impacted by the Emerald Ash Borer. This funding is to be in addition to funds otherwise provided to regions for the Urban and Community Forestry program. The Committee encourages the Forest Service to prioritize regional, multi-organizational collaborations in urban communities most severely impacted by invasive species like the Emerald Ash Borer.

The Committee notes that the urban canopy is critical to mitigating impacts of climate change and improving human health. Therefore, the Committee directs the Service to coordinate with the Department of the Interior to place members of the newly created Civilian Climate Corps within the Urban and Community Forestry program to foster the resilience, restoration, and sustainability of urban forests.

International Programs and Trade Compliance.—The Committee recommends \$20,000,000, \$4,605,000 above the enacted level and the budget request. The Committee encourages the Forest Service to continue working with partner organizations in Guatemala on

sustainable forest management, forest health, forest landscape restoration and reforestation, community forestry, urban forestry, and youth conservation corps, that support sustainable natural resource management for human and habitat well-being, and economic development to provide viable job opportunities.

To support efforts that could help expand international forests as a solution for climate mitigation and human and habitat well-being, the Committee directs the Service to provide a report, within 60 days of enactment of this Act, examining how the Service could work in coordination with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Department of State, other land management agencies, and a potential non-profit partner, to select and deploy volunteers internationally in concert with existing U.S. programs for forest management, reforestation, and other related conservation efforts. As part of this report, the Service should assess how it could leverage the skills of professionals with extensive relevant experience in the management of natural resources and protected areas, including individuals working for or retired from the Service and other federal land management agencies, and how locations for volunteer assignments will be identified that fit within larger USAID goals and strategies.

Illegal Harvesting of Timber.—The Committee commends the Forest Service’s work to combat the illegal harvesting of timber. As an example of Forest Service efforts, the Direct Analysis in Real Time—Time of Flight Mass Spectrometry is a chemical analysis technique trusted by U.S. enforcement agencies to confirm the species of wood products in suspected violations.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

Appropriation enacted, 2021	\$1,786,870,000
Budget estimate, 2022	2,369,634,000
Recommended, 2022	2,232,344,000
Comparison:	
Appropriation, 2021	+445,474,000
Budget estimate, 2022	– 137,290,000

The Committee recommends \$2,232,344,000 for the National Forest System, \$445,474,000 above the enacted level and \$137,290,000 below the budget request.

Urban Connections.—The Committee continues to strongly support the Forest Service Urban Connections Program as a model for building strong relationships with diverse youth, interested citizens, urban leaders, interagency partners, and non-governmental organizations. The Committee provides not less than the enacted level for this program. Further, the Committee directs the Service to report back within 90 days of the enactment of this Act, on a strategy to expand the program nationwide and the budgetary requirements necessary, assuming matching support from the private sector.

Land Management.—The Committee recommends \$24,500,000 for Land Management, Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring, \$7,956,000 above the enacted level and \$2,956,000 below the budget request.

Lake Tahoe Basin.—The Committee directs the Forest Service to support the implementation and oversight of P.L. 106–506 at no less than the enacted level.