

117TH CONGRESS }
1st Session } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
117–83

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

JULY 6, 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

together with

MINORITY VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 4372]

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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broadband network. The Committee calls upon the Forest Service to continue to work with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to simplify and standardize permitting regulations and requirements to ensure both timely action and responsible stewardship. The bill includes language to permit the Forest Service to collect funds to cover the costs of administering the communications site program.

Agency Timber Target.—The Service is directed to provide information to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this Act detailing the resources necessary to increase the agency's timber target to four billion board feet, annually, including the geographic regions most likely to contribute to the increase in forest product production should a new timber target be implemented, as well as any barriers to achieving the higher target level.

Law Enforcement Operations.—The Committee recommends \$19,505,000 for Law Enforcement Operations, equal to the enacted level and the budget request.

Reforestation Backlog.—The Committee notes the reforestation needs across the country, specifically those needs related to the 2020 wildfire season. The Committee directs the Forest Service, within 90 days of enactment of this Act, to provide a briefing on reforestation needs across the National Forest System and state and private forest lands, with an emphasis on the challenges of meeting these goals including availability of seedlings and nursery capacity.

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area.—The Committee recognizes the important role that the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area plays in protecting natural resources and wildlife, promoting environmental conservation education, and preserving over 170,000 acres of forests, wetlands, and open lands on the peninsula between Kentucky and Barkley Lakes in Kentucky and Tennessee. Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area encompasses 300 miles of natural shoreline providing individuals vast recreation and economic opportunities. The Committee notes that although there was a budget restructure occurring last year, the Forest Service Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness fiscal year 2021 funding was an increase in funding when accounting for the programmatic expenses and salaries and expenses. The Committee is aware there has been reporting on information regarding the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, implying cuts in funding to that Recreation Area. However, the Committee stresses that cuts were not made to the Forest Service Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness budget in fiscal year 2021 nor in fiscal year 2022 for programmatic reasons nor as a result of the budget restructure. Additionally, The Committee directs the Forest Service to work with local stakeholders to ensure that funding provided through the Land Between the Lakes Management Fund is used to address priority maintenance and recreation projects within the National Recreation Area.

Shared Stewardship.—The 2020 wildfire year in California was the largest in California history. The US Forest Service is a model for shared stewardship principles working with States and local authorities to target strategic acres for vegetation management. U.S. Forest Service Stewardship contracts focus on removing vegetation or other activities to promote healthy forests, reduce fire hazards,