

DIVISION G – DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

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 2022.

The joint explanatory statement accompanying this division is approved and indicates congressional intent. Unless otherwise noted, the language set forth in House Report 117-83 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 2021 enacted level and the fiscal year 2022 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.

Continued Directives.—The Committees continue the directives in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 116-94 regarding Everglades Restoration and Domestic Production of Critical Minerals. Directives regarding Transparency of Information Regarding Grants, Agreements, Research, and Conferences Attendance in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 116-260 are also continued.

Deferred Maintenance.—The Department of the Interior and the Forest Service are directed to maintain updated 5-year deferred maintenance plans that, to the extent practicable, include a list of all outstanding deferred maintenance needs, and to provide them to the Committees on a quarterly basis.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

The bill provides \$1,866,545,000 for the National Forest System. The detailed allocation of funding by activity is included in the table accompanying this explanatory statement.

Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring.—Land management plan revisions and amendments should be tracked and reported in the annual budget submission. The Service is directed to report to the Committees within 180 days of enactment of this Act on the current list of forest management plans and comprehensive river management plans requiring revision or completion, a proposed course of action, and a timeline for compliance with the underlying statute.

Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness.—Within the funds provided, \$1,000,000 is included for the Office of Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources—Travel, Tourism and Interpretation Program to continue implementation of the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience [NATIVE] Act (Public Law 114–221) and to engage with Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations to promote sustainable native tourism activities, and \$3,000,000 is included to support infrastructure and trails development and to build the capacity of local user groups and partnership organizations, to be divided equally between National Recreation Areas administered by the Forest Service and established after 1997.

Grazing Management.—The Service is directed, to the greatest extent practicable, to make vacant grazing allotments available to a holder of a grazing permit or lease when lands covered by the holder of the permit or lease are unusable because of drought or wildfire. The Service is directed to brief the Committees within 90 days of enactment of this Act on its progress to relieve the backlog of fully processed permits. The Service is further directed to report to the Committees within 180 days of enactment of this Act on the number of grazing permits by region and unit that are the subject of the general provision related to the extension of grazing permits, a proposed course of action, and a timeline for compliance to the underlying statute.

Hazardous Fuels.—The bill provides \$187,388,000 for Hazardous Fuels. Of the funds made available, \$12,000,000 is for the Community Wood Energy Program; \$20,000,000 is for Wood Innovation Grants, of which \$2,000,000 is for grants to develop timber professional cooperatives that will address deficiencies in wood product infrastructure; and \$6,000,000 is provided for the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes to continue to assist communities and land managers in applying hazardous fuels and wildfire risk reduction treatments, conducting monitoring and evaluation research, providing technical assistance, and for independent analysis of managed fire. The agreement directs the Service to work with States in accordance with their State forest action plan for the removal of hazardous fuels caused by beetle infestation.