Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

June 26, 2023

THE HONORABLE JEFF MERKLEY
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Merkley:

Enclosed is a report on the efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, regarding implementation of evidence-based training programs for Forest Service law enforcement officers on de-escalation and the use of force, police community relations, and protection of civil rights, including consultation with the Attorney General on implementation of these programs. The enclosure also includes the Forest Service's efforts regarding participation in the National Use-of-Force Data Collection, including consultation with the Attorney General and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on participation in that program.

Submission of the report to the House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies and the Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies is required by the joint explanatory statement accompanying Division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, Pub. L. No. 117-43.

As required by Section 7016(b)(1) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, Pub. L. No. 117-328, this report will be posted on the Forest Service's website at https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/budget-performance within 45 days of receipt of the report by the Subcommittees.

If you have any questions, please contact USDA's Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter is being sent to Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary

Enclosure