Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

April 2, 2024

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:

This letter transmits the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service's, response to the Explanatory Statement that accompanied the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law No. 117-328), directing the Forest Service to maintain and update five-year deferred maintenance plans that, to the extent practicable, list all outstanding deferred maintenance needs, and to provide the plans quarterly to the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies; and the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. Enclosed is the Forest Service's five-year deferred maintenance plan, updated for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2024.

After 45 days from the date of this letter, the updated five-year deferred maintenance plan will be posted on the Forest Service's website at https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/budget-performance.

If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Department'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