

DIVISION D – DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

The following statement is an explanation of the effects of Division D, 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 2020.

The explanatory statement accompanying this Act is approved and indicates congressional intent. Report language contained in House Report 116-100 and Senate Report 116-123 providing specific guidance to agencies regarding the administration of appropriated funds and any corresponding reporting requirements carries the same emphasis as the language included in this explanatory statement and should be complied with unless specifically addressed to the contrary herein. This explanatory statement, while repeating some language for emphasis, is not intended to negate the language referred to above unless expressly provided herein.

In cases where the House report, Senate report, or this 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 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 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 2019 enacted level and the fiscal year 2020 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.

*Bureau of Land Management, Reorganization.*—The Department has not fulfilled its obligation to fully communicate the organizational and financial details of the reorganization and relocation of the Bureau’s Washington, DC headquarters. It has not provided Bureau employees, Congress, agency stakeholders or the general public with adequate information regarding this move. Furthermore, it has not explained how it will sustain its operations and remain an effective land management agency following

proposal, the Service shall consult with the Committees to develop a finalized alternative budget structure. The Forest Service's Office of Strategic Planning, Budget, and Accountability, not later than June 1, 2020, shall submit to the Committees:

1. technical assistance on new legislative language for the account structure;
2. comparison tables of fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021 in the account structure;
3. a copy of the interim financial management policy manual addressing changes made in this Act;
4. an outline of the financial management policy manual changes necessary for the account structure;
5. proposed changes to transfer and reprogramming requirements, including technical assistance on legislative language;
6. certification by the USDA Chief Financial Officer that the Forest Service's financial systems can report in the new account structure; and
7. a plan for training and implementation of the account structure.

*Forest Service Directives.*—The Service is reminded of the directives included in House Report 116-100 and Senate Report 116-123 that are not specifically addressed herein, as well as the new directives in this statement, including the front matter.

*Wildland Fire Management.*—The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141) provided a budget cap adjustment for wildfire suppression costs and included forest management reforms. The Service and the Secretary of Agriculture are reminded of the multi-year effort to achieve these budget and legislative changes and the expectation that all authorities will be appropriately used to improve the condition of the Nation's forests, as well as the ability of the Service to proactively manage and sustain them for future generations. The Service is also reminded of expectations for more accurate accounting for wildfire suppression costs, especially in light of the Service's ability to access cap adjustment funding for the first time in fiscal year 2020.

#### FOREST SERVICE FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

The bill provides \$305,000,000 for Forest and Rangeland Research. This includes \$228,000,000 for base research activities and \$77,000,000 for Forest Inventory and Analysis. The Service is directed to provide \$3,000,000 to the Joint Fire Science Program for fiscal year 2020.

The Service is expected to restructure the research program by fiscal year 2021 and to report on the restructuring progress within 30 days of the enactment of this Act. This restructure shall ensure that

research activities are focused on the key areas where the Service's management responsibilities will benefit the most.

## STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

The bill provides \$346,990,000 for State and Private Forestry. The detailed allocation of funding by activity is included in the table at the end of this explanatory statement. Of the funds provided for Federal Lands Forest Health Management, \$3,000,000 is for Service-wide strategic workforce planning efforts.

*Landscape Scale Restoration.*—The Service is directed to use funds for competitive grants.

*Forest Legacy.*—The bill provides \$63,990,000 for the Forest Legacy program. This includes \$6,400,000 for program administration and \$57,590,000 for projects. The Service should fund projects in priority order according to the updated, competitively selected national priority list submitted to the Committees.

*International Forestry.*—The bill includes \$12,000,000 for International Programs, an increase of \$3,000,000 above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. This increase will be used for the office's programmatic work to include combatting overseas illegal timber harvests and conserving the habitat of U.S. migratory species, including the monarch butterfly.

## NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

The bill provides \$1,957,510,000 for the National Forest System. The detailed allocation of funding by activity is included in the table at the end of this explanatory statement. The agreement does not include the direction regarding the Dakota Prairie Grasslands.

*Hazardous Fuels.*—The bill provides \$445,310,000 for hazardous fuels management activities within the National Forest System account. Included in this amount is \$4,000,000 for the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes.

*Four Forests Restoration Initiative.*—The Service is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations, the House Natural Resources Committee, and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, detailing efforts to accelerate forest ecosystem restoration under the Four Forest Restoration Initiative.

116TH CONGRESS }  
1st Session } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT  
116–100

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2020

JUNE 3, 2019.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of  
the Union and ordered to be printed

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

R E P O R T

together with

MINORITY VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 3052]

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, 2020. 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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Service Operations” account to fund activities previously supported through cost pools but does not accept the proposal to consolidate budget lines. Bill language is included that prohibits the Forest Service from charging the other discretionary accounts for cost pool activities. This report includes comparisons of fiscal year 2019 enacted levels for budget lines with cost pool estimates removed so that programmatic changes are clear. The Committee directs that future budget submissions reflect this new budget structure.

*Wildland Fire Management.*—The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115–141) provided a budget cap adjustment for wild-fire suppression costs and this additional funding is included for the first time in fiscal year 2020. After adjusting for the movement of cost pools to the Forest Service Operations account and including additional budget cap adjusted fire suppression funding, the Forest Service will have an additional \$1,295,634,000 for Wildland Fire Management in fiscal year 2020. In addition, \$300,000,000 of cap adjusted fire suppression funds and \$50,000,000 in base discretionary fire suppression funds are available through a transfer from the Department of the Interior. The Committee provides these additional funds and authorities to ensure that sufficient funds are available to protect American homes, lands, and wildlife from catastrophic fires without requiring a transfer of funds from the very activities that advance forest health and prevent wildland fires. The Committee expects the Forest Service to use suppression funds judiciously and continue to work closely with the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of the Interior to accurately account for expenditures and recover costs.

*External Assistance and Partners.*—The Committee urges the Forest Service to expand the authorized use of donations, cooperative and cost-sharing agreements, and assistance from external groups and partners to provide a quality experience for all National Forest visitors.

*Forest Service Research.*—The Committee has not received the report on Forest Service research directed by Public Law 116–9 and due at the end of the second quarter of fiscal year 2019. The Committee looks forward to reviewing this report and Forest Service plans to establish a rigorous review cycle; ensure that research reflects the needs of the National Forest System; improve coordination with the other Federal research agencies; and respond to industry, stakeholder, and partner input.

*Capital Improvement Plan.*—The Committee has not received a comprehensive capital improvement plan as directed by Public Law 115–141 and due by December 30, 2018. The Committee recommendation has provided limited capital improvement increases in this bill pending review of this plan. The Committee reminds the Forest Service of Congress’s expectations of this plan as delineated in Public Law 115–141.

*Insect and Disease Threats.*—The Committee recognizes that National Forest System lands, as well as other forested lands in the United States, are at increasing risk for insect and disease outbreaks and invasive plant infestations, which often result in catastrophic wildland fire. The Emerald Ash Borer and bark beetle are examples of these threats. As such, the Committee recommends a programmatic increase of \$10,000,000 for research and development programs, \$19,000,000 for Federal and Cooperative Land for-



## Calendar No. 227

116TH CONGRESS } 1st Session }	SENATE	{ REPORT 116-123
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### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2020

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SEPTEMBER 26, 2019.—Ordered to be printed

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

### REPORT

[To accompany S. 2580]

The Committee on Appropriations reports the bill (S. 2580) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

#### *Total obligational authority, fiscal year 2020*

Total of bill as reported to the Senate .....	\$38,113,720,000
Amount of 2019 appropriations .....	37,703,691,000
Amount of 2020 budget estimate .....	32,472,531,000
Bill as recommended to Senate compared to—	
2019 appropriations .....	+ 410,029,000
2020 budget estimate .....	+ 5,641,189,000

## FOREST SERVICE OPERATIONS

Appropriations, 2019 .....	
Budget estimate, 2020 .....	
Committee Recommendation .....	\$953,750,000

The bill provides \$953,750,000 for a new Forest Service Operations account. This new appropriation constitutes those activities previously supported through the existing cost pool structure, as well as other general activities of the Service. The account divides these activities into facilities maintenance and leases, information technology and centralized processing, organizational services, and salaries and expenses. The detailed allocation of funding by activity is included in the table at the end of this report and further description of these changes has been provided above.

## FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

Appropriations, 2019 .....	\$300,000,000
Budget estimate, 2020 .....	254,500,000
Committee recommendation .....	257,640,000

Note: \$48,490,000 is included in the new Forest Service Operations account that previously would have been assessed for operations and cost pools from Forest & Rangeland Research.

The bill provides an appropriation of \$257,640,000 for Forest and Rangeland Research. In this new structure, funds provided for programs appear substantially different after cost pools and salaries and expenses have been removed; however, programs are funded at no less than the fiscal year 2019 level.

*Forest Inventory and Analysis.*—The bill provides \$14,810,000 for Forest Inventory and Analysis in program funds, coupled with salaries and expenses, is equal to the enacted level.

*Research and Development Programs.*—The bill provides \$36,770,000 for base research activities, including Fire Plan Research and Development. Within the funds provided, the Service is expected to adequately fund Fire Plan Research and Development. Of the funds available for Forest and Rangeland Research, not less than \$2,000,000 is to support the work of existing academic partners from multiple states in the northern forest region, the Northeastern States Research Cooperative, sponsoring research to sustain the health of northern forest ecosystems and communities, to develop new forest products, and improve forest bio-diversity management.

The Service is directed to provide \$3,000,000 to the Joint Fire Science Program for fiscal year 2020.

The Committee continues to be concerned that the Service's research program does not focus on key areas where the Service's management responsibilities will benefit the most. This includes forest land management, research to improve the sustainability of the domestic forest products industry, and collaborations to solve real-time problems facing our Nation's forests. The Committee appreciates the Service's engagement on modernizing the research program and remains committed to partnering with the Service to restructure its research program for fiscal year 2021 to enhance coordination on forest related research and development for enhanced relevance, global competitiveness, and effective coordination. The Committee continues to note the success and popularity of the For-

est Products Laboratory as a model for the type of applied research in which the Committee believes the Service should be engaged. The Service is directed to report on its research restructuring progress within 30 days of enactment of the act.

The Committee recognizes the importance of bottomland hardwoods research to expand research efforts on hardwood plantation management, associated wildlife management, flooding effects to forests, forest health, and threatened and endangered plants and animals and encourages the Service to sustain partnerships aimed at achieving these goals.

*Forest Products Laboratory.*—The Forest Products Laboratory [FPL] provides benefits across a wide range of forest related issues, as demonstrated in part by the requests for FPL participation in a variety of endeavors important to Members of Congress. The Service is encouraged to engage in a program of work that provides economic insights, research, international market analysis, education, and technical assistance that draws on the expertise of the FPL and supports the commercialization of research findings. Of the funds available to the FPL, \$1,000,000 is provided to sustain work with existing academic partners focused on research and technology development to create new and expanded markets and to advance high-value, high-volume wood markets from restorative actions on the Nation's public and private forests. Additionally, \$1,500,000 is to develop a wood bridge demonstration program in conjunction with non-Federal partners to support rural infrastructure needs through research, development, and demonstration to stimulate new market development, as well as education and technical assistance to governmental agencies, industry, and research institutions.

*Downed Timber Research.*—The Committee understands wood from partially decayed timber has the potential to be utilized in a wide array of novel wood products for which lower wood quality and mechanical strength are not impediments. Within the funds provided, \$1,500,000 shall be made available for cooperative research to develop new products from wood that has traditionally been unusable because of decay. The project should seek to extend the time window for marketing fallen wood.

*Sudden Oak Death.*—The Committee is aware that since 2001, the Service, in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, has been treating Sudden Oak Death infestations on public lands in Oregon. The Committee expects the funding provided to be adequate to continue these efforts.

*Bighorn Sheep.*—The Committee directs the Service to continue the quantitative, science-based analysis of the risk of disease transmission between domestic and bighorn sheep required in the explanatory statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114–113).

#### STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

Appropriations, 2019 .....	\$335,487,000
Budget estimate, 2020 .....	182,296,000
Committee recommendation .....	317,964,000

Note: \$19,620,000 is included in the new Forest Service Operations account that previously would have been assessed for operations and cost pools from State & Private Forestry.