

\*Public Law 115–31  
 115th Congress

An Act

Making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for  
 other purposes.

May 5, 2017  
 [H.R. 244]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of  
 the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Consolidated Appropriations  
 Act, 2017”.

Consolidated  
 Appropriations  
 Act, 2017.

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management, heritage site rehabilitation, and wildlife and fish habitat management and restoration: *Provided further*, That the costs of implementing any cooperative agreement between the Federal Government and any non-Federal entity may be shared, as mutually agreed on by the affected parties: *Provided further*, That up to \$15,000,000 of the funds provided herein may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into procurement contracts or cooperative agreements or to issue grants for hazardous fuels management activities and for training or monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels management activities on Federal land or on non-Federal land if the Secretary determines such activities benefit resources on Federal land: *Provided further*, That funds made available to implement the Community Forest Restoration Act, Public Law 106-393, title VI, shall be available for use on non-Federal lands in accordance with authorities made available to the Forest Service under the "State and Private Forestry" appropriation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize the transfer of funds appropriated for wildland fire management, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$50,000,000, between the Departments when such transfers would facilitate and expedite wildland fire management programs and projects: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided for hazardous fuels management, not to exceed \$15,000,000 may be used to make grants, using any authorities available to the Forest Service under the "State and Private Forestry" appropriation, for the purpose of creating incentives for increased use of biomass from National Forest System lands: *Provided further*, That funds designated for wildfire suppression, including funds transferred from the "FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund", shall be assessed for cost pools on the same basis as such assessments are calculated against other agency programs: *Provided further*, That of the funds for hazardous fuels management, up to \$24,000,000 may be transferred to the "National Forest System" to support the Integrated Resource Restoration pilot program.

#### FLAME WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION RESERVE FUND

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for large fire suppression operations of the Department of Agriculture and as a reserve fund for suppression and Federal emergency response activities, \$342,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts are only available for transfer to the "Wildland Fire Management" account following a declaration by the Secretary in accordance with section 502 of the FLAME Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a): *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FOREST SERVICE

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS AND RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations to the Forest Service for the current fiscal year shall be available for: (1) purchase of passenger motor vehicles; acquisition of passenger motor vehicles from excess sources, and hire of such vehicles; purchase, lease, operation, maintenance, and

acquisition of aircraft to maintain the operable fleet for use in Forest Service wildland fire programs and other Forest Service programs; notwithstanding other provisions of law, existing aircraft being replaced may be sold, with proceeds derived or trade-in value used to offset the purchase price for the replacement aircraft; (2) services pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2225, and not to exceed \$100,000 for employment under 5 U.S.C. 3109; (3) purchase, erection, and alteration of buildings and other public improvements (7 U.S.C. 2250); (4) acquisition of land, waters, and interests therein pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 428a; (5) for expenses pursuant to the Volunteers in the National Forest Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 558a, 558d, and 558a note); (6) the cost of uniforms as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902; and (7) for debt collection contracts in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3718(c).

Any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service may be transferred to the Wildland Fire Management appropriation for forest firefighting, emergency rehabilitation of burned-over or damaged lands or waters under its jurisdiction, and fire preparedness due to severe burning conditions upon the Secretary's notification of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that all fire suppression funds appropriated under the headings "Wildland Fire Management" and "FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund" will be obligated within 30 days: *Provided*, That all funds used pursuant to this paragraph must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation which must be requested as promptly as possible.

Notification.  
Deadline.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Forest Service may transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated to the Forest Service by this Act to or within the Wildland Fire Management Account, or reprogram funds within the Wildland Fire Management Account, to be used for the purposes of hazardous fuels management and emergency rehabilitation of burned-over National Forest System lands and water, such transferred funds shall remain available through September 30, 2020: *Provided*, That none of the funds transferred pursuant to this section shall be available for obligation without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That this section does not apply to funds appropriated to the FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund or funds derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Notification.  
Advance  
approval.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for assistance to or through the Agency for International Development in connection with forest and rangeland research, technical information, and assistance in foreign countries, and shall be available to support forestry and related natural resource activities outside the United States and its territories and possessions, including technical assistance, education and training, and cooperation with United States, private, and international organizations. The Forest Service, acting for the International Program, may sign direct funding agreements with foreign governments and institutions as well as other domestic agencies (including the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of State, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation), United States private sector firms, institutions and organizations to provide technical assistance and training programs overseas on forestry and rangeland management.