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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2017

JUNE 16, 2016.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3068]

The Committee on Appropriations reports the bill (S. 3068) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

Total obligational authority, fiscal year 2017

Total of bill as reported to the Senate	\$32,762,011,000
Amount of 2016 appropriations	32,925,579,000
Amount of 2017 budget estimate	33,176,164,000
Bill as recommended to Senate compared to—	
2016 appropriations	– 163,568,000
2017 budget estimate	– 414,153,000

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Land and Water Conservation.—The Committee's recommendation for fiscal year 2017 represents a \$93,859,000 increase over the Committee's recommendation for fiscal year 2016, a 31 percent increase and a \$50,000,000 decrease from the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The Committee remains concerned about the prioritization of projects and reminds the agencies that properties should have willing sellers, updated market information, and the support of Federal, State, and local officials. The Committee also encourages the agencies to consider geographic distribution, historic sites, wilderness inholdings, and the national trail system when prioritizing projects.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act Training [ANILCA].—The Department of the Interior and the Forest Service shall conduct annual ANILCA training for all employees with any oversight, regulatory, or managerial duties or responsibilities for the State of Alaska. Additionally, the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service shall conduct annual ANILCA training in a village within a conservation system unit for all land managers stationed within the State of Alaska.

Paper Reduction Efforts.—The Committee is concerned about the millions of taxpayer dollars spent on wasteful printing practices each year and the lack of clear printing policies within each of the agencies. While progress has been made to better utilize the cloud and digitize records, little progress has been made to reform in-house printing practices. The Committee urges each agency funded by this bill to work with the Office of Management and Budget to reduce printing and reproduction by 34 percent and directs each agency to submit a report to the Committee within 60 days of enactment of this act on what steps have been taken to reduce printing volume and costs. The report should specifically identify how much money each agency will be saving.

Transparency of Information.—Federal agencies funded under this act shall clearly state within the text, audio, or video used for advertising or educational purposes, including emails or Internet postings, that the communication is printed, published, or produced and disseminated at U.S. taxpayer expense. The funds used by a Federal agency to carry out this requirement shall be derived from amounts made available to the agency for advertising or other communications regarding the programs and activities of the agency.

Fleet Management Practices.—Agencies shall provide supporting documentation on their methods for determining their optimal fleet inventories and justification for any deviation from GSA's Federal Property Management Regulations. Agency OIGs shall be responsible for doing yearly audits of fleet management practices and be made publicly available.

Invasive Species.—The Committee recognizes the critical importance of early detection and rapid response [EDRR] of invasive species as a strategy to mitigate the threats and impacts of invasive species and expects the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service to prioritize EDRR and control of invasive species that imperil endangered, threatened, or candidate species. In particular, the Committee supports efforts to prioritize EDRR in areas with large populations of invasive species. Within 180 days of the date of enactment of this act, the agencies shall provide the Committee

with an report on their efforts to prioritize EDRR as part of their expected program of work for fiscal year 2017, including detail on how the agencies plan to protect specific native species and natural resource values on public lands across the Nation.

Economic Analyses of Grazing on Public Lands.—The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are encouraged to update their respective analysis regarding the economic contributions, both direct and indirect, of livestock grazing on public lands.

Protection of Water Rights.—The Committee believes that neither the Forest Service nor the Bureau of Land Management has the authority to require, as a condition of the issuance, renewal, or extension of any Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management permit, lease, allotment, easement, or other land use and occupancy arrangement, the transfer or relinquishment of any water right, in whole or in part, granted under State law.

Unmanned Aircraft for Wildfire Firefighting and Safety.—The Committee is encouraged by 2015 exercises with Unmanned Aerial Systems supporting wildland fire suppression activities. The Committee recognizes the potential of safely integrating commercial Unmanned Aircraft Systems into wildland firefighting to aid decisionmaking and provide an additional mechanism to ensure the safety of firefighters. The Forest Service and the Department are directed to work with the Federal Aviation Administration Center of Excellence for Unmanned Aerial Systems to evaluate the potential of integrating this additional tool into the firefighting mission, as well as to evaluate additional uses for the technology to improve situational awareness during fire events and deployment of firefighting resources.

Executive Order 13658.—The Committee is concerned about the impacts of Executive Order 13658 on outfitters operating on public lands. The Committee understands that Federal agencies attempted to work with the Department of Labor to craft an exemption for outfitters operating on public lands and is disappointed that those efforts were unsuccessful. The Committee urges the affected agencies funded by this act to work with the Department of Labor to seek an alternative remedy to implementing the 2014 rule.

Community-Based Collaboration.—The Committee appreciates the significant emphasis on collaborative land management programs within the existing budgets of the Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service. However, the Committee is also aware that there is additional need for training, facilitation and other services to help stakeholders resolve conflict and develop community-based collaborative solutions to natural resource challenges. The Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service are encouraged to work with State and local governments, conservation groups and other third-party stakeholders, including universities, to identify additional ways to develop stakeholder capacity and enhance existing collaborative programs.

REPROGRAMMING GUIDELINES

The Chairman retains the reprogramming guidelines contained in the Statement of Managers accompanying the Conference Report