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{ REPORT
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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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technology development, creating new and expanded markets for wood products to help ensure forests are healthy, sustainable and more resilient to disturbances. Additionally, the Committee directs the Forest Products Laboratory to collaborate with University partners to advance cost-effective biomass uses.

Ceratocystis Disease.—The Committee notes the Forest Service’s report “Risk and pathway assessment for the introduction of exotic insects and pathogens that could affect Hawai’i’s native forests” and directs the Forest Service to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the States of Hawai’i and Florida to develop recommended actions based on the findings of the report to respond to the emergence of *Ceratocystis* disease in Hawai’i and Florida.

Within the Research and Development program, the Committee recognizes the Water, Air & Soil Program’s potential to advance environmental monitoring technologies and methods. The Committee urges the Forest Service to advance partnerships between this program and other Federal agencies to explore alternative and innovative testing systems for toxins, pollutants, and other environmental contaminants such as analyzing moss to detect heavy metal deposition.

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

Appropriations, 2016	\$237,023,000
Budget estimate, 2017	234,004,000
Chairman’s recommendation	220,831,000

The bill provides a total appropriation of \$220,831,000 for State and private forestry programs, a decrease of \$16,192,000 below the enacted level. Program changes to the enacted level are detailed in the following budget activity narratives and funding levels for each subactivity can also be found in the table at the end of this report.

Landscape Scale Restoration [LSR].—The bill provides an appropriation of \$14,000,000 for landscape scale restoration, an amount equal to the enacted level. The Committee recommends that all funding allocated be awarded competitively to States for the purpose of conducting collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes and managing forest resources that are at risk of catastrophic wildfire, invasive species, insect infestations and disease, and any other threats that degrade the vitality of forest ecosystems. The Committee believes LSR investments should be used exclusively for projects that are outcome driven to encourage active forest management on cross-boundary priority forest landscapes, to actively restore and protect forests from natural threats and wildfire, and to advance active forest management priorities identified in statewide forest assessment and resource strategies. Additionally, Committee urges the Forest Service to work with the Department of the Interior to increase cross-boundary collaboration through the Hazardous Fuels Program, particularly with State Foresters and private sector organizations, in efforts to reduce hazardous fuels in high fire risk landscapes and to prioritize projects that work across ownership boundaries in landscapes, particularly those areas identified as priorities in State Forest Action Plans. For greater transparency and accountability, the Secretary shall

provide to the Committee a report within 180 days on the status of development, execution, and administration of selected projects; accounting of program funding expenditures; and specific accomplishments that have resulted from landscape-scale restoration projects funded through this appropriation and projects funded since the inception of the LSR budget line item.

Forest Health Management.—The bill provides \$92,060,000 for forest health management activities, an amount \$7,540,000 below the enacted level. This includes \$51,382,000 for activities on Federal lands and \$40,678,000 on cooperative lands.

Cooperative Forestry.—The bill provides \$98,474,000 for cooperative forestry activities, a decrease of \$16,949,000 below the enacted level. This includes \$19,036,000 for forest stewardship, \$3,000,000 for community forest and open space conservation, and \$23,686,000 for urban and community forestry.

Forest Legacy.—The bill provides \$61,049,000 for the forest legacy program, a decrease of \$1,298,000 below the enacted level. The Committee includes a rescission of \$8,297,000 in Forest Legacy funds. This funding rescission is from cost savings of some projects and funds returned from failed or partially failed projects. The amount provided within this bill is available for the following distribution of funds and projects requested by the administration:

State	Project	Budget estimate	Bill (Discretionary)
GA	Altamaha River—Sansavilla Project	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
MT	Whitefish Lake Watershed Project	7,000,000	7,000,000
OR	East Moraine Willowa Lake	900,000	900,000
FL	Silver Springs Watershed	3,500,000	3,500,000
WA	South Puget Sound	6,318,000	6,318,000
HI	Ho'oma'u	2,000,000	2,000,000
SC	Gold Branch	2,030,000	2,030,000
FL	Wolfe Creek Forest	2,800,000	2,800,000
TN	Karst Forest at Grassy Cove	1,350,000	1,350,000
UT	Zion-Simon Gulch	2,500,000	2,500,000
NC	East Fork of French Broad Headwaters Phase IV	4,000,000	4,000,000
NH	Beebe River uplands	2,600,000	2,600,000
FM	Yala Valley Watershed	565,000	565,000
MA	West Quabbin Woodlands	2,895,000	2,895,000
MO	Eleven Point Forest	2,000,000	2,000,000
HI	Helemano Wilderness Area	2,000,000	2,000,000
VA	New River Headwaters	1,320,000	1,320,000
NM	Brazos Cliff	3,480,000	3,480,000
AL	Coastal Headwaters Forest	3,000,000	3,000,000
	Other Projects	689,000	
	Administration	6,400,000	5,791,000
	Subtotal, Forest Legacy Program		51,049,000
	Rescission of funds from failed or partially failed projects		—8,297,000
	Total, Forest Legacy Program	62,347,000	52,752,000

International Forestry.—The bill provides \$8,000,000 for international forestry activities, an amount equal to the enacted level.

The Committee recognizes that the Wild Salmon Center has successfully competed for grants through the International Forestry and other programs. Forest Service specialists with expertise in fisheries, habitat restoration, protected area management, community engagement, and other topics contribute to the Wild Salmon