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114-281

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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Gila Headwaters.—The Forest Service is expected to consider the Wild and Scenic River qualities, as defined by the Wild and Scenic River Act, of the headwaters of the Gila River as part of the ongoing Forest Plan Revision on the Gila National Forest in New Mexico. The headwaters of the Gila River originates in America's first designated wilderness area and supports a rich forest ecosystem including distinct native fish species.

Stewardship Contracting.—The Committee understands a rule-making is underway for a Small Business Timber Set Aside for Stewardship Contracting and expects the process to be completed expeditiously.

Good Neighbor Authority.—The Committee directs the Forest Service, to the greatest extent possible, to make the Federal and State Cooperative Watershed Restoration and Protection authority (as amended by section 417, division G, of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76; 128 Stat. 341)) widely available for treatment of insect infested trees, reduction of hazardous fuels, and other activities, including for removal of timber.

The Committee supports efforts of the Forest Service to foster and facilitate partnerships with collaborative groups working to increase the pace, scale, and quality of forest restoration in all forest types, grasslands and unique habitats managed by the Forest Service and on adjacent lands. Coordination should occur between divisions within the agency to facilitate and implement partnership agreements.

The Forest Service is directed to provide a report to the Committee regarding their spending and strategies related to wild horses and burros management on national forest lands.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2016	\$364,164,000
Budget estimate, 2017	343,280,000
Chairman's recommendation	355,674,000

The bill provides an appropriation of \$355,674,000 for capital improvement and maintenance programs, a decrease of \$8,490,000 below the enacted level. As in previous years, this amount is offset with a \$16,000,000 scoring credit related to the Roads and Trails Fund.

Facilities.—The bill provides \$69,600,000, including \$55,369,000 for maintenance and \$14,231,000 for construction, a total decrease of \$1,790,000 below the enacted level. The Committee finds that repairs, maintenance and upgrades are needed for the smokejumper bases operated by the Forest Service. The Forest Service should seek to address the backlog of repairs, maintenance and needed upgrades of its smokejumper bases in order to help keep bases in operational status.

Roads.—The bill provides \$179,094,000, including \$150,454,000 for maintenance and \$28,640,000 for construction, a total increase of \$7,000,000 above the enacted level.

Trails.—The bill provides \$74,830,000, including \$69,777,000 for maintenance and \$5,053,000 for construction, \$2,700,000 below the enacted level.