

112TH CONGRESS }  
*1st Session*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{ REPORT  
112-331

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS  
AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

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CONFERENCE REPORT

TO ACCOMPANY

H.R. 2055



DECEMBER 15, 2011.—Ordered to be printed

lowing States to continue to fund these types of projects at their discretion.

## ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER AND RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

The bill rescinds \$50,000,000 from specific unobligated balances. Modified bill language has been included to provide specific wage rate requirements for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving funds.

*Oil Spill Transfer Authority.*—The bill includes modified transfer authority language that allows the Agency to meet its obligations to pay contractors responding to inland oil spills. The conferees have included this language for fiscal year 2012 only. The conferees strongly urge EPA, in conjunction with the Office of Management and Budget, to propose a more appropriate legislative fix if the Administration is unable to process routine transfers from the Oil Spill Trust Fund in a timely fashion. The conferees support the approach discussed in the House report to be a more permanent solution.

## TITLE III—RELATED AGENCIES

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

#### FOREST SERVICE

##### FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

The bill provides \$295,773,000 for Forest and Rangeland Research. The conferees also provide the following directions:

The agreement does not specify allocations for individual research facilities. The conferees encourage the Forest Products Laboratory, as part of the Department of Agriculture's effort to promote and use wood products as a green building material, to invest in wood products life cycle assessment research to improve our understanding of the environmental and economic implications of using wood in building construction.

The Forest Service is commended for its localized needs research and is directed to expand this research in support of project development on national forests. The Forest Service should prioritize research related to White Nose Syndrome as well as inventory and monitoring of bat resources on Forest Service lands. The Service is expected to continue ongoing urban natural resources stewardship research and should produce a joint report with the Department of Energy on the role that this work can play in helping reduce the urban heat island effect, as well as reduce the energy demand to cool buildings.

##### STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

The bill provides \$253,331,000 for State and Private Forestry. The conferees also provide the following directions:

Within six months of enactment of this Act, the Forest Service is directed to develop a process in consultation with State foresters