



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

SEP 26 2012

The Honorable Daniel Akaka
Chairman
Committee on Indian Affairs
United States Senate
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to the requirements outlined in Title V – FLAME Act of 2009 in Public Law 111-88, the purpose of this letter is to provide the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement (FLAME) Act Annual Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 for the Department of Agriculture (USDA). The information outlined is closely coordinated between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and USDA's Forest Service. The DOI report will be provided under separate cover.

The FLAME Act of 2009 established the FLAME Wildland Suppression Reserve Fund for USDA and DOI to support the costs of large or complex wildfire events. FLAME is intended to reduce intra-department account transfers resulting from the costs of fighting large fires or the cumulative costs of active fire seasons. This document satisfies the required annual report of FLAME activities.

In FY 2011, USDA declared 57 fires and DOI declared 20 fires eligible for FLAME Act funding. Each fire met the following criteria for FLAME declaration: occurred on DOI or USDA lands, had a complexity level that required assignment of Type 1 or Type 2 Incident Management Teams, and was at least 300 acres in size.

The following table details FY 2011 FLAME-declared fire activity, by Department.

Department	Amount Executed	Number of Declared Fires	Number of Declarations
USDA Forest Service	\$290,418,000	57	3
U.S. Department of the Interior	\$84,867,000	20	1

USDA and DOI worked very closely throughout FY 2011 to ensure that FLAME declaration criteria were the same, as well as to establish protocols for cost sharing and accounting. For FY 2012, the declaration and accounting procedures will remain the same.

The Honorable Daniel Akaka
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A similar letter and copy of the report are being sent to Congressmen Robert Bishop, Michael Simpson, Glenn Thompson, Raúl Grijalva, Tim Holden and James Moran, and Senators Jack Reed, Ron Wyden, John Barrasso and Lisa Murkowski.

Sincerely,

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

SEP 26 2012

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Barrasso:

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United States Department of Agriculture

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SEP 26 2012

The Honorable Robert Bishop
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary



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Washington, D.C. 20250

SEP 26 2012

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

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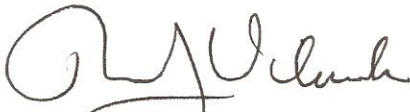
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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

SEP 26 2012

The Honorable Tim Holden
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
2417 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Holden:

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

SEP 26 2012

The Honorable James P. Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House and Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moran:

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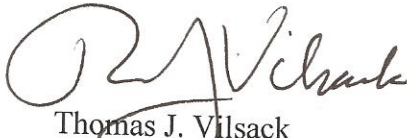
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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

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Washington, D.C. 20250

SEP 26 2012

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary



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SEP 26 2012

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
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