

114TH CONGRESS }  
 1st Session } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT  
 114-170

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND  
 RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016

JUNE 18, 2015.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of  
 the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. CALVERT, from the Committee on Appropriations,  
 submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

MINORITY VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 2822]

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following report in  
 explanation of the accompanying bill making appropriations for the  
 Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency,  
 and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30,  
 2016. The bill provides regular annual appropriations for the De-  
 partment of the Interior (except the Bureau of Reclamation and the  
 Central Utah Project), the Environmental Protection Agency, and  
 for other related agencies, including the Forest Service, the Indian  
 Health Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National  
 Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.

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## TITLE III—RELATED AGENCIES

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## FOREST SERVICE

The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres of National Forests, Grasslands, and a Tallgrass Prairie, including lands in 44 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and cooperates with States, other Federal agencies, Tribes and private landowners to sustain the Nation's forests and grasslands. The Forest Service administers a wide variety of programs, including forest and rangeland research, State and private forestry assistance, cooperative forest health programs, an international program, National Forest System, and wildland fire management. The National Forest System (NFS) includes 155 national forests, 20 National grasslands, 20 National recreation areas, a National Tallgrass prairie, six National monuments, and six land utilization projects. The NFS is managed for multiple uses, beginning with wood, water and forage, and expanded under the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act to include recreation, grazing, fish and wildlife habitat management.

*Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Request.*—The Committee appreciates the detailed programmatic information provided by the Forest Service in its budget requests to Congress. For the fiscal year 2017 budget request, the Committee directs the Service to provide project statements showing total available funding, justifications of increases and decreases, and classifications of objects for each account. This will ensure the Committee receives the same information from the Forest Service as it does from all other USDA agencies and offices and the other agencies funded by Interior and Environment Appropriations Acts.

*Air Asset Integrity.*—The Forest Service shall ensure that an Aircraft Structural Integrity Plan or comparable analysis to plan for the maintenance of the seven HC-130H aircraft to be transferred to the Forest Service pursuant to the fiscal year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 113-66) is developed. Based on this analysis, the Forest Service shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations, as part of the annual Congressional justifications, estimated costs for operations and maintenance of the HC-130H aircraft for the current and following five years.

The Forest Service also shall provide estimated operations and maintenance costs for the C-23B Sherpa aircraft to be transferred. Not later than 90 days after the Forest Service takes ownership of the first HC-130H aircraft, and annually thereafter, the Forest Service shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations on operations and maintenance costs of each HC-130H and C-23B Sherpa aircraft transferred pursuant to the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 113-66), as well as light fixed-wing aircraft currently owned by the Forest Service, by tail number.

As part of any request for funds to perform modifications to the C-23B Sherpa aircraft transferred pursuant to the fiscal year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 113-66), the Forest Service shall provide information on the balances remaining in the Working Capital Fund of the Forest Service for light fixed-wing aircraft.