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H. Rept. 115-238 - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2018

115th Congress (2017-2018)

Report Type: House Report

Accompanies: [H.R.3354](#)

Committees: [Appropriations](#)

Report text available as: [TXT](#) [PDF](#) (PDF provides a complete and accurate display of this text.)[?]

115th Congress	}		{	Report
		HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES		
1st Session	}		{	115-238

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2018

July 21, 2017.--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

DISSENTING VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 3354]

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following
report in explanation of the accompanying bill making
appropriations for the Department of the Interior, the

Environmental A25JY0.Protection Agency, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018. The bill provides regular annual appropriations for the Department 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.

CONTENTS

	Page number	Bill Report
Title I--Department of the Interior:		
Bureau of Land Management.....	2	7
United States Fish and Wildlife Service.....	8	11
National Park Service.....	15	24
United States Geological Survey.....	20	34
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.....	23	37
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.....	24	39
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.....	26	39
Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education.....	29	41
Office of the Secretary.....	38	48
Insular Affairs.....	40	49
Office of the Solicitor.....	43	50
Office of Inspector General.....	43	50
Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians.	43	50
Department-wide Programs:		
Wildland Fire Management, Interior Department.....	46	51
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund, Interior Department.....	N/A	52
Central Hazardous Materials Fund.....	49	52
Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration.	49	52
Working Capital Fund.....	50	

	51	52
Office of Natural Resources Revenue.....	51	52
Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).....	52	53
General Provisions, Department of the Interior.....	52	53
Title II--Environmental Protection Agency:		
Science and Technology.....	62	55
Environmental Programs and Management.....	63	58
Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Fund....	64	62
Office of Inspector General.....	65	62
Buildings and Facilities.....	65	63
Hazardous Substance Superfund.....	65	63
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program	66	64
Inland Oil Spill Programs.....	67	65
State and Tribal Assistance Grants.....	67	66
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program Account.....	75	68
Administrative Provisions.....	76	68
Title III--Related Agencies:		
Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.....	79	69
Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment.....	79	69
Wildland Fire Management, Forest Service.....	85	78
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund, Forest Service.....	N/A	79
Indian Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.....	95	80
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	104	84
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry...	104	84
Other Related Agencies:		
Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality.....	105	85
Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.....	106	86
Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation.....	107	86

and \$4,968,000 above the budget request. Of the funds available to Manage Recreation Operations, \$750,000 shall be for the maintenance of rural airstrips.

Palisades Wilderness Study Area.--Congress intended for existing and historic motorized recreational uses to continue in wilderness study areas as designated in the 1984 Wyoming Wilderness Act. The Committee is aware that recent decisions by the Service have misconstrued this intent, which has had the effect of limiting previously established winter motorized uses. The Committee directs the Service to review its decisions and provide a report within 30 days of enactment of this Act to the Committee on its plan to remedy the concerns.

Off-Highway Vehicle Report.--The Committee directs the Service to provide a report on its off-highway vehicle (OHV) mixed-use analysis. The report should include information on how OHV access to forest roads would affect recreational opportunities and related economic activity in forest communities; how many miles potentially could become available; estimated budget needs for expanded access; plans for opening new routes; and how other vehicles, such as all-terrain vehicles, could be utilized by wounded veterans and disabled citizens. The Committee reminds the Service of the importance of making the national forests as accessible as possible to the American people and requests that the Service work with States, local officials, communities, and partners as it implements the travel analysis process.

Special-use Permits.--The Committee encourages the Service to increase the pace and scale of its evaluation of special-use permits in order to improve access to public lands and generate additional economic activity in the national forests and forest communities.

Kisatchie National Forest.--The Committee is concerned about reports that the Service has insufficiently scoped the Breezy Hill Trail construction proposal and failed to adequately consider public comments, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As such, the Committee directs the Service to provide a report within 30 days of enactment of this Act on how it intends to comply with all NEPA requirements, ensure public participation, and engage local communities regarding this proposal.

Grazing Management.--The Committee recommends \$56,856,000 for Grazing Management, equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$6,256,000 above the budget request.

The Committee encourages the Service to improve its monitoring of grazing permits in allotments where riparian streamside health is a concern for listed or threatened species. The Committee also requests each Forest Service region increase transparency and reporting on how their monitoring resources are used on the ground to satisfy monitoring requirements or for other purposes.

Hazardous Fuels.--The Committee recommends \$392,500,000 for hazardous fuels, \$2,500,000 above the fiscal year 2017 level and \$38,212,000 above the budget request. The Committee accepts the proposal to move Hazardous Fuels to the National Forest System from Wildland Fire Management.

The Committee directs the Service to use the best available science that takes into account historical fire data, landscape