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113TH CONGRESS, 2d Session | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | REPORT 113–551

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015

JULY 23, 2014.—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

REPORT

together with

MINORITY VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 5171]

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, 2015. 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.

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mittee rejects the proposal to consolidate this budget line into the Integrated Resource Restoration program.

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund.—The Committee recommends $40,000,000, for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund (CFLR), equal to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and $20,000,000 below the budget request. The Committee directs the Forest Service to report to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this Act on the implementation of CFLR-funded projects and the outcomes of those projects to date. The report should include performance measures as described in the CFLR 2011 Annual Report accomplishment form available on the Forest Service's website.

The Committee understands that there has been an observed problem with red-oak decline in the Mark Twain National Forest, that there has been controversy surrounding the use of prescribed fires in this project area, and that some commercially marketable timber may have been inadvertently destroyed, or cut down and then set on fire.

As such, the Committee recommends that no funds shall be used for prescribed fires under the Missouri Pine-Oak Woodlands portion of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration project until such time as the aforementioned controversy is resolved, and that funds used for timber sale contracts, stewardship contracts, and understory thinning contracts awarded under this program should be leveraged with combating red-oak decline in mind.

Minerals and Geology Management.—The Committee recommends $76,423,000 for Minerals and Geology Management, equal to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and $5,857,000 above the budget request.

Landownership Management.—The Committee recommends $77,730,000 for Landownership Management, equal to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and $6,290,000 above the budget request.

Law Enforcement Operations.—The Committee recommends $126,653,000 for Law Enforcement Operations, equal to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and $793,000 above the budget request.

The Committee is concerned with the growing incidence of illegal marijuana cultivation on public lands and the corresponding impacts it has on the environment, forest restoration and habitat, employee and public safety, tourism and gateway communities. The Committee believes Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations should be included as an integral participant in the annual forest planning process as a means to ensure stronger collaboration among all partners and focused enforcement strategies aimed at safety, interdiction and mitigation. No later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, the Forest Service shall report to the Committee on steps taken to include Law Enforcement and Investigations' in the forest planning process as it relates to resources and collaboration with partners, including local law enforcement.

Valles Caldera National Preserve.—The Committee recommends $3,364,000 for management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve and does not support the proposed elimination of this program.

Bill Language.—The Committee includes additional language in Title IV General Provisions including Section 425 extending the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act for one year and Sec-