

113TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
 2d Session } 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

R E P O R T

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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clude recreation, grazing, fish and wildlife habitat management. The Forest Service celebrated its centennial in 2005.

FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

Appropriation enacted, 2014	\$292,805,000
Budget estimate, 2015	275,315,000
Recommended, 2015	297,500,000
Comparison:	
Appropriation, 2014	+4,695,000
Budget estimate, 2015	+22,185,000

The Committee recommends \$297,500,000 for Forest and Rangeland Research, \$4,695,000 above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and \$22,185,000 above the budget request. The Committee understands the importance of the strategic program and priority research areas funded through Forest and Rangeland Research in order to improve the health, management, and use of the 193 million acres of national forests and rangelands. The Committee believes the Forest Service must make significant investments in research and development in order to inform best management practices for public and private land managers and encourages the agency to continue robust funding for these activities in future budget requests.

Forest Inventory and Analysis.—The Committee recommends \$70,000,000 for the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program, \$3,195,000 above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and the budget request. The Committee finds that State forestry agencies and their cooperators are often able to accomplish critical FIA work with equal quality at lower costs than the Forest Service. The Forest Service is directed to work with State foresters to identify ways to more efficiently deliver the program in all States, including timely inventory updates, and should explore opportunities to work with additional State forestry agencies and their cooperators who can accomplish necessary field work at lower cost.

Invasive Species.—The Committee is concerned about the threat of invasive forest pests and understands that millions of acres of our nation's forests are at risk of being overtaken by these pests. The Forest Service is in a unique position to mitigate this threat. The Committee therefore directs the Forest Service to provide the Committees on Appropriations with a report, detailing its work to eradicate and/or mitigate this threat.

Forest Products Laboratory.—The Committee remains concerned about the increasing costs of forest management, hazardous fuels reduction, and forest restoration, and encourages a high priority focus on strategies to grow markets to offset or alleviate this additional cost. The Committee believes green building markets are a growing opportunity for American-grown wood, and urges the Forest Service to work further, through science and technology in the Forest Products Laboratory, to position wood as a green building material and improve the performance and affordability of wood framed construction.

The Committee encourages the Forest Service to broaden its scope of research to include improvement in forest products evaluation standards and valuation techniques; forester products conversation and manufacturing efficiency, productivity, and profitability over the long term; lumber quality and value based on forest