

DIVISION F – DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The following statement is an explanation of the effects of Division F, which makes appropriations for the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Forest Service, the Indian Health Service, and related agencies for fiscal year 2015. Language contained in House Report 113-551 providing specific guidance to agencies regarding the administration of appropriated funds and any corresponding reporting requirements carries the same emphasis as the language included in this explanatory statement and should be complied with unless specifically addressed to the contrary herein.

In instances where the House report speaks more broadly to policy issues or offers views that are subject to interpretation, such views remain those of the House and are not affirmed by this explanatory statement unless repeated herein. In cases where the House report or this explanatory statement directs the submission of a report, such report is to be submitted to both the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. Where this explanatory statement refers to the Committees or the Committees on Appropriations, unless otherwise noted, this reference is to the House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies and the Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

The Committees direct each department and agency funded in this Act to follow the directions set forth in this Act and the accompanying statement, and not reallocate resources or reorganize activities except as provided herein or otherwise approved by the Committees through the reprogramming process as described in this explanatory statement. This explanatory statement addresses only those agencies and accounts for which there is a need for greater explanation than provided in the Act itself. Funding levels for appropriations by account, program, and activity, with comparisons to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and the fiscal year 2015 budget request, can be found in the table at the end of this division.

Unless expressly stated otherwise, any reference to “this Act” or “at the end of this statement” shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this division.

*National Ocean Policy.*—The President’s budget submission for fiscal year 2016 shall identify all funding and associated actions proposed for the implementation of the National Ocean Policy. In addition, not later than 90 days after the date on which the President’s fiscal year 2016 budget request is submitted to the Congress, the President shall submit a comprehensive report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations identifying Federal expenditures since fiscal year 2012 by agency and account that have supported the development, administration, or implementation of the National Ocean Policy developed under Executive Order 13547. The report shall also identify funding proposed for the

information regarding current and historic road location and usage and to ensure understanding of the social, cultural and economic impact of travel management plans.

*Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness.*—The Forest Service is urged to provide sufficient funding for the maintenance of rural airstrips in future budget requests and to consult with Congress, State and local officials, and affected stakeholders, prior to making a determination to close or terminate the use of any rural airstrips. The Forest Service is encouraged to work with local partners to facilitate the rehabilitation of historic structures, some of which were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, to generate revenue and provide opportunities for interpretation.

The Forest Service is directed to report to the Committees on Appropriations within 90 days of enactment of this Act on its plans for continued operation of the Philadelphia Peak radio repeater in the Green Mountain National Forest.

The Forest Service is urged to target a higher board feet volume and to implement larger projects and reduce unit costs.

*Grazing Management.*—The Committees direct the Forest Service, to the greatest extent practicable, to make vacant grazing allotments available to a holder of a grazing permit or lease when lands covered by the holder of the permit or lease are unusable because of drought or wildfire.

*Law Enforcement Operations.*—The Forest Service is directed to report to the Committees on Appropriations 90 days after the enactment of this Act, regarding the steps taken to include Law Enforcement and Investigations 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 of illegal marijuana cultivation on public lands.

*Valles Caldera National Preserve.*— In accordance with Sec. 3043 of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2015, this bill provides the Secretary of Agriculture with the necessary authority to transfer all unobligated balances from the Valles Caldera National Preserve account to the Secretary of the Interior.

*Stewardship Contracting.*—The Forest Service is strongly encouraged to expeditiously prepare and publish draft rulemaking to establish a small business set-aside program for timber contracts undertaken using stewardship contracting authority that is consistent with previous commitments made by the Service and the Department of Agriculture on this matter.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)