



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

MAY 11 2015

The Honorable Jon Tester
Vice Chairman
Committee on Indian Affairs
United States Senate
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

This letter outlines the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the FY 2010 Appropriation, Public Law 111-88, Title V—FLAME Act.

This estimate is pursuant to section 502(h)(3) of the Act, which requires the Secretary of Agriculture to submit an estimate of the anticipated wildfire suppression costs the first week of March. The delay in the availability of certain data elements required for the development of the report presented challenges in preparing the report.

This forecast predicts that with 90 percent confidence fire suppression costs will be between \$794 million and \$1.657 billion in FY 2015, with a median forecast of \$1.225 billion. These estimates are based on the best climate and weather data currently available as well as the most effective analytical tools and models used to estimate fire suppression costs. The median forecast for the FY 2015 fire season is more than \$200 million over the appropriated suppression and FLAME funds available and elucidates the need for a new funding strategy for wildfire suppression. If the median is met this fiscal year, the Forest Service will halt work and initiate transfers of funds from other budget line items. This is a destructive practice in many ways and I urge you to act quickly to pass fire suppression cap adjustment legislation so the largest and costliest fires do not erode the Forest Service's ability to support landscape and community resilience through forest restoration.

The Honorable Jon Tester
Page 2

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Sincerely,

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
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The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Committee on Indian Affairs
United States Senate
838 Hart Senate Office Building
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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



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Washington, D.C. 20250

MAY 11 2015

The Honorable Tom McClintock
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter outlines the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the FY 2010 Appropriation, Public Law 111-88, Title V—FLAME Act.

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Thomas J. Vilack
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

MAY 11 2015

The Honorable Niki Tsongas
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Tsongas:

This letter outlines the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the FY 2010 Appropriation, Public Law 111-88, Title V—FLAME Act.

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The Honorable Niki Tsongas
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom J. Vilsack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Vilsack" clearly legible.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

MAY 11 2015

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter outlines the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the FY 2010 Appropriation, Public Law 111-88, Title V—FLAME Act.

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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

MAY 11 2015

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Grisham:

This letter outlines the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the FY 2010 Appropriation, Public Law 111-88, Title V—FLAME Act.

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The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

MAY 11 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Chair:

This letter outlines the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the FY 2010 Appropriation, Public Law 111-88, Title V—FLAME Act.

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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MAY 11 2015

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

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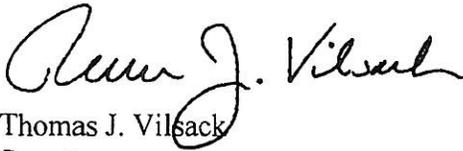
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The Honorable Tom Udall

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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MAY 11 2015

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests,
and Mining
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

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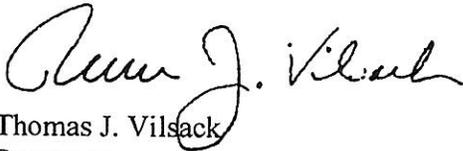
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The Honorable John Barrasso

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

MAY 11 2015

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests,
and Mining
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
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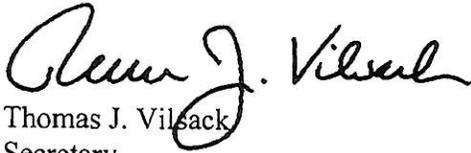
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Sincerely,



Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Washington, D.C. 20250

MAY 11 2015

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
B308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

MAY 11 2015

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
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Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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