

Senate REPORT 111-38  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND  
 RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2010  
 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION  
 Page 76

76

activities. The Committee expects the Service to use \$10,000,000 of this increase to begin implementation of projects authorized by the Forest Landscape Restoration Act (Public Law 111-11). The Service is directed to provide a report to the Committee by March 1, 2010 that details the projects selected for implementation, estimated project costs, and the criteria used for their selection. The remaining \$20,000,000 shall be used to support fuels reduction and restoration activities on lands at the highest risk of catastrophic wildfire due to fuel loads and population density. When selecting projects, the Service is also urged to give priority to projects that foster community collaboration and support local forest products or biomass utilization infrastructure.

The Committee's recommendation provides an additional \$5,000,000 increase above the request for biomass utilization grants, for a total of \$10,000,000. Within fuels reduction programs, the Committee supports the budget request of \$2,000,000 for the Southwest Ecological Research Institutes, including \$1,500,000 for the institute located at Northern Arizona University.

The Committee's recommendation includes \$11,500,000 for rehabilitation activities, an increase of \$2,500,000 above the request and equal to the enacted level. The Committee supports the budget request of \$23,917,000 for fire plan research and development programs and \$8,000,000 for joint fire science activities conducted with the Department of the Interior.

The Committee recommendation also provides \$17,252,000 for forest health programs on Federal lands, an increase of \$2,812,000 above the request. Cooperative forest health programs are funded at \$9,928,000, an increase of \$2,928,000 above the request. These increases restore both programs to their fiscal year 2009 enacted levels.

The Committee recommends \$56,250,000 for State fire assistance programs, an increase of \$6,250,000 above the request, with the increase allocated as follows:

--\$4,000,000 to increase the budget request for the South Lake Tahoe Public Utility District to fund water system improvements by local utility districts to enhance firefighting capability, for a total of \$5,000,000;

--\$2,000,000 to increase the budget request for fire risk reduction activities by California Fire Safe Council chapters, including activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, for a total of \$5,000,000; and

--\$250,000 for the City of Reno for protection of the city's wildland-urban interface.

The Committee recommends \$9,000,000 for volunteer fire assistance programs, an increase of \$2,000,000 above the request and equal to the enacted level.

*Quincy Library Group [QLG]*- The Committee is very concerned that the Service has been unable to meet the annual fuels reduction treatment goals required by the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Act, which prescribes 40,000 to 60,000 acres of treatments each year for the Plumas and Lassen National Forests and the Sierraville Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest. These treatments are essential to minimize the risk of stand-replacing wildfires which the area has suffered repeatedly, including the 2007 Moonlight Fire, which threatened communities and burned 65,000 acres on the Plumas National Forest.