

### LAND ACQUISITION

In 2002, the severity of the fire season necessitated heavy borrowing from a number of accounts, including land acquisition accounts, in order to cover the costs of emergency fire suppression. Because such borrowing may well be necessary in 2003 and beyond, and due to general constraints on funding for land acquisition, the Committee feels it is important that funds appropriated for land acquisition be obligated as promptly as possible. Any funds that cannot be used by a field unit within a reasonable amount of time should be made available for reprogramming, transfer or rescission. The Committee therefore directs the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the Forest Service to report to the Committee by May 1 of each year on any unobligated balances remaining at the field unit level. The report should identify carryover by the fiscal year appropriated, and should specifically quantify appropriations made more than 3 fiscal years prior (the report submitted May 1, 2004, should specifically identify unobligated balances appropriated in fiscal year 2001 and prior years). In the event there are 3 year-plus balances at particular units that the relevant Agency feels will be obligated imminently, that will be used for acquisitions essential to the Agency's mission, and that have remained unobligated for reasons not within the Agency's control, the agency shall identify such instances in the report and provide specific rationale why such funds should not be rescinded, transferred or reprogrammed.