

DIVISION G – DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

The following statement is an explanation of the effects of Division G, 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 2014.

In cases where 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 budget request, can be found in the table at the end of this division.

National Ocean Policy.—The Committees direct the Department of the Interior, EPA, and Council on Environmental Quality to: (1) submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 60 days of enactment of this Act identifying all expenditures in fiscal years 2012 and 2013 for the development, administration and implementation of the National Ocean Policy as defined by Executive Order 13547; and (2) clearly identify funding proposed for the implementation of the National Ocean Policy in future budget submissions.

State Wildlife Data.—The Department of the Interior and the Forest Service are expected to cooperatively engage State fish and wildlife agencies to utilize State fish and wildlife data and analyses as a significant source of information to inform land use, planning, and related natural resource decisions involving wildlife, since the States retain primary jurisdiction over most wildlife on Federal, State, and private lands. Federal agencies should not unnecessarily duplicate raw data, but when appropriate, evaluate existing analyses of data prepared by the States and reciprocally, share data with State wildlife managers, to ensure that the most complete data are available for decision support systems.

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement.—The agreement does not address an extension of the current recreation fee authority. A one-year extension of this authority was contained in the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 (PL 113-46).

International Forestry.—The Committees are supportive of the International Forestry program and its work to advance international trade for U.S. timber products and forestry interests.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill provides \$1,496,330,000 for the National Forest System. The Committees also provide the following directions:

Increasing the Pace of Restoration and Job Creation on Our National Forests.—The Committees are supportive of the Forest Service's efforts to move more swiftly to restore the health of national forests. Funding has been included for programs that contribute to these efforts.

Restoration Partnerships.—Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the Forest Service should provide a report to the Committees on expected performance, accountability, and budget.

Land Management Planning.—The bill provides \$37,754,000 for Land Management Planning. The agreement does not approve the consolidation of this line item with the Inventory and Monitoring line item.

Inventory and Monitoring.—The bill provides \$151,019,000 for Inventory and Monitoring. The Committees encourage the Forest Service to work with State agencies, universities, professional societies and other Department of Agriculture agencies to efficiently increase allotment monitoring.

Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness.—The bill provides \$261,719,000 for Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness programs.

Grazing Management.—The bill provides \$55,356,000 for the Grazing Management program. 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.

Forest Products.—The bill provides \$339,130,000 for the Forest Products program. The Committees expect the Forest Service to increase vegetative and timber management activities and believe that there needs to be dramatic improvement in forest management to improve forest health, increase timber production, and restore forest jobs.

Vegetation and Watershed Management.—The bill provides \$184,716,000 for Vegetation and Watershed Management activities.