

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).

Wildlife and Fish Habitat Management.—The bill provides \$140,466,000 for Wildlife and Fish Habitat Management activities. The Committees urge the Service to increase monitoring of threatened and endangered fish and their habitat, especially in grazing allotments.

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR).—The bill provides \$40,000,000 for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund. The Committees direct the Forest Service to report to the Committees within 60 days of enactment of this Act on the implementation of CFLR funded projects and the outcome of those projects to date. The Forest Service is strongly encouraged to consider the hiring practices of contractors bidding for CFLR projects to maximize the use of funds being used by contractors to hire local workers.

Minerals and Geology Management.—The bill provides \$76,423,000 for Minerals and Geology Management activities.

Landownership Management.—The bill provides \$77,730,000 for Landownership Management activities.

Law Enforcement Operations.—The bill provides \$126,653,000 for Law Enforcement Operations.

Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR).—The Committees continue the proof of concept established in fiscal year 2012. The Forest Service is directed to provide an assessment of the IRR pilot that reports on performance measures and outcomes in Regions 1, 3, and 4. The report should evaluate successes and challenges related to the agency's ability to accomplish maintenance and restoration goals and achieve efficiencies and cost savings. The Forest Service is encouraged to use multi-party monitoring and evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the pilot. The Forest Service is directed to brief the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on its IRR plan for fiscal year 2014 within 90 days of enactment of this Act.

Valles Caldera National Preserve.—The bill provides \$3,364,000 for management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve.

Bill Language.—The Committees have included language within Title IV General Provisions to return to the policy that existed for Forest Service categorical exclusions prior to March 19, 2012. This language does not grant any new or expanded authority for the use of categorical exclusions by the Forest Service. The Committees direct the Secretary of Agriculture to require scoping and early notice of upcoming proposals to interested and affected persons for all Forest Service proposed actions, including those that would appear to be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. Additionally, the Secretary shall give timely notice to interested and affected persons, Federal agencies, State and local governments, and organizations of the availability of environmental and accompanying decision documents. The Secretary