



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 21 2015

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, 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 September. 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 \$714 million and \$1.53 billion in FY 2015, with a median forecast of \$1.12 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.

In compliance with section 435 of Public Law 111-88, this information will be posted to <http://www.fs.fed.us/about-agency/budget-performance> after 45 days.

Similar letters and the enclosed report are being sent to the Chairs, Ranking Members and Vice Chairs (where applicable) of the following committees: the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; the Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies; the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests; the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation; the House Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry; and the House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom J. Vilsack".

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 21 2015

The Honorable John A. Barrasso
Vice Chair
Committee on Indian Affairs
United States Senate
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Vice Chair:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V-FLAME Act.

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 21 2015

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V-FLAME Act.

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 21 2015

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

Dear Senator Murkowski:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V-FLAME Act.

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 21 2015

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V-FLAME Act.

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 21 2015

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

Dear Senator Barrasso:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V-FLAME Act.

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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

JAN 21 2015

The Honorable Robert W. Bishop
Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation
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 U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V-FLAME Act.

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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

JAN 21 2015

The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V-FLAME Act.

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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

JAN 21 2015

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, 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 U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V-FLAME Act.

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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

JAN 21 2015

The Honorable Timothy J. Walz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walz:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V-FLAME Act.

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 21 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:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V-FLAME Act.

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 21 2015

The Honorable James P. Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House and Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moran:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V-FLAME Act.

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Sincerely,

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure

**Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement (FLAME) Act Suppression Expenditures for Interior and Agriculture Agencies:
September 2014 Forecasts for Fiscal Year 2015**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service is forecast to spend, with 90 percent confidence, between \$714 million and \$1.53 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2015, with a median forecast of \$1.12 billion. Excluding cost pools, the FY 2015 Forest Service median forecast is in the middle tercile of expenditures since 1995 and the upper tercile of expenditures since 1977. The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is forecast to spend, with 90 percent confidence, between \$247 million and \$466 million, with a median forecast of \$356 million. DOI expenditures are forecasted to be in the middle tercile of expenditures since 1995 and upper tercile since 1985.

