



WESTERN FORESTRY LEADERSHIP COALITION

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

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Brent Keith, Governmental Affairs Director: 303.445.4366, brent.keith@colostate.edu

This *Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) Appropriations Update* provides information on the omnibus appropriations package (HR 2055) that was recently approved by the House and Senate. This document covers only a small number of all program funding provided in the omnibus package and is intended to highlight changes that may be of special interest to the WFLC membership. It is posted at www.wflcweb.org/infomaterials/issue_briefs.php

USDA Forest Service

- **Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act**

- Forest Inventory and Analysis funded at \$69.3 million (including research and cooperative forestry budget line items (BLIs)). This is a 2.5 million reduction from fiscal year (FY) 2011.
- Forest Stewardship funded at \$28.9 million. This is a \$3.65 million reduction from FY 2011.
- Cooperative Forest Health funded at \$48.4 million (including state and private forestry and wildland fire management BLIs). This is an \$11.8 million reduction from FY 2011.
- State Fire Assistance funded at \$86 million (including state and private forestry and wildland fire management BLIs). This is an \$11.13 million reduction from FY 2011.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance funded at \$13 million (including state and private forestry and wildland fire management BLIs). This is a \$2.6 million reduction from FY 2011.
- Urban and Community Forestry funded at \$31.4 million. This is a reduction of \$666 thousand from FY 2011.
- Forest Legacy funded at \$53 million. This is roughly flat funding with FY 2011.

- **Wildland Fire & National Forest System**

- Wildland Fire Preparedness funded at \$1006.05 million. This is a \$332.85 million increase over FY 2011; however this large change can be attributed to a shift of funding from Fire Operations to Preparedness.
- Wildland Fire Operations funded at \$538.72 million. This is a \$456.79 million reduction from FY 2011.
 - When combined and compared to FY 2011 funding levels, Wildland Fire Suppression and Preparedness accounts overall experienced a total decrease of \$124.39 million.

- FLAME Reserve Account funded at \$315.89 million. This is a \$25.6 million increase from FY 2011.
- Hazardous Fuels funded at \$312.58 with \$5 million available for biomass grants. This is a \$37 million decrease from FY 2011.
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program funded at \$40 million. This represents a \$25 million increase from FY 2011.
- **Policy Guidance Provisions**
 - Report language accompanying the omnibus appropriations bill directs the Forest Service to work with State Foresters to develop a process that considers State Assessments and Strategies in the annual budget for CFAA programs, and further directs the Forest Service to work with State Foresters to develop a process allowing State Foresters flexibility to reallocate a percentage of funding provided under the CFAA.
 - Allows a pilot of the Integrated Resource Restoration concept in USFS Regions 1, 3 and 4.
 - Removes the requirement that 75% of hazardous fuels funding be spent in the wildland urban interface and directs such funding to be spent on the highest priority projects.

Department of the Interior

- **Department-Wide Wildland Fire Management**
 - Total Fire Operations funded at \$547.58 million (including preparedness and suppression). This is a \$141.83 million decrease from Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 enacted levels.
 - DOI FLAME Reserve Account funded at \$92 million. This is a \$31 million increase from FY 2011 enacted levels.
 - The Rural Fire Assistance Program is terminated.

Other

- **Environmental Protection Agency**
 - Includes a provision that prohibits the EPA or any state administering a Clean Water Act program from requiring a permit for silvicultural activities through September 20, 2012.

Please contact Brent Keith, Governmental Affairs Director, at 303.445.4366 or brent.keith@colostate.edu with any questions.

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