



WESTERN FORESTRY LEADERSHIP COALITION

LEGISLATIVE & POLICY UPDATE FY2011 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET April, 2011

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This *Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) Legislative & Policy Update* provides information on the continuing resolution that was recently signed into law to fund the federal government through the remainder of fiscal year 2011, ending on September 30th. This document is posted at www.wflcweb.org/infomaterials/issue_briefs.php.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Appropriations

House and Senate leaders reached agreement on a long-term continuing resolution (CR) to fund the federal government for the remainder of FY 2011 just prior to the expiration of the previous short-term CR, which expired on April 8, 2011. Negotiations centered on the ultimate level of cuts to federal funding and policy riders targeting specific federal programs for reductions or limitations on the expenditure of federal funds. One such policy rider that was included in the final bill was language to strip funding for implementation of the Bureau of Land Management's "wild lands" order, which directed field managers to inventory wilderness-quality lands and consider protecting them in their natural state. Conversely, a policy rider to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from using funds to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, which was widely discussed in the media, was ultimately not included as part of the budget agreement.

A short term CR was approved in order to keep the government functioning and provide additional time to hash out the details of the long-term spending bill once it became clear that there was agreement to move a longer-term bill. That long term agreement ([P.L. 112-10](#)) was approved by the House and Senate and signed into law by President Obama late last week. The agreement includes a total of \$38.5 billion in spending cuts for the remaining 6 months of the fiscal year. The following provides some details on reductions (compared to FY10 enacted levels) to programs of interest to the WFLC membership and our partners.

USDA Forest Service (USFS) Program Funding

- Forest and Rangeland Research: reduced by \$5 million (does not reduce funding for the Forest Inventory and Analysis program)
- National Forest System: reduced by \$6 million
- State and Private Forestry: reduced by \$30 million including cuts to the following programs:
 - \$23.5 million reduction to the Forest Legacy Program
 - \$5 million reduction to Economic Action Programs (via earmark elimination)

- \$1.5 million reduction to Urban and Community Forestry (via earmark elimination)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund: \$149 million reduction

Wildland Fire Management (WFM) Funding

- USFS – zeroed out prior-year wildfire suppression balances (within the suppression BLI) totaling a \$75 million reduction under WFM
 - Cuts \$100,000 from Rehab and Restoration
 - Cuts \$6.25 million from State Fire Assistance
- Department of the Interior (DOI) – Rescinds \$200 million in unobligated funds
 - Hazardous Fuels Reduction funded at \$206 million (same as FY10)
 - Rural Fire Assistance funded at \$7 million (same as FY10)

Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement (FLAME) Funding

- USFS – funded at \$291 million (\$413 million enacted in FY10) and rescinds \$200 million in unobligated balances
- DOI –funded at \$61 million (same as FY10)

Having reached agreement on funding for the remainder of fiscal year 2011, Congressional attention has now turned to negotiations on funding for FY 2012, and we have already seen the release of competing funding proposals from Republican and Democratic leaders.

Additional information and clarifications will become available as the USFS and DOI move forward with allocating FY11 funds for specific programs and Congress works on the FY12 budget. Please watch for future *WFLC Legislative & Policy Updates* for more details.

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

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