

House Report 111-316
 TITLE III-RELATED AGENCIES
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FOREST SERVICE
 WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT
 (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)
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The conference agreement provides \$2,178,737,000 for Forest Service Wildland Fire Management instead of \$2,370,288,000 as proposed by the House and \$1,817,637,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement also includes an additional \$413,000,000 for the new Forest Service FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund established in the FLAME Act of 2009 (Title V of this Act). The Senate had included \$282,000,000 for a contingency reserve fund within Wildland Fire Management, whereas the House had included \$282,000,000 in a separate Wildland Fire Suppression Contingency Reserve account, as requested. The Senate recommendation also included in section 431 an additional \$834,000,000 for the inter-departmental FLAME Fund and an additional \$10,000,000 in a separate Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund.

The detailed allocation of funding by activity for the wildfire accounts is included in the table at the end of the statement. The conferees note that the funding provided includes the use of \$75,000,000 in prior year funds because the suppression activity had large, non-emergency carry-over balances from fiscal year 2009. In addition to the directions provided in the House and Senate committee reports, the conference agreement also provides the following directions:

Wildfire Preparedness.—The conference agreement provides \$675,000,000 as requested for preparedness but not the funds recommended by the House and the Senate for fixed costs or firefighter retention. The conferees have retained direction directing the Secretary of Agriculture, after notifying the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, to adjust allocations between preparedness and suppression funds to ensure that readiness needs are fully funded for this fiscal year. However, the conferees are concerned that these shifts of aviation, personnel and overhead costs to the suppression appropriation have continued to grow exponentially and cloaked the true cost of the agency's readiness needs. The conferees believe an analysis of base preparedness requirements must be an essential element of the firefighting budget reforms proposed in Title V and has provided additional direction to that effect within the description of that title. Further, the conferees note that firefighter retention initiatives for fiscal year 2010 will be fully funded by prior-year appropriations as appropriate to maintain experienced and qualified staffing.

The conferees reiterate the House and Senate direction concerning readiness required for public safety and the requirement that the Forest Service provide a copy of its report on Federal air tanker needs, including an estimate of replacement costs, within 30 days of enactment of this Act.

Wildfire Suppression Operations.—The conference agreement includes \$997,505,000 for wildland fire suppression instead of \$1,128,505,000 as proposed by the House and \$369,505,000 as proposed by the Senate. As noted above, the Senate had also included \$834,000,000 in section 431 for an inter-departmental FLAME fund. The conferees note the use of \$75,000,000 in prior-year fund-