



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

NOV 2 2010

The Honorable Ronald L. Wyden
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:

Enclosed is a report that outlines the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service's estimates of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2010. These estimates are provided to satisfy requirements of Section 502(h)(3) of the Flame Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a(h)(3)) which requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to each submit an estimate of the anticipated wildfire suppression costs for the fiscal year during the first weeks of March, May, and July of each year. The enclosed report provides the estimates that comply with both the May and July reporting requirements.

The May estimate of the Forest Service's fire suppression costs for FY 2010 was \$1.222 billion. This forecast was produced prior to the start of the Western fire season as part of a "preseason" forecasting methodology. The Forest Service then begins using "in season" fire suppression cost forecasts at the start of summer and produces these monthly. These are done using a different methodology that uses real-time fire data. The first "in season" forecast estimated Forest Service suppression costs for FY 2010 at \$1.327 billion (plus/minus \$282 million). This is the estimate that complies with the July reporting requirement. These estimates are based on the best climate, weather, and other related data available at the time they are produced, as well as the best current models and other analytical tools to estimate fire costs.

Similar letters and the enclosed report are being sent to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies; Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests; House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies; House Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry; and House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack", written in a cursive style.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

NOV 2 2010

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Robert W. Bishop
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests,
and Public Lands
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
186 Ford House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bishop:

Enclosed is a report that outlines the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service's estimates of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2010. These estimates are provided to satisfy requirements of Section 502(h)(3) of the Flame Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a(h)(3)) which requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to each submit an estimate of the anticipated wildfire suppression costs for the fiscal year during the first weeks of March, May, and July of each year. The enclosed report provides the estimates that comply with both the May and July reporting requirements.

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

NOV 2 2010

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forest,
and Public Lands
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1333 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is a report that outlines the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service's estimates of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2010. These estimates are provided to satisfy requirements of Section 502(h)(3) of the Flame Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a(h)(3)) which requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to each submit an estimate of the anticipated wildfire suppression costs for the fiscal year during the first weeks of March, May, and July of each year. The enclosed report provides the estimates that comply with both the May and July reporting requirements.

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

NOV 2 2010

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:

Enclosed is a report that outlines the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service's estimates of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2010. These estimates are provided to satisfy requirements of Section 502(h)(3) of the Flame Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a(h)(3)) which requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to each submit an estimate of the anticipated wildfire suppression costs for the fiscal year during the first weeks of March, May, and July of each year. The enclosed report provides the estimates that comply with both the May and July reporting requirements.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wilsack", written over a printed name and title.

Thomas J. Wilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

NOV 2 2010

The Honorable Joe Baca
Chairman
Subcommittee on Department Operations,
Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1407 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is a report that outlines the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service's estimates of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2010. These estimates are provided to satisfy requirements of Section 502(h)(3) of the Flame Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a(h)(3)) which requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to each submit an estimate of the anticipated wildfire suppression costs for the fiscal year during the first weeks of March, May, and July of each year. The enclosed report provides the estimates that comply with both the May and July reporting requirements.

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Sincerely,

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

NOV 2 2010

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Department Operations,
Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fortenberry:

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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NOV 2 2010

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

Dear Senator Barrasso:

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

NOV 2 2009

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

Dear Mr. Chariman:

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Washington, D.C. 20250

NOV 2 2010

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

Dear Senator Alexander:

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Washington, D.C. 20250

NOV 2 2010

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson:

Enclosed is a report that outlines the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service's estimates of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2010. These estimates are provided to satisfy requirements of Section 502(h)(3) of the Flame Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a(h)(3)) which requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to each submit an estimate of the anticipated wildfire suppression costs for the fiscal year during the first weeks of March, May, and July of each year. The enclosed report provides the estimates that comply with both the May and July reporting requirements.

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable James P. Moran
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,


Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

NOV 2 2010

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

Dear Madam Chairman:

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