



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 19 2011

The Honorable Daniel Akaka
Chairman
Committee on Indian Affairs
United States Senate
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is a report that outlines the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression cost for fiscal year (FY) 2012, as required in the FLAME Act of 2009 (Title V of Division A of Public Law 111-88). 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 if the Appropriations Act for the following fiscal year has not been enacted by September 1. I apologize for the delay.

This forecast predicts fire suppression costs to be between \$297 million and \$668 million for FY 2012. These estimates are based on the best climate, weather, and other related data currently available, as well as the best current models and other analytical tools to estimate fire costs. The forecast does not include costs for aviation assets or cost pools that were shifted to the preparedness account as part of the rebaselining initiative.

In an effort to establish more consistency between the Departments, the enclosed forecast has been updated to include both USDA and the Department of the Interior.

A similar letter and copy of the report are being sent to Congressmen Robert Bishop, Michael Simpson, Glenn Thompson, Raúl Grijalva, Tim Holden, and James Moran and Senators Jack Reed, Ron Wyden, John Barrasso, and Lisa Murkowski.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 19 2011

The Honorable John Barrasso
Vice Chairman
Committee on Indian Affairs
United States Senate
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Barrasso:

Enclosed is a report that outlines the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression cost for fiscal year (FY) 2012, as required in the FLAME Act of 2009 (Title V of Division A of Public Law 111-88). 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 if the Appropriations Act for the following fiscal year has not been enacted by September 1. I apologize for the delay.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 19 2011

The Honorable Robert Bishop
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Parks,
Forest and Public Lands
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is a report that outlines the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression cost for fiscal year (FY) 2012, as required in the FLAME Act of 2009 (Title V of Division A of Public Law 111-88). 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 if the Appropriations Act for the following fiscal year has not been enacted by September 1. I apologize for the delay.

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Secretary

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 19 2011

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Parks,
Forests and Public Lands
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Enclosed is a report that outlines the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression cost for fiscal year (FY) 2012, as required in the FLAME Act of 2009 (Title V of Division A of Public Law 111-88). 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 if the Appropriations Act for the following fiscal year has not been enacted by September 1. I apologize for the delay.

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Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 19 2011

The Honorable Tim Holden
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Conservation,
Energy and Forestry
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
2417 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Holden:

Enclosed is a report that outlines the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression cost for fiscal year (FY) 2012, as required in the FLAME Act of 2009 (Title V of Division A of Public Law 111-88). 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 if the Appropriations Act for the following fiscal year has not been enacted by September 1. I apologize for the delay.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 19 2011

The Honorable James 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:

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Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 19 2011

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4403

Dear Senator Murkowski:

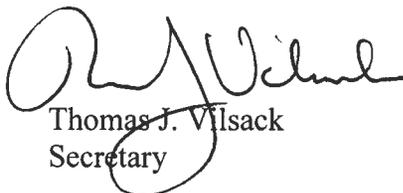
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Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 19 2011

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:

Enclosed is a report that outlines the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression cost for fiscal year (FY) 2012, as required in the FLAME Act of 2009 (Title V of Division A of Public Law 111-88). 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 if the Appropriations Act for the following fiscal year has not been enacted by September 1. I apologize for the delay.

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The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Chairman
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Committee on Agriculture
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124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
223 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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