JAN 21 2015

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V—FLAME Act.

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. The delay in the availability of certain data elements required for the development of the report presented challenges in preparing the report.

This forecast predicts that with 90 percent confidence fire suppression costs will be between $714 million and $1.53 billion in FY 2015, with a median forecast of $1.12 billion. These estimates are based on the best climate and weather data currently available; as well as the most effective analytical tools and models used to estimate fire suppression costs.

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Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure
JAN 21 2015

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

Dear Mr. Vice Chair:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V–FLAME Act.

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Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary

Enclosure
Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V—FLAME Act.

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Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

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

Dear Senator Murkowski:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V—FLAME Act.

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Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary

Enclosure
The Honorable Joe Manchin  
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:  

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V–FLAME Act.  

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Sincerely,  

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary  

Enclosure
JAN 21 2015

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:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V–FLAME Act.

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Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary  

Enclosure
The Honorable Robert W. Bishop  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V–FLAME Act.

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Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary  
Enclosure
The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V–FLAME Act.

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Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary

Enclosure
JAN 21 2015

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V—FLAME Act.

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Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure

An Equal Opportunity Employer
JAN 21 2015

The Honorable Timothy J. Walz  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1305 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walz:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V–FLAME Act.

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Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary

Enclosure
JAN 21 2015

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
B308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for fiscal year (FY) 2015, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-88, Title V–FLAME Act.

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Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure
Dear Congressman Moran:

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Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service is forecast to spend, with 90 percent confidence, between $714 million and $1.53 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2015, with a median forecast of $1.12 billion. Excluding cost pools, the FY 2015 Forest Service median forecast is in the middle tercile of expenditures since 1995 and the upper tercile of expenditures since 1977. The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is forecast to spend, with 90 percent confidence, between $247 million and $466 million, with a median forecast of $356 million. DOI expenditures are forecasted to be in the middle tercile of expenditures since 1995 and upper tercile since 1985.