



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 11 2008

The Honorable Wayne Allard
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Allard:

Thank you for your letter of November 14, 2007, to Secretary Kempthorne and me regarding \$500 million in emergency supplemental funding made available to the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management for wildland fire and recovery activities, as provided in Public Law 110-116.

The Forest Service has been provided with \$329 million emergency wildfire suppression efforts, hazardous fuels reduction, hazard mitigation activities, and restoration and rehabilitation of burned-over lands throughout the Nation. The funding will also be used for construction or reconstruction of destroyed or damaged agency facilities as a result of the catastrophic fires in California in October.

We appreciate and thank you for the supplemental funding and are pleased to address your request for a spending plan by region for the hazardous fuels reduction, hazard mitigation, and rehabilitation and restoration funds.

The Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5) will receive \$42 million and the Rocky Mountain Region (Region 2) will receive \$8 million of the \$50 million provided for hazardous fuels reduction on Federal lands. There are approximately 24,300 acres in Region 5 that are ready for treatment, including 3,800 acres on the Angeles National Forest (NF), 6,000 acres on the Cleveland NF, and 17,500 acres on the San Bernardino NF.

The \$30 million provided for fuels reduction on State and private lands will be distributed through grants to States for local communities totaling \$26 million in Region 5 and \$4 million in Region 2.

The Honorable Wayne Allard

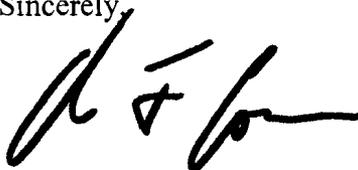
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Due to the extreme 2007 fire season throughout many regions of the United States, the Forest Service plans to distribute \$25 million for restoration and rehabilitation of burned-over lands to six of the agency's regions. Distributions are planned as follows: Northern Region, \$4.5 million; Southwest Region, \$0.5 million; Intermountain Region, \$7.5 million; Pacific Southwest Region, \$10.9 million; Northwest Region, \$0.6 million; and Southern Region, \$1 million.

Restoration and rehabilitation funds will be used for critical tasks such as planting of native tree species and grasses, erosion control, and invasive species prevention on National Forests damaged by catastrophic wildfires that occurred in 2007. Funding will allow for treatment of approximately 39,000 acres to combat invasive species, 30,000 acres to establish forest vegetation, and 11,000 acres to provide watershed rehabilitation. Projects will greatly contribute to the long-term ecological restoration of these areas.

Thank you for your interest in the wildland fire management funding of our national forests and your expression of appreciation for the efforts of agency firefighters and our partners. A similar letter was sent to Congressmen Todd Tiahrt and Norman Dicks and Senator Dianne Feinstein. If you have any questions or if we can be of assistance, please have your staff contact Forest Service Budget Director, Lenise Lago, at (202) 205-1088.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. F. Conner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Charles F. Conner
Acting Secretary