



File Code: 6270
2019-FS-WO-03279-F

Date: March 21, 2022

Delivered via ELECTRONIC MAIL: foia@americanoversight.org

Mr. Austin R. Evers
Executive Director
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Evers:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated April 4, 2019, and received on April 8, 2019, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Washington Office FOIA Service Center. Your request is assigned tracking number 2019-FS-WO-03279-F. You requested the following with a date range of December 22, 2018, until January 25, 2019:

- “1. Any records regarding delays, cancellations, or reductions in Forest Service-led hazardous fuels treatment that occurred during the partial government shutdown...
2. Any records regarding fire and pile-burning projects that were delayed, cancelled, or reduced during the partial government shutdown...
3. Any records regarding the medium- to long-term impacts on fire readiness of canceled trainings for federal fire organizations and the potential impacts this could have on state and local fire operations that assist in fighting fires on federal lands as a result of the partial government shutdown...
4. Any records regarding assessments or analyses of the economic impact of the partial government shutdown...on tribal forestry activities.”

In response to your request, we conducted a search and found a total of 141 pages of responsive records: 45 pages are released in entirety; and 96 pages are enclosed in part. Redactions were made pursuant to Exemptions 5 and 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(5), (b)(6).

Portions of the responsive records contain equities from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of the Secretary. We consulted with this agency on their portions of the records, and the release determinations reflect this exchange. Appeal rights for the U.S. Department of Agriculture are included below to correlate with their redactions.



FOIA Exemption 5

Exemption 5 permits the Government to withhold “inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency.”

Deliberative Process Privilege

The deliberative process privilege, which is incorporated within Exemption 5, protects the decision-making processes of Government agencies, and protects advisory opinions, recommendations, and deliberations. In order to fall within this privilege, the information must be both pre-decisional and deliberative.

Three policy purposes consistently have been held to constitute the basis for this privilege: (1) to encourage open, frank discussions on matters of policy between subordinates and superiors; (2) to protect against premature disclosure of proposed policies before they are actually adopted; and (3) to protect against public confusion that might result from disclosure of reasons and rationales that were not in fact ultimately the grounds for an agency’s action.

Pursuant to the deliberative process privilege, records withheld in part consist of portions of emails with internal agency deliberations between and among agency employees; draft documents used in the decision-making process; and discussions of potential planned activities and strategies, recommendations, or opinions used in the exploration of possible agency directions and plans. By withholding select portions of these records under the deliberative process privilege, we are ensuring the continued open and frank discussion pertaining to decision-making and/or pending courses of action.

Exemption 6

Exemption 6 of the FOIA requires the Government to withhold all information about individuals in “personnel and medical files and similar files,” where the disclosure of such information “would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” Exemption 6 also involves a balancing of the public’s interest in disclosure against the individual’s privacy interest.

We have determined that cell phone numbers and information about retired staff should be withheld pursuant to Exemption 6 of the FOIA. The individuals have a clear privacy interest in the protection of this information, and there is little public interest in its release. The individual privacy rights outweigh the public’s interest in this information.

The FOIA provides that requesters pay the reasonable costs for search, review, and duplication of records. Pursuant to Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Subtitle A, Part 1, Subpart A, Appendix A, there are no charges for the records enclosed as we are providing them electronically, and the amount falls below the minimum amount required for the Forest Service to collect fees.

This concludes the Forest Service’s response to your FOIA request.

Department of Agriculture Appeal Rights

You may appeal the Department of Agriculture's portion of this response by email at USDAFOIA@usda.gov. Your appeal must be in writing, and it must be received electronically no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. The Office of Information Affairs, FOIA Division (OIA-FOIA) will not consider appeals received after the 90 calendar-day limit. Appeals received after 5:00 p.m. EST will be considered received the next business day. The appeal letter should include the FOIA tracking number, a copy of the original request, the response to your original request, and a statement explaining the basis of your appeal. For quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email and the appeal letter should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal" and reference FOIA No. 2019-FS-WO-03279-F.

You may seek dispute resolution services from the OIA-FOIA's FOIA Public Liaison, Mr. Harald Fuller-Bennett. Mr. Fuller-Bennett may be contacted by telephone at 202-239-4522, or electronically at harald.fullerbennett@usda.gov or USDAFOIA@usda.gov.

Forest Service Appeal Rights

The FOIA provides you the right to appeal this response. Any appeal must be made in writing, within 90 days from the date of this letter to the Chief, USDA Forest Service. Additionally, due to the concerns surrounding the COVID-19 virus we are only accepting appeals electronically at this time. Please email your appeal to SM.FS.WOFOIA@usda.gov. The term "FOIA APPEAL" should be placed in capital letters on the subject line of the email along with the FOIA case number assigned to your request. To facilitate the processing of your appeal, please attach a copy of this letter to your request as well.

If you need any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOIA Public Liaison at 202-205-6560. Additionally, you may contact the OGIS National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at 1 (877) 684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

Sincerely,

**JEROME
PEREZ**

JEROME E. PEREZ

Director, Fire and Aviation Management

Digitally signed by JEROME
PEREZ
Date: 2022.03.19 07:08:31
-07'00'

cc: OIA FOIA Officer

Enclosures: 141 pages

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Perdue and Acting Secretary Bernhardt,

We have serious concerns with the ongoing government shutdown and the impact it is having on wildfire prevention efforts and urge your immediate attention to developing a plan to make sure these critical preparations proceed without delay.

Wildland fires are a significant and ongoing threat to Arizona. In 2017, for example, more than 2,300 wildland fires burned 430,000 acres across our state, and approximately 81 percent of which were on federal lands. It is essential the federal government is well prepared to execute its wildfire responsibilities, including important hazardous fuel reduction treatments, prescribed burns and other forest maintenance activities.

However, we are deeply concerned these imperative preparations are not occurring due to the ongoing government shutdown. During a recent meeting with furloughed federal employees, we were very troubled to learn that many efforts that would otherwise be well underway, such as controlled burns, have stalled due to the shutdown. This has the real potential to lead to a more devastating fire season if not addressed. Although we understand that some Forest Service employees have been called back to help, we are concerned it is not enough to ensure we are adequately prepared for this year's fire season.

We request that you provide us an update on what steps you are taking to get these wildfire prevention efforts back on track without further delay to make sure we are well prepared for the season ahead. Thank you for your immediate attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



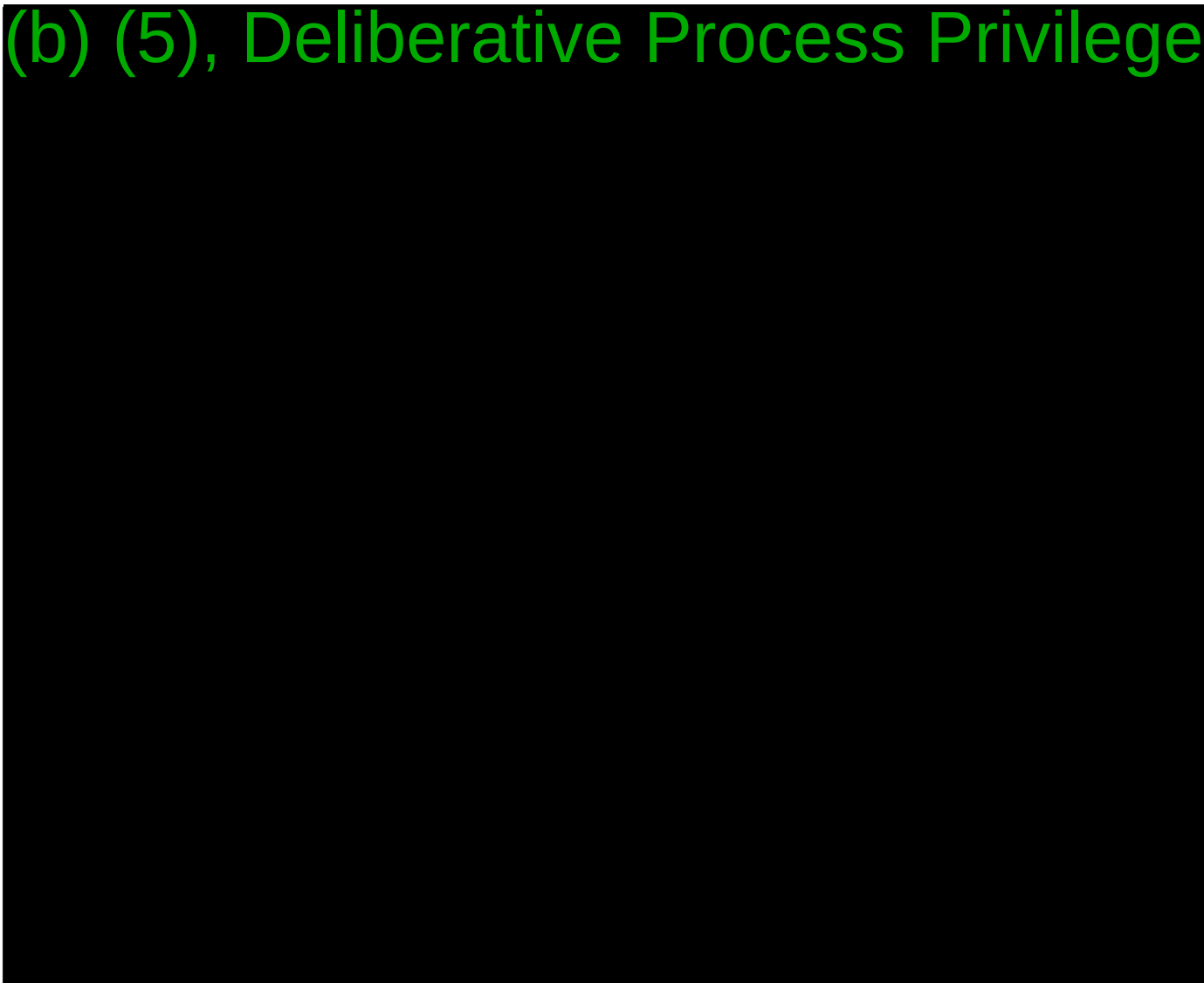
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

8507680

The Honorable Greg Stanton
U.S. House of Representatives
128 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Stanton:

(b) (5), Deliberative Process Privilege



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

From: Blankenship, Denise L -FS
Sent: 1 Feb 2019 18:16:31 +0000
To: Huneke, Mike -FS
Cc: Legarza, Shawna -FS; Hahnenberg, Frank W -FS
Subject: FW: 8510663: Letter from CA Reps to Sec. Perdue
Attachments: 8510663_Shutdown and Wildfires (42).pdf, Shutdown Furlough Impacts R5 FAM 20190118.docx

Hi Mike,

New correspondence for us to work on. Would you please write a 2 paragraph letter and use the attached R5 document as reference material. This will be a quick turnaround. File is in Correspondence: 2019 02-01 851663-California Legislature and Preparedness. R5 Doc is in January Furlough folder.

Thank you,
Denise

From: Armstrong, Katherine E -FS
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 12:52 PM
To: Hiram, Patricia -FS <phirami@fs.fed.us>; Rivera, Jaelith H -FS <jhrivera@fs.fed.us>; Legarza, Shawna -FS <slegarza@fs.fed.us>; Blankenship, Denise L -FS <dlblankenship@fs.fed.us>; Donnay, Jacob S -FS <jacobsdonnay@fs.fed.us>
Subject: FW: 8510663: Letter from CA Reps to Sec. Perdue

For your awareness. It has been entered in the correspondence system, but wanted to give you a jump on it.

From: Talero, Andres - OES, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2019 12:48 PM
To: Fretz, Abbey - OSEC, Washington, DC <Abbey.L.Fretz@osec.usda.gov>; Barnes, Martina -FS <martinabarnes@fs.fed.us>
Cc: Squire, Willette -FS <wsquire@fs.fed.us>; Armstrong, Katherine E -FS <karmstrong@fs.fed.us>; Vaden, Stephen - OGC <Stephen.Vaden@ogc.usda.gov>; Clarkson, Tyler - OGC <Tyler.Clarkson@ogc.usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <Campbell.Shuford@osec.usda.gov>; Jiron, Dan - OSEC, Washington, DC <Dan.Jiron@osec.usda.gov>; OES-FRONT <OES-FRONT@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: 8510663: Letter from CA Reps to Sec. Perdue

Good afternoon:

This oversight letter from 42 members of Congress from California concerning the effects of the shutdown on wildfire preparedness. This is being tracked under ECM # 8510663.

Andrés C. Talero
(202) 720-9302
Mobile **b6**
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Telework: Wednesday

OES Connect Correspondence Resource: [HERE](#)

PLEASE RATE MY CUSTOMER SERVICE: [HERE](#)

From: Fretz, Abbey - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 12:39 PM
To: Talero, Andres - OES, Washington, DC <Andres.Talero@osec.usda.gov>; Vaden, Stephen - OGC <Stephen.Vaden@ogc.usda.gov>; Clarkson, Tyler - OGC <Tyler.Clarkson@ogc.usda.gov>; Barnes, Martina -FS <martinabarnes@fs.fed.us>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <Campbell.Shuford@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Letter from CA Reps to Sec. Perdue

Incoming oversight.

Abbey L. Fretz
Director of Congressional Relations
Office of Congressional Relations
(202) 720-9962
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 720-9962

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <ken.barbic@osec.usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 11:57 AM
To: Crandall, Doug -; Jiron, Dan - OSEC, Washington, DC; MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Fretz, Abbey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Moore, Lindsay - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: Letter from CA Reps to Sec. Perdue

Please process. Thanks!

Ken Barbic
Assistant Secretary
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Cell: b6

From: Yager, Austin <Austin.Yager@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 11:30:10 AM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Crandall, Doug -; Zirngibl, Wendy; Connor, Crozer
Subject: Letter from CA Reps to Sec. Perdue

Hi Ken and Doug,

Please see the attached letter from forty two members of Congress from California to Secretary Perdue concerning the effects of the shutdown on wildfire preparedness.

Thank you!

Austin

Austin Yager | Legislative Assistant
Congressman Raul Ruiz, M.D. (CA-36)
2342 Rayburn | Washington, D.C.
(202) 225-5330 | 
Please note the new office location

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We are gravely concerned about the effects of the thirty-five-day government shutdown on wildfire prevention efforts in California and other western states. The loss of over a month of prevention and mitigation efforts could have disastrous effects, and therefore we urge you to take immediate action to make up for lost time.

Over the past year, California was struck by a wave of historic wildfires that stretched the entire length of the state, making 2018 the deadliest and most destructive year in modern history. For example, in November, the Camp Fire torched over 150,000 acres, killing more than 80 people and damaging or destroying nearly 20,000 structures. Disasters of this scale are becoming the norm rather than the exception, with six of the ten most destructive wildfires in state history occurring in just the past four years. The bottom line is that fire prevention and preparedness efforts are more important than ever.

As a result of the lapse in government appropriations, it is our understanding that some preparations for the upcoming year were delayed or cancelled. Critical activities such as hazardous fuels removal, training and hiring of new firefighting personnel, and other mitigation efforts were put on hold. Given the nearly year-round threat of fire, the winter months are critical for forest managers to be able to get a head start on clearing dead and dry fuels. Such preparation can be the difference between a contained fire and a conflagration that leaves thousands homeless and countless businesses destroyed.

As Representatives from the State of California, we ask that you respond to us with a full accounting of firefighting and fire prevention activities that were affected by the government shutdown from December 22nd to January 25th, including, but not limited to:

- 1) the estimated number of acres of hazardous fuels in California that should have been cleared during the period of the shutdown;
- 2) any changes to the hiring process for California-based firefighting personnel due to the shutdown and a status update on 2019 hiring efforts;
- 3) the extent of activities that should have been performed by contractors who were furloughed;
- 4) any and all wildfire-related training activities that were delayed or cancelled;

- 5) the steps the Department is undertaking to make up for the lost time to ensure that preparedness is not harmed and any associated costs with such accelerated efforts.

All of the above-mentioned activities are essential to ensuring that our firefighters and forest managers are fully prepared and equipped to fight fires in the upcoming year. Failure to do so risks the lives of our firefighters and the communities they protect.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your reply and to continuing to work together to ensure the safety and security of our constituents.

Sincerely,



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



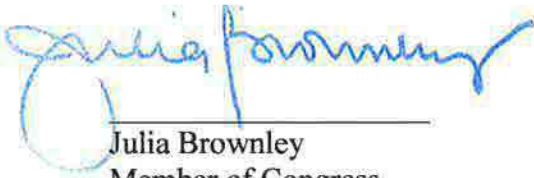
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



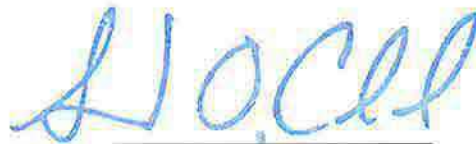
Nanette Barragán
Member of Congress



Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Gil Cisneros
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



TJ Cox
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Josh Harder
Member of Congress



Katie Hill
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



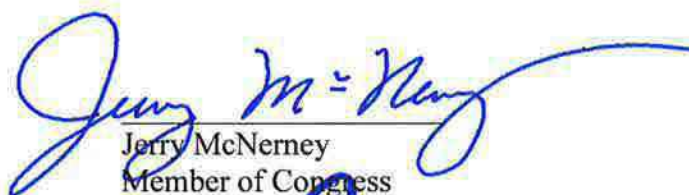
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



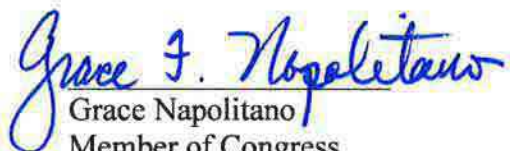
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Harley Rouda
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



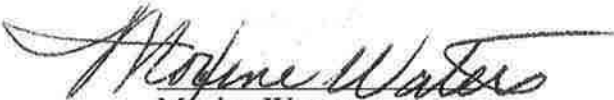
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



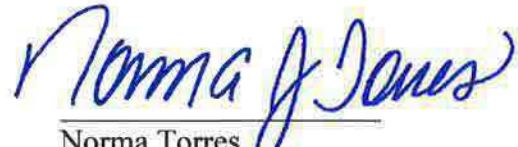
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Norma Torres
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress

**Region 5 Furlough Impacts on Fire and Aviation Management
(Draft Initial Assessment)**

Executive Summary (Following Pages Contain Detailed Functional Information)

b5-DPP

Region 5 Furlough Impacts on Fire and Aviation Management
(Draft Initial Assessment)

INITIAL DETAILED ANALYSIS BY FAM FUNCTION (Updates Ongoing)

AVIATION

b5-DPP

Region 5 Furlough Impacts on Fire and Aviation Management
(Draft Initial Assessment)

b5-DPP

Region 5 Furlough Impacts on Fire and Aviation Management
(Draft Initial Assessment)

b5-DPP

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(Draft Initial Assessment)

b5-DPP

Region 5 Furlough Impacts on Fire and Aviation Management
(Draft Initial Assessment)

b5-DPP

WORKING DRAFT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We are gravely concerned about the effects of the thirty-five-day government shutdown on wildfire prevention efforts in California and other western states. The loss of over a month of prevention and mitigation efforts could have disastrous effects, and therefore we urge you to take immediate action to make up for lost time.

Over the past year, California was struck by a wave of historic wildfires that stretched the entire length of the state, making 2018 the deadliest and most destructive year in modern history. For example, in November, the Camp Fire torched over 150,000 acres, killing more than 80 people and damaging or destroying nearly 20,000 structures. Disasters of this scale are becoming the norm rather than the exception, with six of the ten most destructive wildfires in state history occurring in just the past four years. The bottom line is that fire prevention and preparedness efforts are more important than ever.

As a result of the lapse in government appropriations, it is our understanding that some preparations for the upcoming year were delayed or cancelled. Critical activities such as hazardous fuels removal, training and hiring of new firefighting personnel, and other mitigation efforts were put on hold. Given the nearly year-round threat of fire, the winter months are critical for forest managers to be able to get a head start on clearing dead and dry fuels. Such preparation can be the difference between a contained fire and a conflagration that leaves thousands homeless and countless businesses destroyed.

As Representatives from the State of California, we ask that you respond to us with a full accounting of firefighting and fire prevention activities that were affected by the government shutdown from December 22nd to January 25th, including, but not limited to:

- 1) the estimated number of acres of hazardous fuels in California that should have been cleared during the period of the shutdown;
- 2) any changes to the hiring process for California-based firefighting personnel due to the shutdown and a status update on 2019 hiring efforts;
- 3) the extent of activities that should have been performed by contractors who were furloughed;
- 4) any and all wildfire-related training activities that were delayed or cancelled;

- 5) the steps the Department is undertaking to make up for the lost time to ensure that preparedness is not harmed and any associated costs with such accelerated efforts.

All of the above-mentioned activities are essential to ensuring that our firefighters and forest managers are fully prepared and equipped to fight fires in the upcoming year. Failure to do so risks the lives of our firefighters and the communities they protect.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your reply and to continuing to work together to ensure the safety and security of our constituents.

Sincerely,



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



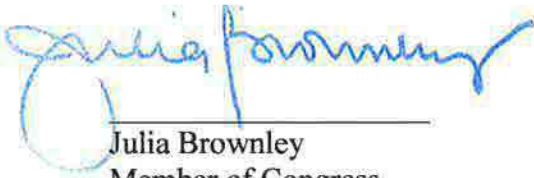
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Nanette Barragán
Member of Congress



Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Gil Cisneros
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



TJ Cox
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Josh Harder
Member of Congress



Katie Hill
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



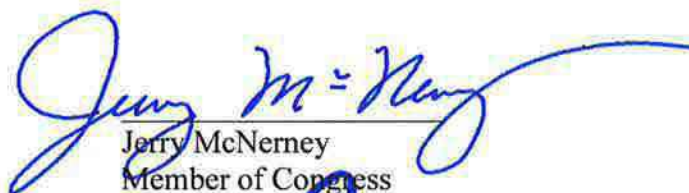
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



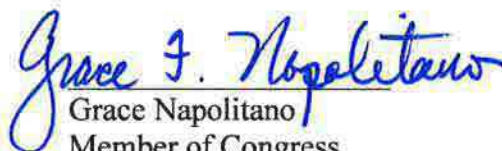
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



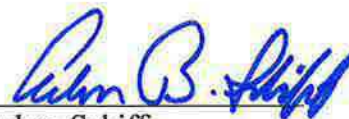
Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Harley Rouda
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



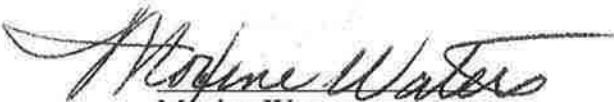
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



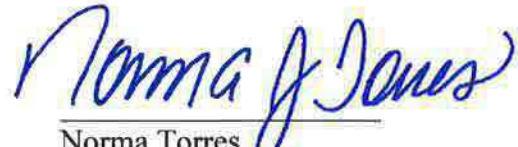
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Norma Torres
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



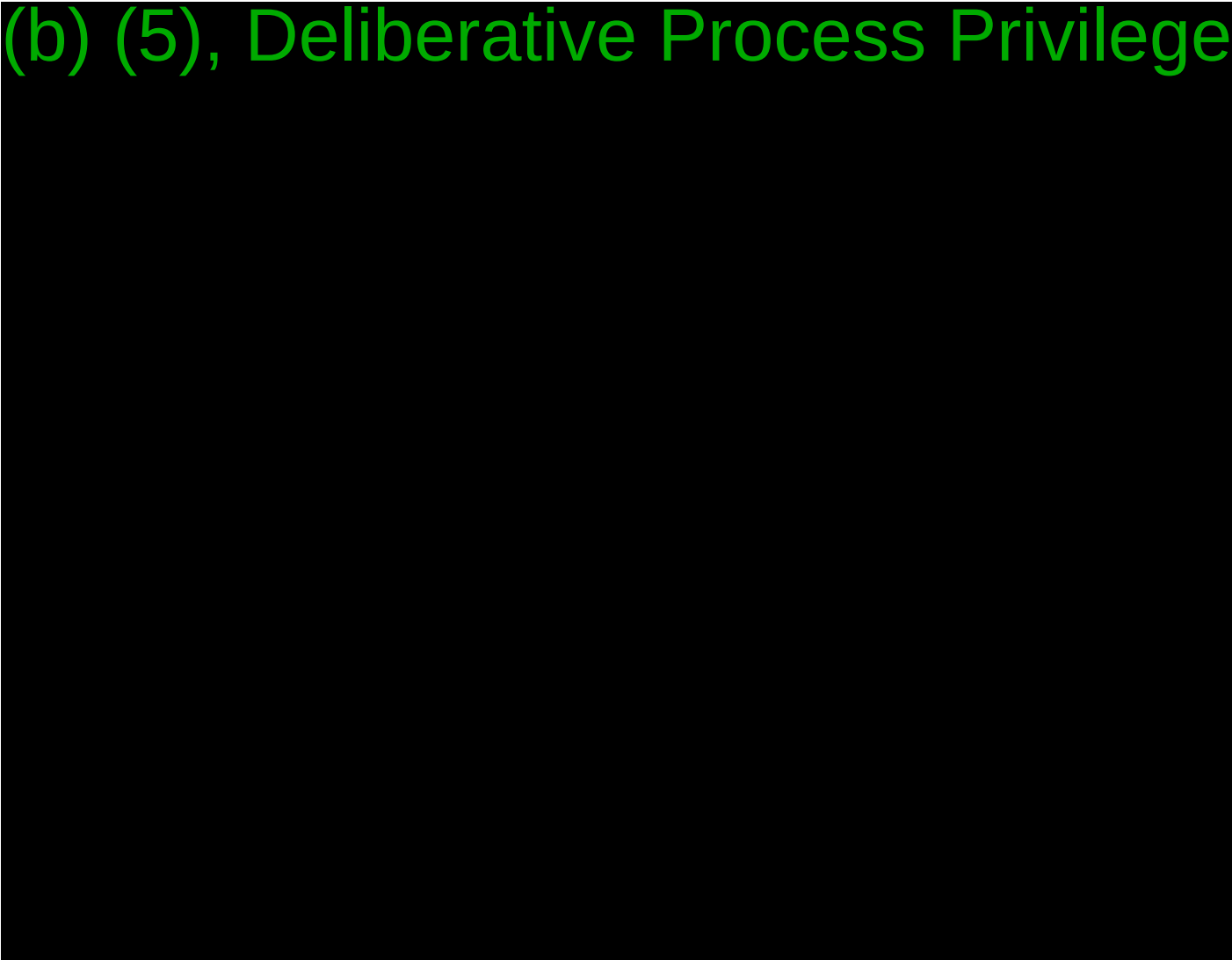
Karen Bass
Member of Congress

8510663

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
1319 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ruiz:

(b) (5), Deliberative Process Privilege



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 13, 2019

Chief Vicki Christiansen
United States Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Sidney R. Yates Federal Building
201 14th Street SW
Washington, DC 20227

Dear Chief Christiansen:

We write regarding the recent government shutdown and the impact it had on the United States Forest Service, specifically the Service's hazardous fuels work and other wildfire and forest health efforts.

As you know, Western states have been dealing with increasingly severe wildfires. For weeks at a time during the last several summers, families in Oregon have struggled to breathe and businesses have struggled to continue outdoor operations due to hazardous air-quality caused by wildfire-induced smoke. Last year, the Camp Fire in California killed 86 people, destroyed nearly 14,000 homes, and burned 153,000 acres, making it the deadliest and most destructive fire in California history.

While climate change is a significant driver of these severe wildfires, high fuel loads also contribute to their deadliness. Western states count heavily on reducing hazardous fuels to lessen the threat of wildfires to their communities. As the largest landowner in many Western states, the federal government has a duty to ensure that this essential forest work gets done.

Congress has repeatedly increased appropriations for hazardous fuels work, funding hazardous fuels at \$430 million for Fiscal Year 2018, which is used for critical fire preparedness activities and fuels treatments like prescribed burns and forest thinning. Prescribed burns, in particular, are weather-dependent and have a narrow window of opportunity for fuels treatment, relying on cool, damp weather conditions that occur in winter months. We have seen reports that the government shutdown curtailed the ability of the Forest Service to conduct fire prevention and fuels treatment activities.

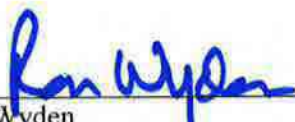
While certain activities continued during the shutdown, given the short time window available to prepare communities for the next year of wildfires, we respectfully request that you respond to the following questions within 30 days:

1. Which previously planned, if any, hazardous fuels treatments was the Forest Service unable to conduct during the government shutdown?
2. Now that the shutdown has concluded, how will the Forest Service ensure necessary hazardous fuels treatments in priority areas are performed quickly and efficiently before the upcoming fire season?
3. What prescribed fire and pile-burning projects came into prescription during the shutdown that you could not accomplish? What are your plans and timelines for completing these activities?

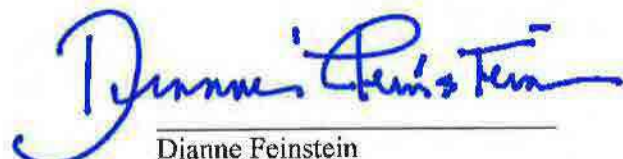
4. How did you use funding from Knutson-Vandenberg, brush disposal, other trust accounts, and prior year appropriations to continue forest management activities? What did you prioritize and why?
5. What steps are you taking to ensure that our national forests can continue to collaborate with community partners to plan priority projects during the compressed timeline of FY 2019?
6. Given that the shutdown happened during a time of the year typically devoted to wildland firefighting hiring and training, what are you doing to ensure there is an adequate number of trained firefighting personnel for the upcoming year?
 - a. In addition, please describe the medium- to long-term impacts on fire readiness of canceled trainings for the federal fire organizations and the potential impacts this could have on state and local fire operations that assist in fighting fires on federal lands.
7. The Forest Service and its university partners are engaged in vital fire research to provide new scientific knowledge and key decision support tools to fire and fuels management. What delays do you anticipate in the deployment of new tools and information caused by the shutdown, and how do you plan to address these impacts?
8. Given the possibility of another shutdown in the near future, what is the Forest Service doing to prepare for another lapse in appropriations, and how will the agency mitigate a further delay in critical projects and training?
9. Many tribal governments and their citizens rely on timber harvesting and fire mitigation work for jobs and government revenue. Has the Forest Service determined the economic impact of the shutdown on tribal forestry activities, and has it identified ways in which to mitigate future economic impacts on tribes due to any future lapse in funding?

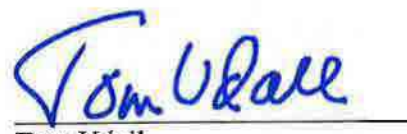
We recognize that your agency has a large work burden in light of the shutdown. However, we request that you respond to these questions within 30 days due to the importance of this issue to communities across the country. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to working with you to protect communities from wildfire and to improving the health of our nation's forests.

Sincerely,


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator


Tom Udall
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



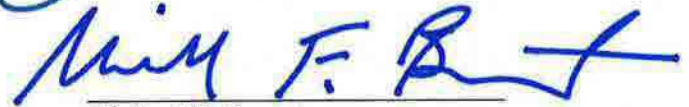
Patty Murray
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

United States Senate

January 18, 2019

Vicki Christiansen
Chief
U.S. Forest Service
Yates Building, 4 Central
201 Fourteenth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Chief Christiansen:

I write regarding the Forest Service's inability to carry out wildfire prevention activities and hire seasonal firefighters in Arizona and around the country.

As a Senator whose state is particularly prone to wildfires, I know fire season begins long before the first wildfire. It begins with hiring and training seasonal firefighters, typically in the winter months, to ensure the Forest Service has adequate staffing to conduct thinning operations and prescribed burns, fight wildfires, and keep our communities safe. Last year, wildfires across the West caused significant destruction and took the lives of civilians and first responders. We must do all we can to prepared for this year, and reduce loss of life and property.

This time of year the Forest Service hosts job fairs in wildfire prone states to hire thousands of seasonal workers. Due to the lapse in appropriations for the Forest Service, all hiring activities have stopped and thousands of positions will be vacant. I am concerned that a delay in the hiring process will result in states like Arizona being heavily understaffed once fire season starts.

Therefore, I ask the Forest Service respond in writing to the following questions by January 28, 2019.

1. What process did Forest Service use to determine activities to discontinue during the lapse in appropriations?
2. How does Forest Service plan on filling seasonal positions in a timely matter?
3. How does the Forest Service plan to account for exacerbated fire conditions resulting from inadequate staffing and lack of prevention activities during this lapse in appropriations?

I respectfully urge you to re-assess your guidance concerning essential programs that Forest Service can carry out during this lapse in funding. Specifically, I request you ensure wildfire-prone states can work fully with the Forest Service to prepare for the upcoming fire season.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyrsten Sinema', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

File Code: 5110 (8515121)

Date: FEB 26 2019

The Honorable Michael F. Bennet
United States Senate
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2019, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding the recent Federal government shutdown and its impacts on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, specifically hazardous fuels work and other wildfire and forest health efforts.

The Forest Service continues to assess impacts resulting from the lapse in Federal funding. What we do know today, however, is our preparations and work so far this year have positioned us to maintain the progress we made in 2018. In our aim to improve the condition of America's Forests and Grasslands, we expect to build upon our efforts in 2018 that resulted in the most timber harvested in the last two decades. In addition, we remain on course to match progress we made in treating hazardous fuels to reduce wildfire risks in 2019. The remaining work for the year, of course, will depend on favorable conditions and the ability to maintain resources and capacity to get work done.

Further, our effort to prepare fire responders for the nation's 2019 fire suppression needs was part of the Forest Service shutdown plan. We are now moving forward together with our partners to respond to suppression needs in 2019. Despite the lapse in Federal funding, the Forest Service continued the hiring process to employ seasonal firefighters. We anticipate staffing will reach full capacity in time for wildfire activity this year. Training impacted by the shutdown will not affect the basic qualifications wildland fire employees need to participate in the 2019 fire year; our firefighter refresher training and preparedness efforts are proceeding as planned.

Again, thank you for writing. We continue to move forward with fire preparedness efforts and intend to implement crucial prescribed fire and hazardous fuel reduction work during the most productive spring months. We look forward to working with you to find ways to increase and expedite important efforts to protect at-risk communities and watersheds. A similar response is being sent to your colleagues.

Sincerely,



VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Chief

Enclosure





File Code: 5110 (8515121)

Date: FEB 26 2019

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2019, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding the recent Federal government shutdown and its impacts on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, specifically hazardous fuels work and other wildfire and forest health efforts.

The Forest Service continues to assess impacts resulting from the lapse in Federal funding. What we do know today, however, is our preparations and work so far this year have positioned us to maintain the progress we made in 2018. In our aim to improve the condition of America's Forests and Grasslands, we expect to build upon our efforts in 2018 that resulted in the most timber harvested in the last two decades. In addition, we remain on course to match progress we made in treating hazardous fuels to reduce wildfire risks in 2019. The remaining work for the year, of course, will depend on favorable conditions and the ability to maintain resources and capacity to get work done.

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Sincerely,

VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Chief

Enclosure





File Code: 5110 (8515121)
Date: FEB 26 2019

The Honorable Jacky Rosen
United States Senate
413 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Rosen:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2019, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding the recent Federal government shutdown and its impacts on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, specifically hazardous fuels work and other wildfire and forest health efforts.

The Forest Service continues to assess impacts resulting from the lapse in Federal funding. What we do know today, however, is our preparations and work so far this year have positioned us to maintain the progress we made in 2018. In our aim to improve the condition of America's Forests and Grasslands, we expect to build upon our efforts in 2018 that resulted in the most timber harvested in the last two decades. In addition, we remain on course to match progress we made in treating hazardous fuels to reduce wildfire risks in 2019. The remaining work for the year, of course, will depend on favorable conditions and the ability to maintain resources and capacity to get work done.

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Sincerely,

VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Chief

Enclosure





File Code: 5110 (8515121)

Date: FEB 26 2019

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2019, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding the recent Federal government shutdown and its impacts on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, specifically hazardous fuels work and other wildfire and forest health efforts.

The Forest Service continues to assess impacts resulting from the lapse in Federal funding. What we do know today, however, is our preparations and work so far this year have positioned us to maintain the progress we made in 2018. In our aim to improve the condition of America's Forests and Grasslands, we expect to build upon our efforts in 2018 that resulted in the most timber harvested in the last two decades. In addition, we remain on course to match progress we made in treating hazardous fuels to reduce wildfire risks in 2019. The remaining work for the year, of course, will depend on favorable conditions and the ability to maintain resources and capacity to get work done.

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Sincerely,

VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Chief

Enclosure





File Code: 5110 (8515121)
Date: FEB 26 2019

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2019, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding the recent Federal government shutdown and its impacts on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, specifically hazardous fuels work and other wildfire and forest health efforts.

The Forest Service continues to assess impacts resulting from the lapse in Federal funding. What we do know today, however, is our preparations and work so far this year have positioned us to maintain the progress we made in 2018. In our aim to improve the condition of America's Forests and Grasslands, we expect to build upon our efforts in 2018 that resulted in the most timber harvested in the last two decades. In addition, we remain on course to match progress we made in treating hazardous fuels to reduce wildfire risks in 2019. The remaining work for the year, of course, will depend on favorable conditions and the ability to maintain resources and capacity to get work done.

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Sincerely,

VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Chief

Enclosure





File Code: 5110 (8515121)
Date: FEB 26 2019

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2019, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding the recent Federal government shutdown and its impacts on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, specifically hazardous fuels work and other wildfire and forest health efforts.

The Forest Service continues to assess impacts resulting from the lapse in Federal funding. What we do know today, however, is our preparations and work so far this year have positioned us to maintain the progress we made in 2018. In our aim to improve the condition of America's Forests and Grasslands, we expect to build upon our efforts in 2018 that resulted in the most timber harvested in the last two decades. In addition, we remain on course to match progress we made in treating hazardous fuels to reduce wildfire risks in 2019. The remaining work for the year, of course, will depend on favorable conditions and the ability to maintain resources and capacity to get work done.

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Sincerely,

VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Chief

Enclosure





File Code: 5110 (8515121)
Date: FEB 26 2019

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2019, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding the recent Federal government shutdown and its impacts on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, specifically hazardous fuels work and other wildfire and forest health efforts.

The Forest Service continues to assess impacts resulting from the lapse in Federal funding. What we do know today, however, is our preparations and work so far this year have positioned us to maintain the progress we made in 2018. In our aim to improve the condition of America's Forests and Grasslands, we expect to build upon our efforts in 2018 that resulted in the most timber harvested in the last two decades. In addition, we remain on course to match progress we made in treating hazardous fuels to reduce wildfire risks in 2019. The remaining work for the year, of course, will depend on favorable conditions and the ability to maintain resources and capacity to get work done.

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Sincerely,


VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Chief

Enclosure





File Code: 5110 (8515121)
Date: FEB 26 2019

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2019, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding the recent Federal government shutdown and its impacts on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, specifically hazardous fuels work and other wildfire and forest health efforts.

The Forest Service continues to assess impacts resulting from the lapse in Federal funding. What we do know today, however, is our preparations and work so far this year have positioned us to maintain the progress we made in 2018. In our aim to improve the condition of America's Forests and Grasslands, we expect to build upon our efforts in 2018 that resulted in the most timber harvested in the last two decades. In addition, we remain on course to match progress we made in treating hazardous fuels to reduce wildfire risks in 2019. The remaining work for the year, of course, will depend on favorable conditions and the ability to maintain resources and capacity to get work done.

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Sincerely,

VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Chief

Enclosure





File Code: 5110 (8515121)
Date: FEB 26 2019

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate
204 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Masto:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2019, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding the recent Federal government shutdown and its impacts on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, specifically hazardous fuels work and other wildfire and forest health efforts.

The Forest Service continues to assess impacts resulting from the lapse in Federal funding. What we do know today, however, is our preparations and work so far this year have positioned us to maintain the progress we made in 2018. In our aim to improve the condition of America's Forests and Grasslands, we expect to build upon our efforts in 2018 that resulted in the most timber harvested in the last two decades. In addition, we remain on course to match progress we made in treating hazardous fuels to reduce wildfire risks in 2019. The remaining work for the year, of course, will depend on favorable conditions and the ability to maintain resources and capacity to get work done.

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Sincerely,

VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Chief

Enclosure





File Code: 5110 (8515121)
Date: FEB 26 2019

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2019, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding the recent Federal government shutdown and its impacts on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, specifically hazardous fuels work and other wildfire and forest health efforts.

The Forest Service continues to assess impacts resulting from the lapse in Federal funding. What we do know today, however, is our preparations and work so far this year have positioned us to maintain the progress we made in 2018. In our aim to improve the condition of America's Forests and Grasslands, we expect to build upon our efforts in 2018 that resulted in the most timber harvested in the last two decades. In addition, we remain on course to match progress we made in treating hazardous fuels to reduce wildfire risks in 2019. The remaining work for the year, of course, will depend on favorable conditions and the ability to maintain resources and capacity to get work done.

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Sincerely,

VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Chief

Enclosure



File Code: 5110 (8515121)
Date: FEB 26 2019

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2019, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding the recent Federal government shutdown and its impacts on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, specifically hazardous fuels work and other wildfire and forest health efforts.

The Forest Service continues to assess impacts resulting from the lapse in Federal funding. What we do know today, however, is our preparations and work so far this year have positioned us to maintain the progress we made in 2018. In our aim to improve the condition of America's Forests and Grasslands, we expect to build upon our efforts in 2018 that resulted in the most timber harvested in the last two decades. In addition, we remain on course to match progress we made in treating hazardous fuels to reduce wildfire risks in 2019. The remaining work for the year, of course, will depend on favorable conditions and the ability to maintain resources and capacity to get work done.

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Sincerely,



VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Chief

Enclosure





File Code: 5110 (8515121)

Date: FEB 26 2019

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heinrich:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2019, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding the recent Federal government shutdown and its impacts on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, specifically hazardous fuels work and other wildfire and forest health efforts.

The Forest Service continues to assess impacts resulting from the lapse in Federal funding. What we do know today, however, is our preparations and work so far this year have positioned us to maintain the progress we made in 2018. In our aim to improve the condition of America's Forests and Grasslands, we expect to build upon our efforts in 2018 that resulted in the most timber harvested in the last two decades. In addition, we remain on course to match progress we made in treating hazardous fuels to reduce wildfire risks in 2019. The remaining work for the year, of course, will depend on favorable conditions and the ability to maintain resources and capacity to get work done.

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Sincerely,

VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Chief

Enclosure



Enclosure

1. Which previously planned, if any, hazardous fuels treatments was the Forest Service unable to conduct during the government shutdown?

Winter weather conditions covered much of the western and northern states at the time of the government shutdown, limiting impacts to hazardous fuels treatments accomplishments across the majority of the country. Using prior year funding, we focused on preparing for fuels treatments, including burn plans and analyses needed for mechanical treatments. We remain a trajectory to meet our goals for the year.

2. Now that the shutdown has concluded, how will the Forest Service ensure necessary hazardous fuels treatments in priority areas are performed quickly and efficiently before the upcoming fire season?

Forest Service Regions will carry out plans they have in place, targeting landscapes at highest risk. The agency will make use of the increased funding provided by the Omnibus to accelerate these efforts. We will also continue our work with state, local and tribal partners in a spirit of shared stewardship to treat highest priority acres on the landscape.

3. What prescribed fire and pile-burning projects came into prescription during the shutdown that you could not accomplish? What are your plans and timelines for completing these activities?

There were minimal missed opportunities for burning during the shutdown in the West. New Mexico, South Dakota, Colorado, and Idaho did miss pile burning opportunities but anticipate they can conduct these treatments later in the season. Notable prescribed fire windows were also missed in the Southeast during the lapse in funding. With heavy winter weather across much of the west, we are hopeful that the increased moisture will provides us with more opportunities to accomplish our hazardous fuels work throughout the year. However, even more impactful is the unusually wet conditions in the Southeast, which has been far more limiting to completing prescribed fire work than the shutdown. For example, Tallahassee, Florida reported the rainiest December on record.

As soon as funding was restored crews were deployed to resume pile-burning and other fuels treatment work. Currently, our biggest obstacle is the considerable snowfall and continuous moisture that much of the nation is experiencing. Forests in many states are reporting that snow levels are preventing their access to many pile burning units. We will resume treatment as soon as weather and access improves.

4. How did you use funding from Knutson-Vandenberg, brush disposal, other trust accounts, and prior year appropriations to continue forest management activities? What did you prioritize and why?

During the lapse in appropriations, all permanent and trust account balances remained available to the Regions and were used for their intended purposes. Knutson-Vandenberg funds, for example, were used for the reestablishment of forest vegetation, watershed restoration, wildlife habitat improvement, and other improvements of resources on timber sale areas. Brush disposal funds were used to dispose of unmerchantable brush and debris from timber harvest operations. Since the funds remained available and personnel charging to them were in an exempt status, forests continued to implement their plan of work.

5. What steps are you taking to ensure that our national forests can continue to collaborate with community partners to plan priority projects during the compressed timeline of FY 2019?

In our commitment to shared stewardship, Forest Service leadership and wildland fire managers are encouraged, and expected, to collaborate with community partners, other federal agencies, state, local, and community authorities to prioritize cross-boundary projects that mitigate wildfire risk in high hazard locations. The compressed timeline has not changed this expectation. Hazardous fuels reduction projects take months, or even years, to plan, clear, document, and implement. Although the loss of 35 days of on-the-ground project implementation is regrettable, we do not anticipate a long-term impact to the planning and documentation of the hazardous fuels program of work.

6. Given that the shutdown happened during a time of the year typically devoted to wildland firefighting hiring and training, what are you doing to ensure there is an adequate number of trained firefighting personnel for the upcoming year?

- a. In addition, please describe the medium- to long-term impacts on fire readiness of canceled trainings for the federal fire organizations and the potential impacts this could have on state and local fire operations that assist in fighting fires on federal lands.**

Despite the shutdown, the Forest Service was able to continue the hiring process for seasonal firefighters and anticipates being staffed at full capacity in time for the arrival of this year's fire activity. Training cancelled during the shutdown will not affect the basic qualifications wildland fire employees need to participate in the 2019 fire year. Our firefighter refresher training and preparedness are proceeding as planned. The Forest Service is moving forward with our fire preparedness efforts, and we anticipate having the full capacity of resources and assets available to protect life, property and resource values for the 2019 wildfire year to come.

7. The Forest Service and its university partners are engaged in vital fire research to provide new scientific knowledge and key decision support tools to fire and fuels management. What delays do you anticipate in the deployment of new tools and information caused by the shutdown, and how to do you plan to address these impacts?

The Forest Service uses the latest and best science to develop decision support tools and applications to increase the safety and effectiveness of fire, fuel, and smoke management. The lapse in appropriations did impact our work in this area. To reduce the impact, we are prioritizing our research work to have the greatest effect on the upcoming year's fire and fuels management programs. The Forest Service is optimistic that new tools and information will be available for the 2019 wildfire year and we will keep Congress apprised of these efforts.

8. Given the possibility of another shutdown in the near future, what is the Forest Service doing to prepare for another lapse in appropriations, and how will the agency mitigate a further delay in critical projects and training?

With the passage of the 2019 Omnibus, the Forest Service is making every effort to ensure that all critical projects and training planned for FY19 are accomplished. We are poised to make good on the investments from the Congress. As we approach the end of FY19 on September 30, 2019, or any other juncture where a lapse in funding may occur, the Forest Service will evaluate every option available to avoid delay of critical projects and training while complying with all legal requirements and limitations that must be met when such a lapse in funding does occur and will

9. Many tribal governments and their citizens rely on timber harvesting and fire mitigation work for jobs and government revenue. Has the Forest Service determined the economic impact of the shutdown on tribal forestry activities, and has it identified ways in which to mitigate future economic impacts on tribes due to any future lapse in funding?

Tribal forestry activities are funded and managed through tribal and DOI Bureau of Indian Affairs processes. Very little of the total impact on tribal forestry from the partial government shutdown would have come from a lack of Forest Service action or funding. The actual extent of economic impacts to tribes due to a lapse in funding would have to be analyzed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. There were, however, a few individual tribes with active contracts with the Forest Service whose ability to work during the lapse in funding were curtailed. We will gather that information and provide it to you once available.



File Code: 6270 (8512124)
Date: MAR 12 2019

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate
825 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sinema:

Thank you for your letter of January 18, 2019, regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service ability to carry out wildfire prevention activities and hire seasonal firefighters in Arizona and around the country during the lapse in appropriations. I apologize for the delayed response.

During the lapse in appropriations, the Forest Service worked to determine viable avenues to continue its important work. All permanent and trust account balances remained available to the Regions and were used for their intended purposes such as the reestablishment of forest vegetation, watershed restoration, wildlife habitat improvement, and other improvements of resources on timber sale areas, as well as preparing for fuels treatments, including burn plans and analyses needed for mechanical treatments. Since the funds remained available and personnel charging to them were in an exempt status, Forests continued to implement their plan of work and we remain on a trajectory to meet our goals for the year. The Forest Service will continue to carry out plans currently in place, targeting landscapes at highest risk using the increased funding provided by the Omnibus Bill to accelerate these efforts. We will also continue our work with State, local, and tribal partners in a spirit of shared stewardship to treat highest priority acres on the landscape.

Winter weather conditions covered much of the western and northern states at the time of the government shutdown, limiting impacts to hazardous fuels treatment accomplishments across the majority of the country. While some prescribed burn windows were missed in the Southwest, we do not anticipate a long-term impact to the planning and documentation of the hazardous fuels program of work.

Lastly, our efforts to prepare fire responders for the nation's 2019 fire suppression needs were part of the Forest Service shutdown plan. We are now leaning forward together with our partners to respond to suppression needs in 2019. Despite the lapse in Federal funding, the Forest Service continued the hiring process to employ seasonal firefighters. We anticipate staffing will reach full capacity in time for wildfire activity this year. Training cancelled during the shutdown will not affect the basic qualifications wildland fire employees need to participate in the 2019 fire year; our firefighter refresher training and preparedness efforts are proceeding as planned.



Again, thank you for writing and for your support of the Forest Service. I look forward to working with you to find ways to increase and expedite these important efforts to protect at-risk communities and watersheds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Christensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Christensen" clearly legible.

VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN

Chief

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

Thank you for your letter dated February 19, 2019, in response to our inquiry regarding the effects the thirty-five-day government shutdown had on wildfire preparedness. While we appreciate the interim update, we are disappointed that the response failed to contain many of the specifics we requested, nor did it commit to a time frame in which USDA will be able to provide those details. The answers provided shed no light on the current status of operations, nor do they assist us in helping to direct resources to assure the safety of our constituents.

We are writing to follow up on our inquiry and request the following additional information:

- 1) Your letter indicated that "some" hazardous fuels treatment work continued, which implies that the Department was unable to do all of the work that was necessary. As originally requested, please provide an estimate of how many acres would have been treated during that period.
- 2) Your letter did not provide an answer to whether the hiring process for California-based firefighting personnel was altered or delayed. Please provide this answer.
- 3) Your letter indicates that "many" contractors were able to continue work. Please provide us with information on the activities that were not performed as they should have been so that we may alert our constituents and local firefighters to potentially heightened risk.
- 4) Your letter did not confirm whether there were any training activities that were delayed or cancelled. Please provide this answer.
- 5) Your letter indicates that you would be interested in seeking ways to expedite critical mitigation efforts but did not provide any indication that the Department currently has a plan to make up the time lost during the lapse in appropriations. Please provide an answer to whether there is a plan to address the lost time and if so, what those efforts entail.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. We look forward to your reply by April 15th, 2019 with a more complete accounting of the issues at hand so that we can work together to ensure California and our constituents are prepared for the upcoming fire season.

Sincerely,



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 10 2019

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
406 Cannon Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of March 20, 2019, cosigned by Congressman Raul Ruiz, regarding the effects of the 35-day Government shutdown on wildfire preparedness, specifically regarding the current status of operations.

Preparations by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service so far this year have positioned the agency to maintain the progress made in 2018. With an aim to improve the condition of America's National Forests and Grasslands, the Forest Service expects to build upon efforts in 2018, which resulted in the most timber harvested in two decades. In addition, the Forest Service remains on course to match last year's progress in treating hazardous fuels to reduce wildfire risks in 2019.

The Forest Service continues to move forward with its partners to respond to 2019 suppression needs. The effort to prepare fire responders for the nation's 2019 fire suppression needs was part of the Forest Service shutdown plan. Despite the lapse in Federal funding, the Forest Service continued the hiring process to employ seasonal firefighters. Staffing is on track to reach full capacity in time for wildfire activity this year. Included with this letter, please find an enclosure addressing your specific questions.

We continue to move forward with fire preparedness efforts and intend to implement crucial prescribed fire and hazardous fuel reduction work during the most productive spring months. A similar response is being sent to Congressman Ruiz.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sonny Perdue".

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosure

Enclosure

1) Your letter indicated that “some” hazardous fuels treatments work continued, which implies that the Department was unable to do all of the work that was necessary. As originally requested, please provide an estimate of how many acres would have been treated during that period.

Winter weather conditions covered much of the western and northern states at the time of the Government shutdown, limiting impacts to hazardous fuels treatment accomplishments across the majority of the country. Using prior year funding, we focused on preparing for fuels treatments, including burn plans and analyses needed, for mechanical treatments. The Pacific Southwest Region did lose some winter “burn windows” during the lapse in appropriations, but the Forest Service remains on a trajectory to meet our goals for the year.

2) Your letter did not provide an answer to whether the hiring process for California-based firefighting personnel was altered or delayed. Please provide this answer.

Despite the shutdown, the Forest Service was able to continue the hiring process for seasonal firefighters across the agency, including in California, and anticipates being fully staffed, trained and ready for this year’s high summer fire season activity.

3) Your letter indicates that “many” contractors were able to continue work. Please provide us with information on the activities that were not performed as they should have been so that we may alert our constituents and local firefighters of potential heightened risk.

There were minimal missed opportunities in the West for burning during the shutdown. With heavy winter weather across much of the West, we are hopeful that the increased moisture will provide us with more opportunities to accomplish our hazardous fuels work throughout the year.

As soon as funding was restored, crews were deployed to resume pile-burning and other fuels treatment work. Currently, our biggest obstacle is the considerable snowfall and continuous moisture that much of the Nation, including California, has experienced.

4) Your letter did not confirm whether there were any training activities that were delayed or cancelled. Please provide this answer.

Training cancelled during the shutdown will not affect the basic qualifications wildland fire employees need to participate in the 2019 fire year. Our firefighter refresher training is proceeding as planned, and the Forest Service is moving forward with our fire preparedness efforts. We anticipate having the full capacity of resources and assets available to protect life, property and resource values for the 2019 wildfire year.

5) Your letter indicated that you would be interested in seeking ways to expedite critical mitigation efforts but did not provide any indication that the Department currently has a plan to make up the time lost during the lapse in appropriations. Please provide an answer to whether there is a plan to address the lost time and if so, what those efforts entail.

In our commitment to shared stewardship, Forest Service leadership and wildland fire managers are encouraged and expected to collaborate with community partners, other Federal agencies, State and local authorities to prioritize cross-boundary projects that mitigate wildfire risk in high hazard locations. The compressed timeline has not changed this expectation. Forest Service Regions will carry out plans they have in place, targeting landscapes at highest risk. Hazardous fuels reduction projects take months, or even years, to plan, clear, document, and implement. We do not anticipate a long-term impact on the planning and documentation of hazardous fuels program work.



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

APR 10 2019

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
U.S. House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ruiz:

Thank you for your letter of March 20, 2019, cosigned by Congressman Mike Thompson, regarding the effects of the 35-day Government shutdown on wildfire preparedness, specifically regarding the current status of operations.

Preparations by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service so far this year have positioned the agency to maintain the progress made in 2018. With an aim to improve the condition of America's National Forests and Grasslands, the Forest Service expects to build upon efforts in 2018, which resulted in the most timber harvested in two decades. In addition, the Forest Service remains on course to match last year's progress in treating hazardous fuels to reduce wildfire risks in 2019.

The Forest Service continues to move forward with its partners to respond to 2019 suppression needs. The effort to prepare fire responders for the nation's 2019 fire suppression needs was part of the Forest Service shutdown plan. Despite the lapse in Federal funding, the Forest Service continued the hiring process to employ seasonal firefighters. Staffing is on track to reach full capacity in time for wildfire activity this year. Included with this letter, please find an enclosure addressing your specific questions.

We continue to move forward with fire preparedness efforts and intend to implement crucial prescribed fire and hazardous fuel reduction work during the most productive spring months. A similar response is being sent to Congressman Thompson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sonny Perdue".

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosure

Enclosure

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Despite the shutdown, the Forest Service was able to continue the hiring process for seasonal firefighters across the agency, including in California, and anticipates being fully staffed, trained and ready for this year’s high summer fire season activity.

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In our commitment to shared stewardship, Forest Service leadership and wildland fire managers are encouraged and expected to collaborate with community partners, other Federal agencies, State and local authorities to prioritize cross-boundary projects that mitigate wildfire risk in high hazard locations. The compressed timeline has not changed this expectation. Forest Service Regions will carry out plans they have in place, targeting landscapes at highest risk. Hazardous fuels reduction projects take months, or even years, to plan, clear, document, and implement. We do not anticipate a long-term impact on the planning and documentation of hazardous fuels program work.

From: Christensen, Kim A -FS
Sent: 16 Jan 2019 19:05:11 +0000
To: Hahnenberg, Frank W -FS; Blankenship, Denise L -FS
Cc: Legarza, Shawna -FS; Lund, Elizabeth W -FS
Subject: FW: Furlough Impacts FAM IT
Attachments: Furlough Impacts FAM IT.docx

Probably more information than you need, but sending it as is in the essence of time...



Kim A. Christensen
Deputy Assistant Director – Operations

Forest Service
Fire and Aviation Management

p: 208-387-5949

c: b6

kachristensen@fs.fed.us

kim.christensen@usda.gov

3833 S. Development Avenue
Boise, ID 83705

www.fs.fed.us



From: LaMoure, Teddi A -FS
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 8:42 AM
To: Christensen, Kim A -FS <kachristensen@fs.fed.us>
Subject: FW: Furlough Impacts FAM IT

Updated impact statement from project managers

... from Teddi LaMoure, U.S. Forest Service, FAM IT



Teddi A. LaMoure
FAM-IT Operations Group Lead

USDA Forest Service
Washington Office, Fire and Aviation Management-IT

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tlamoure@fs.fed.us

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Triplett, Sean E -FS <setriplett@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 7:46 AM
To: LaMoure, Teddi A -FS <tlamoure@fs.fed.us>
Subject: Furlough Impacts FAM IT

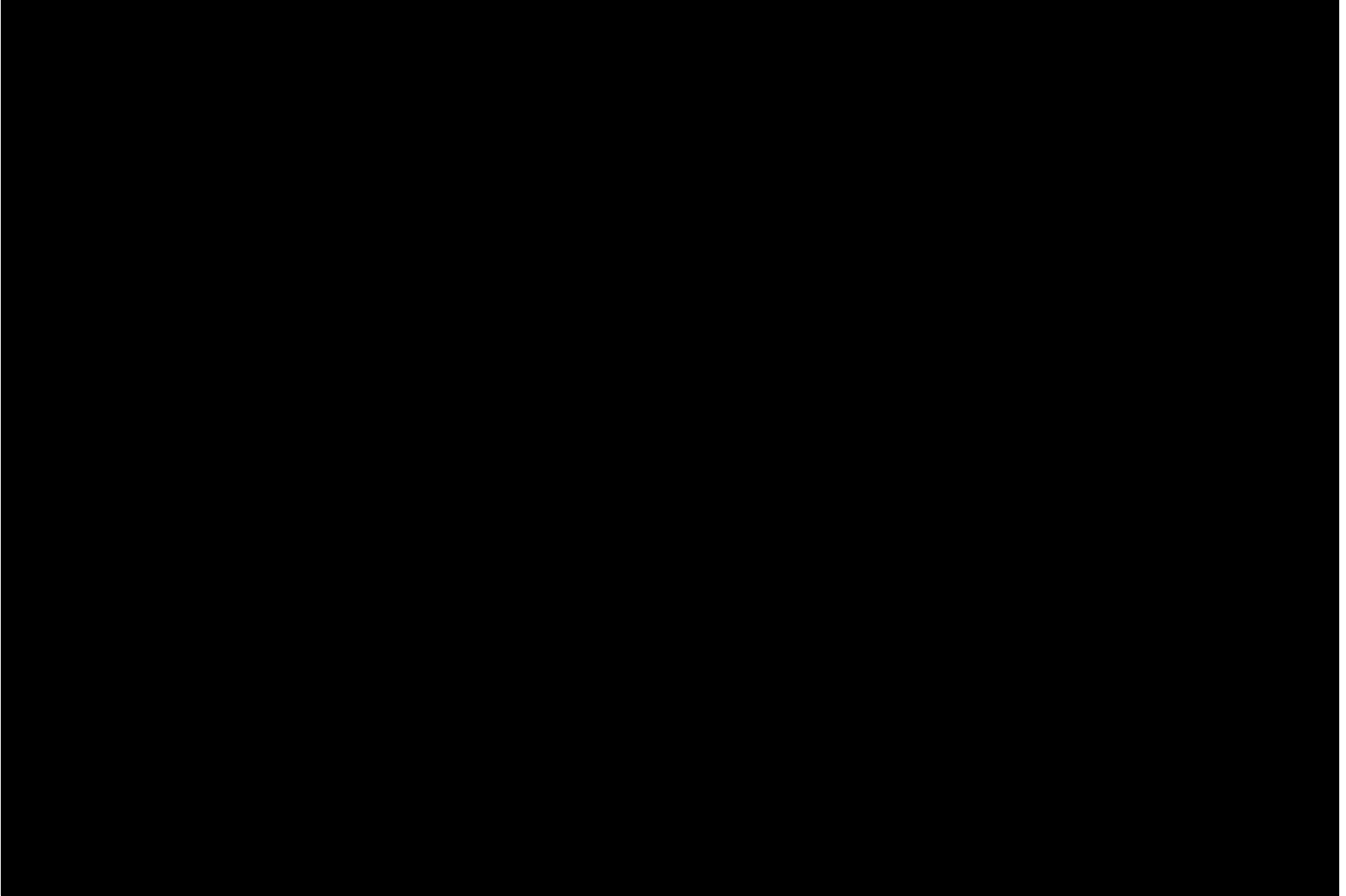
I updated this document with a few more inputs.

(b)(5) DPP

(b)(5) DPP

(b)(5) DPP

(b)(5) DPP



From: Legarza, Shawna -FS
Sent: 17 Jan 2019 15:59:03 +0000
To: Briatico, Anna M -FS; Rivera, Jaelith H -FS
Cc: Hiram, Patricia -FS; Blankenship, Denise L -FS
Subject: Fwd: Furlough Impacts FAM IT
Attachments: Furlough Impacts FAM IT.docx

Some things for us to visit about on the 14:30.

Shawna A. Legarza, PsyD
USDA Forest Service
Director Fire & Aviation
Washington, DC

Shawna.legarza@usda.gov

From: Christensen, Kim A -FS <kachristensen@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 2:05 PM
To: Hahnenberg, Frank W -FS; Blankenship, Denise L -FS
Cc: Legarza, Shawna -FS; Lund, Elizabeth W -FS
Subject: FW: Furlough Impacts FAM IT

Probably more information than you need, but sending it as is in the essence of time...



Kim A. Christensen
Deputy Assistant Director – Operations
Forest Service
Fire and Aviation Management

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kim.christensen@usda.gov

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From: LaMoure, Teddi A -FS

Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 8:42 AM

To: Christensen, Kim A -FS <kachristensen@fs.fed.us>

Subject: FW: Furlough Impacts FAM IT

Updated impact statement from project managers

... from Teddi LaMoure, U.S. Forest Service, FAM IT



Teddi A. LaMoure

FAM-IT Operations Group Lead

USDA Forest Service

Washington Office, Fire and Aviation Management-IT

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Triplett, Sean E -FS <setriplett@fs.fed.us>

Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 7:46 AM

To: LaMoure, Teddi A -FS <tlamoure@fs.fed.us>

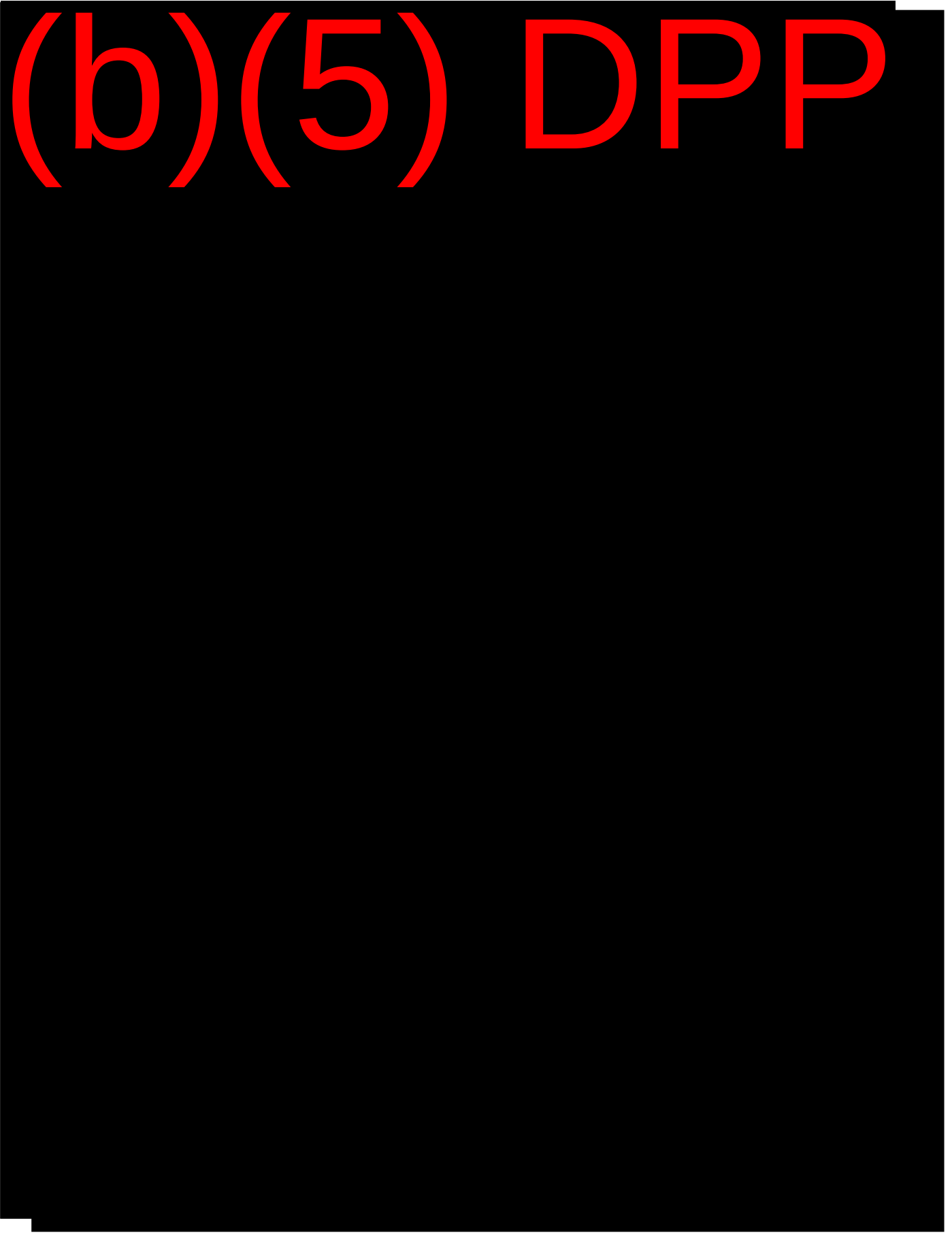
Subject: Furlough Impacts FAM IT

I updated this document with a few more inputs.

(b)(5) DPP



(b)(5) DPP



(b)(5) DPP



(b)(5) DPP



From: Lund, Elizabeth W -FS
Sent: 18 Jan 2019 22:31:46 +0000
To: Blankenship, Denise L -FS
Cc: Hahnenberg, Frank W -FS; Legarza, Shawna -FS
Subject: Operation Furlough Impacts & changes
Attachments: Operations_impacts_Jan18_19.docx

So sorry this is late!! Table below was from the spreadsheet sent today—there were missing folks and changes with what CDI had, so took a bit to sort out . . . see attachment for impacts for operations. Mostly just time slipping away, and getting behind farther. VIPR and retardant stuff is probably most important right now. Got mail going now and Hotshots pushed their meeting to next February.

Name	Current status	Change to
(b) (6)	Except on call	Non-excepted
	Except on call	RETIRED
	Non-excepted	Except on call
	?—not on the list??	Except on call
	?—not on the list??	Except on call
	Except on call	Non-excepted
	Non-excepted	Except on call
	Non-Excepted	Except
	Except on call	Except
	Non-Excepted	Except on call
	Except on call	Except



Elizabeth Lund
Assistant Director - Operations

Forest Service
Fire & Aviation Management

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Caring for the land and serving people

FAM--Operations Furlough Impacts
This describes issues that will affect Operations through February

Branch	Issue	Impacts
Incident Business	b5-DPP	
Equipment & Chemicals		

		b5-DPP
	b5-DPP	
NICC		
Telecommunications		
General		

From: Legarza, Shawna -FS
Sent: 30 Jan 2019 16:03:35 +0000
To: Hiramí, Patricia -FS; Rivera, Jaelith H -FS
Cc: Blankenship, Denise L -FS
Subject: 1-30-19 Furlough Impacts
Attachments: 2018 01-30 FAM Furlough Impacts v3.docx

Latest study updates ==

Shawna A. Legarza, PsyD
USDA Forest Service
Director Fire & Aviation
Washington, DC

Shawna.legarza@usda.gov

WO FAM Directorate

b5-DPP

FY 2019 – Second Quarter (Jan to March):

b5-DPP

b5-DPP

b5-DPP

b5-DPP

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Appendix

Capabilities Development and Integration IT Acronyms

<https://famit.nwcg.gov/applications> - List of FAM IT applications with supporting information

AAR – Advanced Acquisition Request

AMIS – Aviation Management Information System – Collects, stores, and reports on Forest Service aircraft usage

AWRS – Annual Wildfire Summary Report – Collects and synthesizes data from Federal, Local, State, and Tribal entities

EGP – Enterprise Geospatial Portal Fire Enterprise Geospatial Portal (EGP) leverages a central source of spatial data for mapping, decision support, business intelligence, and situational awareness through multiple tools to view and analyze wildland fire data: the Fire Globe, SituationAnalyst, the Incident Risk Console (RisC), and a GIS data repository.

FAMWEB – A suite of applications hosted in a single environment with a shared database and reporting backend

FAMAuth – New single sign on system being developed by FAM IT to allow one user name and password and PIV enablement to login into FAM systems

IROC – Integrated Resource Ordering Capability

IRWIN – Integrated Wildland Fire Reporting

ISUITE – Integrated Suite of modules that support Incidents

ICBS – Incident Business Cache System

NESS – National Enterprise Support Services

NFDRS – National Fire Danger Rating System – A system used to provide a measure of the relative seriousness of burning conditions and threat of fire.

PCR – Project Change Request

POAM – Plan of Action and Milestone

ROSS – Resource Ordering and Status System

SIT/209 – Two interdependent applications focused on providing reports of current fire activity

- SIT – Situation Status Report used to produce the daily roll up of statistics that produce the Incident Management Situation Report and other statistics used at NICC
- 209 – Application used by incidents of national significance (100 acres in Timber, 300 in lighter fuels) that reports the current situation and forecasted activity.

TA – Technical Approval

WIMS – Weather Information Management System – A system that compiles and formats weather information from numerous sources to be used to calculate National Fire Danger Rating System information and provide inputs to fire behavior models

WFDSS – Wildland Fire Decision Support

From: Legarza, Shawna -FS
Sent: 1 Feb 2019 18:10:52 +0000
To: Blankenship, Denise L -FS
Cc: Huneke, Mike -FS
Subject: FW: Shutdown Furlough Impacts R5 FAM 20190118
Attachments: Shutdown Furlough Impacts R5 FAM 20190118.docx



Shawna A. Legarza, PsyD
National Director Fire & Aviation Mgt

USDA Forest Service
Washington Office

p: 202-205-0808
slegarza@fs.fed.us

201 14th Street SW
Washington, DC 20250
www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: Baird, Robert A -FS
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 6:33 PM
To: Legarza, Shawna -FS <slegarza@fs.fed.us>; Hahnenberg, Frank W -FS <fwhahnenberg@fs.fed.us>
Cc: Rhodes, Brian -FS <brhodes@fs.fed.us>
Subject: Fwd: Shutdown Furlough Impacts R5 FAM 20190118

Shawna and Bill,

This is the work that I called about this morning. Randy will likely send to Patti and Jaelith and wanted to have a call with the Chief not the front page items.

I hope we can talk and dialog on our initial assessment next week.

We will keep gathering information and impacts and update this periodically, likely every week.

Have a good weekend.

Thanks,

Bob

Robert A. Baird

Director

Fire and Aviation Management

Pacific Southwest Region (R-5)

United States Forest Service

p: 707-562-8925

c: **b6**

f: 707-562-9048

rabaird@fs.fed.us

1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592
www.fs.fed.us

From: Baird, Robert A -FS
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 3:29:36 PM
To: Moore, Randy -FS
Cc: Gyant, Barnie -FS; Wary, Roseanna L -FS; Hunter, Edward -FS; Rhodes, Brian -FS
Subject: Shutdown Furlough Impacts R5 FAM 20190118

Randy,
Attached is the initial assessment from the R5 FAM Staff on the impacts of the Furlough on 2019 FAM response readiness.
We will continue to update this document periodically and use it as a tool to identify risks and impacts as the furlough continues.
I will forward to WO FAM for their information as well.
Have a nice weekend.

Thanks,
Bob
Robert A. Baird
Director
Fire and Aviation Management
Pacific Southwest Region (R-5)
United States Forest Service
p: 707-562-8925
c: b6
f: 707-562-9048
rabaird@fs.fed.us
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592
www.fs.fed.us

From: Williams, Nicole - FS
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 3:27:57 PM
To: Baird, Robert A -FS
Subject: Emailing: Shutdown Furlough Impacts R5 FAM 20190118

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Shutdown Furlough Impacts R5 FAM 20190118

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

**Region 5 Furlough Impacts on Fire and Aviation Management
(Draft Initial Assessment)**

Executive Summary (Following Pages Contain Detailed Functional Information)

b5-DPP

Region 5 Furlough Impacts on Fire and Aviation Management
(Draft Initial Assessment)

INITIAL DETAILED ANALYSIS BY FAM FUNCTION (Updates Ongoing)

AVIATION

b5-DPP

Region 5 Furlough Impacts on Fire and Aviation Management
(Draft Initial Assessment)

b5-DPP

Region 5 Furlough Impacts on Fire and Aviation Management
(Draft Initial Assessment)

b5-DPP

Region 5 Furlough Impacts on Fire and Aviation Management
(Draft Initial Assessment)

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Region 5 Furlough Impacts on Fire and Aviation Management
(Draft Initial Assessment)

b5-DPP

Region 5 Furlough Impacts on Fire and Aviation Management

(Draft Initial Assessment)

b5-DPP

WORKING DRAFT

From: Blankenship, Denise L -FS
Sent: 5 Feb 2019 16:33:28 +0000
To: Hahnenberg, Frank W -FS
Subject: USDA USDI Furlough Preparedness language

FS Letter

Thank you for your letter dated January 24, 2019 concerning the impact of the government shutdown on wildfire preparedness, prevention and other wildfire mitigation activities. The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service is assessing the impacts of the interruption in funding and have taken significant steps to ensure fire preparedness needs remain the top priority.

Despite the shutdown, the Forest Service was able to continue the hiring process for seasonal firefighters and anticipates being staffed at full capacity in time for the arrival of the Southwestern Region's fire year. Our firefighter refresher training and preparedness are proceeding as planned.

Although there have been some short term impacts to prescribed fire and hazard fuel reduction programs, the Forest Service's Southwestern Region is optimistic that with restored funding, much of the hazardous fuels work planned for this year will continue during the most productive spring months.

Thank you again for your inquiry about the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service's wildfire preparations. The Forest Service is moving forward with our fire preparedness efforts, and we anticipate having the resources and assets available to protect life, property and resource values for the 2019 wildfire year to come.



Denise L. Blankenship
Acting Chief of Staff
Fire and Aviation Management

Forest Service
Washington Office

p: 202-205-1503

c: b6

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Huneke, Mike -FS
Sent: 22 Apr 2019 15:54:24 +0000
To: Buckelew, Anne M -FS
Cc: Blankenship, Denise L -FS; Legarza, Shawna -FS
Subject: FAM QFR Responses
Attachments: QFRs 4-10-19 HNR-NPFPL Cmte Hrg_FAM_MHedits.docx

Anne,

Please see the attached QFR responses for FAM for the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands

Please let me know if you need further assistance.

Thanks,

Mike



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Caring for the land and serving people

FAM
House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands
April 10, 2019 Hearing

Comment [KT-F]: SPF/FAM

Comment [KT-F]: SPF/FAM

Questions from Representative Huffman

Huffman Q1: [How did the shutdown] impact preparation for the upcoming fire season?

Answer: b5-DPP

or will complete critical trainings and be to fight fires.

Huffman Q3: [What steps are] you taking to make up for shutdown impacts and prepare for the upcoming fire season?

Answer:

b5-DPP

in time for wildfire

Questions from Representative Gallego

1. Gallego Q7: This year's budget should have been an opportunity to reinvest in work that needs to be done for science-based forest restoration, community resilience, clean water, recreation, and wildlife. Instead, the only accounts that seem to have benefited are those focused on timber production. For example, the difference between the rolling 10-year

suppression average in FY17 (the most recent year with data available) and the suppression funding request (based on the FY15 suppression average as required under the FY18 Omnibus) is \$165 million. Part of the intent of the fire funding fix was to limit the growing cost of fire suppression to make more funding available elsewhere in your budget, but in the FY20 proposal that does not seem to be the case.

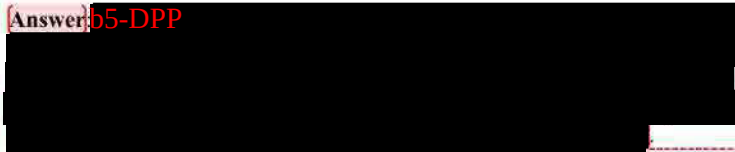
- a. Why has the Forest Service decided to propose deep cuts in their budget rather than reinvesting in programs that benefit the millions of Americans who rely on our national forests for clean water and recreation?

Answer: b5-DPP



- b. Will the Forest Service commit to using fire suppression savings from the fire funding fix to reinvest in science-based fire prevention activities that have been underfunded in recent years due to the redirection of resources to fire suppression?

Answer: b5-DPP



Comment [HM-]: FAM Concur

Comment [KT-F]: SPFF/FAM please review, edit as needed

From: Romero, Francisco - FS
Sent: 14 Feb 2019 21:42:53 +0000
To: Rivera, Jaelith H -FS
Cc: Blankenship, Denise L -FS; Legarza, Shawna -FS; Huneke, Mike -FS
Subject: RE: follow up from last week's call
Attachments: FURLOUGH IMPACTS TO FUELS TARGETS.docx, Outlook for Fuels Target Accomplishment 021519.docx

Jaelith,

Starting to work up BP as requested...attached is the original information we compiled last week and a draft BP that summarizes that info and adds a table that is based on refined estimates after talking with the regions...just wanting to check if this is what you had in mind or if you had something else pictured...Frankie

From: Rivera, Jaelith H -FS
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 1:04 PM
To: Romero, Francisco - FS <fromero@fs.fed.us>
Cc: Blankenship, Denise L -FS <dlblankenship@fs.fed.us>; Legarza, Shawna -FS <slegarza@fs.fed.us>; Hiramí, Patricia -FS <phirami@fs.fed.us>; Rowley, Allen -FS <arowley@fs.fed.us>
Subject: RE: follow up from last week's call

Good question. Adding Allen here for those plans.



Jaelith Hall-Rivera, MPA/MSES
Associate Deputy Chief

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From: Romero, Francisco - FS
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 3:00 PM
To: Rivera, Jaelith H -FS <jhrivera@fs.fed.us>
Cc: Blankenship, Denise L -FS <dlblankenship@fs.fed.us>; Legarza, Shawna -FS <slegarza@fs.fed.us>; Hiramí, Patricia -FS <phirami@fs.fed.us>
Subject: RE: follow up from last week's call

I think we can do that but have a question for clarification...Last week you cc: me a list of proposed questions that you were working on with Allen to ask the Regions b5-DPP

[REDACTED] in a BP but if you're asking for a BP pertaining to that 2nd wave of questions, I would need to get caught up with where that effort is and with any responses that came in.

FR

From: Rivera, Jaelith H -FS
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 11:09 AM
To: Romero, Francisco - FS <fromero@fs.fed.us>
Cc: Blankenship, Denise L -FS <dlblankenship@fs.fed.us>; Legarza, Shawna -FS <slegarza@fs.fed.us>; Hiramí, Patricia -FS <phirami@fs.fed.us>
Subject: follow up from last week's call

Hi Frankie,

Just following up on our discussion last week following the RF call, I know you and your team are analyzing what the Regions sent in regarding target impacts and having some discussions with them. This is going to be a topic on next week's Tuesday ELT agenda. Could you have a BP with the staff work summarized by Friday COB? Thanks! I am tied up in meetings all day today but could chat tomorrow if need be. Let me know.



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FURLOUGH IMPACTS TO FUELS TARGETS

1. Can you meet the FY 19 established fuels target for your region? If not, what are you projecting?

(b)(5) DPP

2. What changes in budget or other resources may be needed?

(b)(5) DPP

3. What specific impacts from the shutdown are important to communicate internally and externally regarding our ability to achieve our national targets?

(b)(5) DPP

(b)(5) DPP



Any other context or information to share?

(b)(5) DPP



(b)(5) DPP





Topic: Outlook for Hazardous Fuels Target Accomplishment as of February 5, 2019

Contact:

Phone:

Email:

Issue Summary:

An inquiry was sent to the Regions on February 1, 2019 to try and determine what the possible impacts of the recent lapse in government funding might be on US Forest Service flagship targets for Hazardous Fuels and Timber. Initial responses from the regions was received on February 5th with follow-up calls for clarification.

-
-
-
-
-
-

b5-DPP

Background:

-
-
-

b5-DPP



Table 1. Hazard fuel target impact response from Regions, February 5, 2019.

Region	FY19 Fuels Target	Feb. 5 Response	% Change from FY19 Target	Difference from FY19 Target
1	b5-DPP			
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
8				
9				
10				
SubTotal				
WO				
National Total				

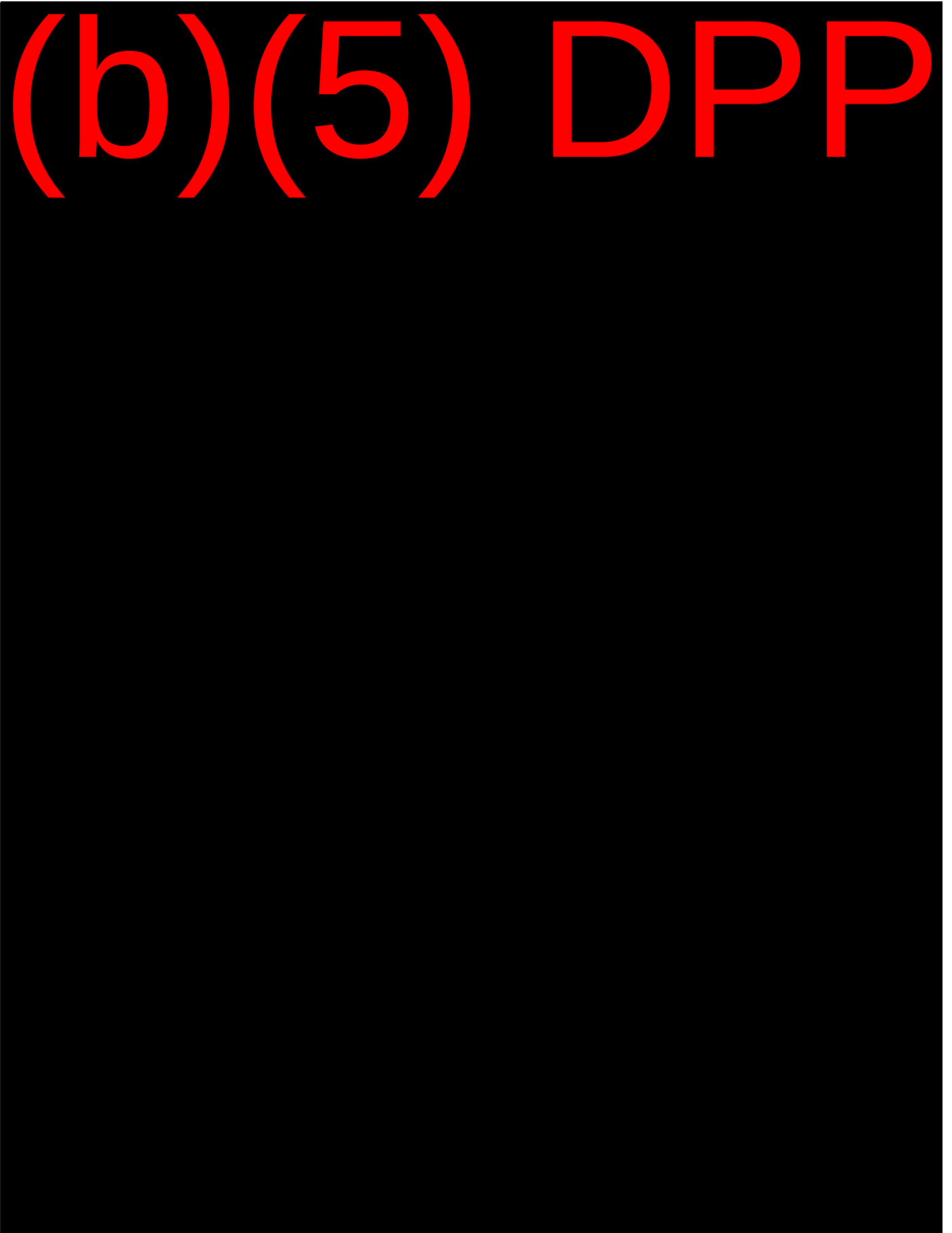
Recommendation:

Regional Responses to Congressional Inquiry
RE: Impacts of Federal Government Shutdown on FS Tribal Partners

(b)(5) DPP



(b)(5) DPP



(b)(5) DPP



From: Huneke, Mike -FS
Sent: 29 Apr 2019 19:06:03 +0000
To: Ewen, Alice -FS
Cc: Hahnenberg, Frank W -FS; Legarza, Shawna -FS
Subject: RE: Chief briefing material for Sen. Udall

Alice,

FAM submits the following edited text to the Senator Udall Q&A. We recommended dropping the third bullet as it does not respond to the question.

Q. Now that the shutdown has concluded, how will the Forest Service ensure necessary hazardous fuels treatments in New Mexico are performed quickly and efficiently before the upcoming fire season?

b5-DPP

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Mike



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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Ewen, Alice -FS
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 11:53 AM
To: Huneke, Mike -FS <mike.huneke@usda.gov>
Cc: Hahnenberg, Frank W -FS <fwhahnenberg@fs.fed.us>
Subject: FW: Chief briefing material for Sen. Udall
Importance: High

Hello, see below – deadline COB TODAY.



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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Edwards, Anthony -FS

Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 11:24 AM

To: Crockett, John - FS <jwcrockett@fs.fed.us>; Wilson, David - FS <dwwilson@fs.fed.us>; Church, John G -FS <johngchurch@fs.fed.us>

Cc: Ewen, Alice -FS <aewen@fs.fed.us>; Benz, Kathryn - FS <kbenz@fs.fed.us>

Subject: Chief briefing material for Sen. Udall

Importance: High

Hi guys! Below is a question that is in Sen. Udall's profile. John, this am you mentioned that **b5-DPP**

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] need your edits by COB today.

HAZARDOUS FUELS

Q. Now that the shutdown has concluded, how will the Forest Service ensure necessary hazardous fuels treatments in New Mexico are performed quickly and efficiently before the upcoming fire season?

• **b5-DPP**
•
•

Background: Several Western Senators wrote a letter to the Chief on February 14, 2018, seeking answers from USDA Forest Service on the recent shutdown and its impact on the agency's critical wildfire prevention and fuels treatment efforts in New Mexico and across the West.



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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Donnay, Jacob S -FS
Sent: 7 May 2019 21:24:59 +0000
To: Huneke, Mike -FS
Cc: Buckelew, Anne M -FS
Subject: Re: Go Back - House Natural Resources - NPFPL

Hi Mike/Anne-

The response provided aligns with the previously cleared responses by USDA as it relates to the shutdown and fire. I am inclined to keep it as it is.

-Jake

Jake Donnay

Forest Service Legislative Affairs

(202) 205-1617

From: Huneke, Mike -FS <mike.huneke@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 3:26 PM
To: Donnay, Jacob S -FS
Subject: FW: Go Back - House Natural Resources - NPFPL

Jake,

For your information... please see trailing

Mike



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Thanks!

Anne.



Anne Buckelew, MFS

**Assistant Budget Coordinator, Formulation, Performance, and
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Buckelew, Anne M -FS

Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:54 PM

To: Huneke, Mike -FS <mike.huneke@usda.gov>; Blankenship, Denise L -FS
<denise.blankenship@usda.gov>

Cc: Viengkham, Khon -FS <khon.viengkham@usda.gov>; Legarza, Shawna -FS
<slegarza@fs.fed.us>; Hahnenberg, Frank W -FS <frank.hahnenberg@usda.gov>

Subject: Go Back - House Natural Resources - NPFPL

Hi Mike –

CONTEXT – In April the Chief testified in front of the House Natural Resources subcommittee.
We responded to QFRs a couple weeks ago. FS Legislative Affairs has reviewed and commented.

INSTRUCTIONS – Leg Affairs had one question on Huffman Q3. Please review (below) and
provide response.

DUE: 1500 May 8, 2019. (let me know if that's an issue... sorry for the quick turnaround.)

Huffman Q3: What steps are you taking to make up for shutdown impacts
and prepare for the upcoming fire season?

Answer: (b)(5) DPP

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b)(5) DPP

Leg. Affairs: (b)(5) DPP

SPBA: (b)(5) DPP