

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 30, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

Given the threat facing California of yet another catastrophic wildfire season, we write to ask how the Forest Service is making use of new forest management authorities provided by Congress to reduce the risk of wildfires and protect our communities. We also ask that you provide details regarding hazardous fuels projects that have already cleared all environmental reviews but still lack funding.

Last year, Congress provided the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management with substantial new statutory authorities to reduce wildfire risk and expedite wildfire prevention actions. Both the Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus spending bill (Public Law 115-141) and the 2018 Farm Bill (Public Law 115-334) included provisions that give federal land managers new tools to address forest management challenges that are being exacerbated by climate change.

As Congress continues its Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations process, it would be helpful to know specifically how the Forest Service is using existing statutory forest management authorities and how many projects are ready to go but for lack of funding.

Thank you in advance for answering the attached questions, and we look forward to continuing our partnership to protect the health of California's forests and improve the safety of millions of Californians.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

Enclosure: Questions on use of existing Forest Service authorities in Region 5

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1. How many projects on NFS lands have been carried out using the Omnibus' Wildfire Resilience categorical exclusion (Section 202)?
 - 1a. How many acres was each of these projects?
 - 1b. Of the acres treated under the wildfire resilience categorical exclusion, how many were inside the wildland urban interface and how many were outside the wildland urban interface?
2. How many fuel breaks and fire breaks have been installed on NFS lands using the new authority outlined in Section 203 of the Omnibus?
 - 2a. How many acres was each of these projects?
 - 2b. Of the acres treated using the Section 203 authorities, how many were inside the wildland urban interface and how many were outside the wildland urban interface?
3. How many 20 years stewardship contracts have been utilized on NFS lands using the new authority outlined in Section 207 of the Omnibus?
 - 3a. How many acres was each of these projects?
 - 3b. Of the acres treated under the Section 207 authorities, how many were inside the wildland urban interface and how many were outside the wildland urban interface?
4. How many stewardship contracts including cancellation ceilings in excess of \$25,000,000 have been entered into?
5. How many projects haven't required additional Endangered Species Act consultation, pursuant to the new process outlined in Section 208 of the Omnibus?
6. What is the progress on the wildfire severity maps outlined in Section 210 of the Omnibus?

7. How many New Good Neighbor Authority agreements have been entered into, including road reconstruction, repair, and restoration of a NFS road (Section 212 of Omnibus)?
8. How many acres have been treated under new watersource protection program (Section 8404 of the Farm Bill)?
9. How many acres have been treated under the watershed condition framework (Section 8405 of Farm Bill)?
10. How many acres have been treated under the new “hazardous fuels reduction” purpose of the insect and disease categorical exclusion (Section 8407 of Farm Bill)?
11. What is the status of the implementation of and acres treated under new categorical exclusion for mule deer and sage grouse habitat (Section 8611 of Farm Bill)?
12. How many Good Neighbor Authority agreements have been entered into with counties and tribes (Section 8624 of Farm Bill)?
13. How many new Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program projects and how many acres each have been approved (8629 of Farm Bill)?
14. How many acres have been treated under utility right of way pilot project (8630 of the Farm Bill)?
15. How many new grants have been provided (and the dollar amount of) under the Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Program (8644 of the Farm Bill)?
16. Has the Forest Service completed the report required under Section 8706 of the Farm Bill?