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[COMMITTEE PRINT]

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105TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
105-000 }

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1998

JULY 00, 1997.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. GORTON, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 2107]

The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred the bill (H.R. 2107) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, reports the same to the Senate with amendments and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

Amounts in new budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1998

Amount of bill passed by House
Amount of increase by Senate

Total of bill as reported to Senate
Estimates considered by House
Estimates considered by Senate
Below the budget estimate, 1998
Above appropriations, 1997

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SUMMARY OF BILL

For this bill, estimates totaling \$13,054,350,000 in new obligational authority were considered by the Committee for the programs and activities of the agencies and bureaus of the Department of the Interior, except the Bureau of Reclamation, and the following related agencies:

Department of Agriculture:

Forest Service.

Department of Energy:

Clean coal technology.

Fossil energy.

Naval petroleum and oil shale reserves.

Conservation (except energy storage systems).

Economic Regulatory Administration.

Emergency preparedness.

Strategic petroleum reserve.

SPR petroleum account.

Energy Information Administration.

Department of Health and Human Services:

Indian Health Service.

Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation.

Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development.

Smithsonian Institution.

National Gallery of Art.

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities:

National Endowment for the Arts.

National Endowment for the Humanities.

Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Commission of Fine Arts.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

National Capital Planning Commission.

Holocaust Memorial Council.

REVENUE GENERATED BY AGENCIES IN BILL

Oil and gas leasing and other mineral leasing activities, the timber and range programs, and oil production from the naval petroleum reserves will generate income to the Government in excess of \$9,600,000,000 in fiscal year 1998. These estimated receipts, for agencies under the subcommittee's jurisdiction, are tabulated below:

Item	Fiscal year—		
	1996	1997	1998
Department of the Interior	\$6,441,167,000	\$7,172,255,000	\$8,551,975,000
Forest Service	713,623,000	763,045,000	775,823,000
Naval petroleum reserves	419,000,000	500,000,000	280,000,000
Total receipts	7,573,790,000	8,435,300,000	9,607,798,000

MAJOR CHANGES RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL

In an effort to honor congressional spending limitations, the Committee has developed substantial revisions to both the budget estimate and House allowance for the 1998 fiscal year.

A comparative summary of funding in the bill by agency is shown by agency or principal program in the following table:

	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared with—	
		Budget estimate	House allowance
Title I—Department of the Interior:			
Bureau of Land Management	\$1,135,123,000	+ \$13,584,000	+ \$6,585,000
Fish and Wildlife Service	730,716,000	+ 42,793,000	+ 5,590,000
National Park Service	1,597,189,000	– 1,711,000	+ 33,127,000
Geological Survey	758,160,000	+ 12,772,000	+ 2,365,000
Minerals Management Service	141,840,000	– 22,200,000	– 3,899,000
Bureau of Mines			
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement	275,061,000	+ 4,004,000	
Bureau of Indian Affairs	1,700,427,000	– 31,352,000	+ 16,509,000
Departmental offices	242,677,000	– 3,548,000	+ 2,724,000
Total, title I—Department of the Interior ...	6,581,193,000	+ 14,342,000	+ 63,001,000
Title II—Related agencies:			
Forest Service	2,494,969,000	+ 126,374,000	– 139,596,000
Department of Energy	1,061,351,000	– 96,782,000	+ 21,407,000
Indian Health	2,126,636,000	+ 4,636,000	+ 40,318,000
Indian education			
Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation	15,000,000	– 4,345,000	– 3,345,000
Institute of American Indian and Alaska Na- tive Culture and Arts Development	5,500,000		+ 2,500,000
Smithsonian Institution	402,558,000	– 25,849,000	+ 14,151,000
National Gallery of Art	61,779,000	+ 1,938,000	– 500,000
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts	20,375,000		
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars	5,840,000		+ 4,840,000
National Endowment for the Arts	100,060,000	– 35,940,000	+ 100,060,000
National Endowment for the Humanities	110,700,000	– 25,300,000	+ 700,000
Institute of Museum and Library Services	22,290,000	– 3,710,000	– 1,100,000
Commission of Fine Arts	907,000	+ 40,000	
National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs	7,000,000	+ 1,000,000	+ 1,000,000
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	2,745,000		+ 45,000
National Capital Planning Commission	5,740,000		+ 40,000
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commis- sion			
Holocaust Memorial Council	31,707,000		
Total, title II—Related agencies	6,475,157,000	– 57,938,000	+ 40,520,000
Grand total	13,056,350,000	– 43,596,000	+ 103,521,000

SUMMARY TABLE—LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

	Budget	House	Senate
Bureau of Land Management	\$9,900,000	\$12,000,000	\$9,400,000
Fish and Wildlife Service	44,560,000	53,000,000	58,392,000
National Park Service:			
State grants (administration of prior year projects)	1,000,000	1,000,000	.....
Federal acquisitions	70,800,000	128,000,000	124,790,000
Subtotal, National Park Service	70,900,000	129,000,000	124,790,000
Forest Service	41,057,000	45,000,000	49,176,000
Total, base program	166,417,000	239,000,000	241,758,000
Title V: Priority land acquisitions .....	.....	.....	700,000,000
Grand total, LWCF	166,417,000	239,000,000	941,758,000

THE BUDGET AGREEMENT

The Committee's fiscal year 1998 recommendations incorporate a number of elements of the balanced budget agreement entered into by the President and the leadership of the Congress. The bill funds four protected domestic discretionary priorities at or above the fiscal year 1998 request level: Operation of the National Park System, National Park Service land acquisition and State assistance, the components of the Everglades restoration fund, and tribal priority allocations within the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The bill also includes an additional \$700,000,000 for priority land acquisitions and exchanges. While these increases do not necessarily reflect the spending priorities of the Committee, they have been provided in recognition of the fact that preservation of the balanced budget agreement as a whole will benefit all programs funded in the Interior bill over the long term.

The Committee notes, however, that within the limits of the Interior subcommittee's 602(b) allocation, increases provided for protected programs necessarily come at the expense of other, less visible programs funded in this bill. The operational maintenance backlog for the four land management agencies alone is estimated to approach \$8,000,000,000. The maintenance backlog for Indian Health Service health and sanitation facilities is nearly \$1,000,000,000, for the Smithsonian, National Gallery and Kennedy Center over \$350,000,000. These figures do not include the billions of dollars worth of new and replacement facility construction already identified on agency priority lists. The accumulation of these large backlogs translates into diminished health care services for native Americans, fewer trails, campgrounds and boat ramps open for recreation, and inadequate protection of our Nation's cultural resources. While the budget agreement will provide more funds to address these needs than would be available in the absence of the agreement, the long-term budget outlook for agencies funded in this bill remains austere.

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS ACT

The subcommittee has been working with the various Interior bureaus and the other agencies under the subcommittee's jurisdiction in their efforts to comply with the Government Performance and Results Act [GPRA], Public Law 103-62. Given the vast diversity of agency missions and responsibilities which lie with the Interior bill agencies, the Committee recognizes that flexibility is important as each agency seeks to develop their GPRA plans and documents. The Committee wishes to reiterate to the agencies that success will be linked in large part to the extent the vast field network of offices, land management units, research locations, and other satellite locations are involved in the early stages of GPRA and buy-in to the process. Establishment of objectives and goals that are not easily measured or evaluated at the field unit level will make it difficult to obtain a product that is then useful at the policy and budget decisionmaking level. Similarly, however, all levels of the Departments and agencies should recognize that GPRA is required by law, and compliance is not optional.

By September 30, 1997, all governmental agencies are required to have completed the first Results Act strategic plan, including agency outcome goals and measures. Thorough and useful implementation of the Results Act is an ongoing process which requires each agency to examine its functions, responsibilities, and internal and external relationships.

Integral to success of the Results Act are the ongoing congressional/agency consultations first held in conjunction with developing the strategic plans. The Committee looks forward to continued dialog during fiscal year 1998 as the fiscal year 1999 annual performance plans are developed, and in the future when outcomes are measured and strategic plans are revisited.

REPROGRAMMING GUIDELINES

The Committee has revised the reprogramming guidelines to eliminate some of the exceptions included in fiscal year 1995 which was the last time the guidelines were changed. The Committee believes that some of those revisions gave too broad latitude to certain agencies to make changes without sufficiently involving the Committee. The newly revised guidelines are printed below. The reprogramming threshold is standardized for all agency programs, projects, and activities at \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is lower. The only exception is the tribal priority allocations activity in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Committee has not concurred with the administration's proposal to provide maximum flexibility to the Forest Service in its expenditure of appropriated funds. The Committee is concerned about instances in recent years where the Forest Service has submitted reprogrammings either on the last day of the fiscal year or after the money had already been spent. Such disregard for the proper role of congressional oversight by the Appropriations Committees is not acceptable, and until such time as the Forest Service is able to account better for its programs and establish priorities that are reflected in the budget request, the Committee does not agree with providing additional flexibility.

The Committee continues to remain concerned regarding the lack of detailed information in the budget justification associated with how the Forest Service intends to spend its funding. Funding increases or decreases may be proposed, but the budget fails to provide sufficient information or details regarding the impact of the proposed change, where the funds would be expended, how and where any decreases would affect the base programs, and other such information. Meanwhile, the administration reallocates funding to initiatives that were not necessarily identified to the Committee as a priority as part of the budget, and which the Committee might not have recommended increased funding because of the tradeoffs involved.

While the Committee recognizes that the Forest Service is a large organization that has many field units, the Committee is concerned that the Forest Service has failed to take sufficient steps to streamline decisionmaking, reduce levels of review, link the budget process closer to forest plans and on-the-ground objectives, and ensure that appropriated funds are allocated to the field units in a more timely manner. Progress in this regard is necessary before the Committee will consider changes for the Forest Service in the reprogramming guidelines.

The following are revised procedures governing reprogramming actions for programs and activities funded in the Interior Appropriations Act:

Definition.—Reprogramming, as defined in these procedures, includes the reallocation of funds from one budget activity to another. In cases where either Committee report displays an allocation of an appropriation below the activity level, that more detailed level shall be the basis for reprogramming. For construction accounts, a reprogramming constitutes the reallocation of funds from one construction project identified in the justifications to another. A reprogramming shall also consist of any significant departure from the program described in the agency's budget justifications. This includes proposed reorganizations even without a change in funding.

Guidelines for reprogramming.—A reprogramming should be made only when an unforeseen situation arises; and then only if postponement of the project or the activity until the next appropriation year would result in actual loss or damage. Mere convenience or desire should not be factors for consideration.

Any project or activity which may be deferred through reprogramming shall not later be accomplished by means of further reprogramming; but, instead, funds should again be sought for the deferred project or activity through the regular appropriations process.

Reprogramming should not be employed to initiate new programs or to change allocations specifically denied, limited or increased by the Congress in the act or the report. In cases where unforeseen events or conditions are deemed to require such changes, proposals shall be submitted in advance to the Committee, regardless of amounts involved, and be fully explained and justified.

Reprogramming proposals submitted to the Committee for prior approval shall be considered approved after 30 calendar days if the Committee has posed no objection. However, agencies will be ex-

pected to extend the approval deadline if specifically requested by either Committee.

Criteria and exception.—Any proposed reprogramming must be submitted to the Committee in writing prior to implementation if it exceeds \$500,000 annually or results in an increase or decrease of more than 10 percent annually in affected programs, with the following exception:

With regard to the tribal priority allocations activity of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, "Operations of Indian programs" account, there is no restriction on reprogrammings among the programs within this activity. However, the Bureau shall report on all reprogrammings made during the first 6 months of the fiscal year by no later than May 1 of each year, and shall provide a final report of all reprogrammings for the previous fiscal year by no later than November 1 of each year.

Quarterly reports.—All reprogrammings shall be reported to the Committee quarterly and shall include cumulative totals.

Any significant shifts of funding among object classifications also should be reported to the Committee.

Administrative overhead accounts.—For all appropriations where costs of overhead administrative expenses are funded in part from assessments of various budget activities within an appropriation, the assessments shall be shown in justifications under the discussion of administrative expenses.

Contingency accounts.—For all appropriations where assessments are made against various budget activities or allocations for contingencies, the Committee expects a full explanation, separate from the justifications. The explanation shall show the amount of the assessment, the activities assessed, and the purpose of the fund. The Committee expects reports each year detailing the use of these funds. In no case shall a fund be used to finance projects and activities disapproved or limited by Congress or to finance new permanent positions or to finance programs or activities that could be foreseen and included in the normal budget review process. Contingency funds shall not be used to initiate new programs.

Declarations of taking.—The Committee directs the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the Forest Service to seek Committee approval in advance of filing declarations of taking.

Report language.—Any limitation, directive, or earmarking contained in either the House or Senate report which is not contradicted by the other report nor specifically denied in the conference report shall be considered as having been approved by both Houses of Congress.

Forest Service.—The following procedures shall apply to the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture:

The Forest Service shall not change the boundaries of any region, abolish any region, move or close any regional office for research, State and private forestry, or National Forest System administration, without the consent of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and the House Committee on Agriculture, in compliance with these reprogramming procedures.

The appropriation structure for the Forest Service shall not be altered without advance approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

Provisions of section 702(b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 2257) and of 7 U.S.C. 147b shall apply to appropriations available to the Forest Service only to the extent that the proposed transfer is approved by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations in compliance with these re-programming procedures.

Assessments.—No assessments shall be levied against any program, budget activity, subactivity, or project funded by the Interior Appropriations Act unless such assessments and the basis, therefore, are presented to the Committees on Appropriations and are approved by such Committees, in compliance with these procedures.

Land acquisitions.—Lands shall not be acquired for more than the approved appraised value (as addressed in section 301(3) of Public Law 91-646) except for condemnations and declarations of taking, unless such acquisitions are submitted to the Committees on Appropriations for approval in compliance with these procedures.

Land exchanges.—Land exchanges shall not be consummated until the Committees on Appropriations have had a 30-day period in which to examine the proposed exchange.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

LAND AND WATER RESOURCES

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OF LAND AND RESOURCES

Appropriations, 1997	\$575,664,000
Budget estimate, 1998	587,495,000
House allowance	581,591,000
Committee recommendation	578,851,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$578,851,000, a decrease of \$8,644,000 below the budget estimate, an increase of \$3,187,000 above the fiscal year 1997 funding level, and \$2,740,000 below the House allowance. A comparison of the Committee recommendations with the budget estimate is as follows:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Land resources:			
Soil, water, and air management	\$24,201,000	\$21,201,000	— \$3,000,000
Range management	54,342,000	54,342,000	.....
Forestry management	5,652,000	5,652,000	.....
Riparian management	16,473,000	16,473,000	.....
Cultural resources management	13,122,000	13,222,000	+ 100,000
Wild horse and burro management	18,640,000	11,197,000	— 7,443,000
Subtotal, land resources	132,430,000	122,087,000	— 10,343,000
Wildlife and fisheries:			
Wildlife management	20,460,000	20,960,000	+ 500,000
Fisheries management	7,318,000	7,318,000	.....
Subtotal, wildlife and fisheries	27,778,000	28,278,000	+ 500,000
Threatened and endangered species	16,795,000	17,145,000	+ 350,000
Recreation management:			
Wilderness management	16,236,000	15,505,000	— 731,000
Recreation resources management	31,333,000	31,833,000	.....
Recreation operations (fees)	3,020,000	2,520,000	.....
Subtotal, recreation management	50,589,000	49,858,000	— 731,000
Energy and minerals:			
Oil and gas	52,470,000	55,070,000	+ 2,600,000
Coal management	7,017,000	7,017,000	.....
Other mineral resources	8,776,000	8,776,000	.....
Alaska minerals	2,043,000	2,743,000	+ 700,000
Subtotal, energy and minerals	70,306,000	73,606,000	+ 3,300,000

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Realty and ownership management:			
Alaska conveyance	28,114,000	30,448,000	+ 2,334,000
Cadastral survey	11,236,000	11,236,000	.....
Land and realty management	29,395,000	29,395,000	.....
Subtotal, realty and ownership management	68,745,000	71,079,000	+ 2,334,000
Resource protection and maintenance:			
Resource management planning	6,292,000	6,292,000	.....
Facilities maintenance	36,097,000	34,097,000	- 2,000,000
Resource protection and law enforcement	12,620,000	10,566,000	- 2,054,000
Hazardous materials management	15,301,000	15,301,000	.....
Subtotal, resource protection and maintenance	70,310,000	66,256,000	- 4,054,000
Automated land and minerals records system	33,961,000	33,961,000	.....
Mining law administration:			
Administration	27,650,000	27,650,000	.....
Fee collection	5,000,000	5,000,000	.....
Offsetting fees	- 32,650,000	- 32,650,000	.....
Subtotal, mining law administration .....	.....	.....	.....
Work force and organizational support:			
Information systems operations	15,073,000	15,073,000	.....
Administrative support	44,637,000	44,637,000	.....
Bureauwide fixed costs	56,871,000	56,871,000	.....
Subtotal, work force and organization	116,581,000	116,581,000	.....
Total, management of lands and resource	587,495,000	578,851,000	- 8,644,000

Land resources.—The Committee recommends \$122,087,000 for land resources. The amount provided includes increases over the fiscal year 1997 level of \$1,000,000 for the abandoned mine land program, \$1,330,000 for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, \$1,000,000 for noxious weed control, \$500,000 for cultural resources site stabilization and restoration and for challenge cost share projects, \$100,000 for projects in consultation with the Alaska Gold Rush Centennial Task Force, and \$2,172,000 for fixed costs. The Committee recommends a decrease of \$4,669,000 below the fiscal year 1997 funding level for the wild horse and burro program. The Committee has provided fixed costs associated with the wild horse and burro program.

The Committee is concerned about BLM's attention to management of rangeland resources. Contentious relationships have been allowed to develop between rangeland permittees and adjacent landowners. The Committee expects the BLM, in conjunction with the Forest Service, to work more closely with lessees, permittees, and landowners in the development and revision of allotment management plans in compliance with the Public Rangelands Improvement Act.

Wildlife and fisheries.—The Committee recommends \$28,278,000 for wildlife and fisheries. The amount provided includes increases over the fiscal year 1997 level of \$300,000 for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, \$500,000 for a joint land cover mapping project with the Department of Defense in Alaska with the goal of developing habitat mitigation plans, and \$494,000 for fixed costs. In providing the administration's requested program increase of \$250,000 for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument within the wildlife management subactivity, the Committee also accepts the requested program decrease of \$250,000 for other, unspecified wildlife management activities.

Threatened and endangered species.—The Committee recommends \$17,145,000 for threatened and endangered species. The amount provided includes increases over the fiscal year 1997 funding level of \$270,000 for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, \$275,000 for fixed costs, and \$350,000 for the Virgin River Basin integrated resource management recovery plan. The Committee accepts the administration's requested program decrease of \$250,000 for other threatened and endangered activities.

Recreation management.—The Committee recommends \$49,858,000 for recreation management. The amount provided includes increases over the fiscal year 1997 funding level of \$1,150,000 for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, \$2,500,000 for recreation resource management, and \$844,000 for fixed costs. Within the additional funding provided for recreation resource management, \$1,000,000 is to be used by the BLM for challenge cost share projects and \$400,000 is provided for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and other projects related to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which will soon be celebrating its bicentennial. Within the additional funding for recreation resources management, \$500,000 represents an adjustment requested by the Bureau after the budget estimate was sent to Congress. The Committee also recommends the corresponding requested adjustment of a \$500,000 decrease for recreation operations. This adjustment reflects a more accurate estimation of anticipated fee collections in fiscal year 1998.

Energy and minerals.—The Committee recommends \$73,606,000 for energy and minerals, including Alaska minerals. The amount provided includes increases over the fiscal year 1997 funding level of \$150,000 for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, \$2,100,000 for oil and gas management, and \$1,153,000 for fixed costs.

The budget estimate proposed a program decrease of \$500,000 that would result in the halting of processing of oil and gas lease applications that are low priority for the BLM in Alaska, Arizona and Idaho. In addition, the budget estimate did not include any funding for fiscal year 1998 for the Bureau's activities as the lead Federal agency responsible for the development of an integrated activity plan and environmental impact statement related to the planned development of the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska [NPRA]. The Committee recommends restoring the \$500,000 decrease to allow the BLM to continue its efforts to process oil and gas lease applications in Alaska, Arizona and Idaho, and has provided \$2,100,000 that the BLM identified it will need for its efforts

on the NPRA in fiscal year 1998. The Committee expects the BLM to request funds for NPRA activities for fiscal year 1999 if funding is needed.

In response to a directive in the Senate report accompanying the fiscal year 1997 Interior appropriations bill, the USGS, jointly with the BLM and numerous other interested parties, including the Alaska Federation of Natives, Alaska Miners Association, State of Alaska, University of Alaska, and Forest Service, prepared a report on the status of mineral collection and storage issues in Alaska. The need for the report arises from the growing interest in Alaska's mineral resources. For example, the Red Dog Silver-Lead-Zinc Mine in northwestern Alaska is now the largest zinc deposit in the world, and the Greens Creek Mine near Juneau is the largest silver mine in the United States.

The report identified five information issues considered critical for improving the quality of and accessibility to minerals information in Alaska: streamlining, networking, and coordinating library resources; updating data bases; preserving physical samples; establishing an electronic mining claim information system; and acquiring basic geologic mapping.

The Committee has included \$700,000 for the BLM to provide additional library support personnel to the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services Consortium, particularly on the library resources and data bases efforts; augment the BLM Juneau Minerals Information Center with additional personnel; develop and implement a plan to protect and preserve at risk records at the Center; and work to integrate public land mining claim records in a single data base for both Federal and State claims. The Committee has also included \$2,000,000 for the USGS for the minerals at-risk project.

The interaction and cooperation of the Federal agencies is critical to the success of the project. The Committee urges the Federal working group participants to continue to work closely together, and with the other individuals, companies, professional organizations, and State agencies. To the maximum extent feasible and desirable, the minerals at risk project should coordinate and consolidate their library resources with the Alaska Resources Library.

Realty and ownership management.—The Committee recommends \$71,079,000 for realty and ownership management. The amount provided includes increases over the fiscal year 1997 funding level of \$300,000 for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and \$1,123,000 for fixed costs. Funding at the fiscal year 1997 level plus fixed costs is provided for the Alaska conveyance and lands (which includes Alaska cadastral surveys). The BLM is directed to maintain the fiscal year 1997 full-time equivalent employee level for the Alaska cadastral survey work, which is a prerequisite to the completion of the statutorily required transfer by BLM of more than 155 million acres of Federal lands in Alaska to the State, Native corporations, and individuals.

Resource protection and maintenance.—The Committee recommends \$66,256,000 for resource protection and maintenance. The amount provided includes increases over the fiscal year 1997 level funding of \$1,050,000 for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and \$1,122,000 for fixed costs.

Automated land and mineral records system.—The Committee recommends \$33,961,000 for the automated land and mineral records system, the same as the budget estimate.

Mining law administration.—The Committee recommends \$32,650,000 for mining law administration, the same as the budget estimate. This activity is supported by offsetting fees equal to the amount made available in this bill.

Work force and organizational support.—The Committee recommends \$116,581,000 for work force and organizational support, which is the same as the House allowance and the budget estimate.

Other.—The Committee supports efforts of the land management agencies to consolidate activities and facilities at the field level as a means of achieving savings and providing improved services to the public. The Committee supports the joint BLM–Forest Service Trading Post pilot program, which allows the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to make reciprocal delegations of authorities, duties and responsibilities to promote customer service and efficiency, with the understanding that nothing will change the applicability of any public law or regulation to lands administered by the BLM or the Forest Service. The necessary bill language in support of these efforts is contained in the bill under the title III general provisions.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.—The Committee recommendations include a total of \$6,400,000 for enhanced activities associated with planning and management of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, which was established in September 1996. The amount of \$5,000,000 is in new budget authority. These funds are provided across 20 different budget line items in the “Management of lands and resources” account. These funds are as follows:

<i>Subactivity</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Soil, water, and air	\$300,000
Rangeland	400,000
Forestry	50,000
Riparian	180,000
Cultural resource	400,000
Wildlife	250,000
Fisheries	50,000
Threatened and endangered species	270,000
Wilderness	150,000
Recreation resource	1,000,000
Oil and gas	50,000
Coal	50,000
Other mineral resources	50,000
Land and realty	300,000
Resource management planning	150,000
Facilities maintenance	750,000
Resource protection and law enforcement	150,000
Information systems operations	200,000
Administrative support	200,000
Fixed costs	50,000
Total	5,000,000

While the Committee has not established a separate line-item for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, the BLM is to allocate all of the funds recommended herein to the Utah State office and the on-the-ground project office assigned planning and management responsibility for the monument. None of the funds

are to be assessed for Washington or headquarters functions. The Committee expects the BLM to report by October 1, 1997, on a detailed budget for the monument, including specific proposed expenditures, such as personnel costs, fixed costs for space and supplies, any major contracts for inventories, equipment, geographic information systems, or other similar support costs.

The Committee will expect the BLM to provide quarterly reporting of its obligations and provide detailed information in future budget justifications as to the proposed use of funds. If expenditures are no longer needed for particular activities in subsequent years of the planning process, the Committee expects the BLM to reallocate these funds to other monument purposes, specifically those associated with the provision of visitor services. The Committee would be strongly opposed to any efforts to reprogram funds within the line items to purposes not associated with the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

In total, the funds recommended include \$3,000,000 for operations of the new monument, \$1,000,000 for scientific and historic studies, and \$2,400,000 for development of the management plan. The operational funds are intended to support approximately 40 to 50 full-time equivalent employees and management functions for the 1.7-million-acre monument and the surrounding areas. The foremost operation concern and use of these funds should be to address the impact of visitors and accommodating their expectations when they visit this remote area, while also providing for continued operations and management functions. The Committee urges the BLM to refrain from deferring actions necessary to deal with growing visitation until the management plan is complete. Rather, the BLM should work cooperatively with Kane and Garfield Counties, and the State of Utah, and use existing cooperative agreement authorities as much as possible to address the public use aspects of the monument and the impacts on local communities. The Committee sees no need for an expansive Federal presence when cooperative agreements and other assistance can be used to address important functions such as visitor safety, education, access, and upkeep and maintenance of the areas most frequented by the public.

The planning funds are to be used toward the prompt completion of a management plan—in conjunction with the affected counties and the State of Utah—which is also participating in this effort. The Committee expects the management plan to be completed within the 3-year time period proposed by the President when he established the monument on September 18, 1996. The BLM should plan its activities so that the 3-year period includes sufficient time to provide ample opportunity for public review and comment.

The Committee is also aware of concerns that the Department may be undervaluing the school trust lands encompassed within the monument boundaries. The Committee expects the Department to take such steps as are necessary to initiate the land exchange process in order to fulfill the President's commitment "* * * to resolve reasonable differences in valuation in favor of the school trust * * *." In considering land exchanges, the Department should address the potential budget impacts and allocate sufficient resources

to prepare for the exchanges necessary to protect the future of Utah's schoolchildren.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Appropriations, 1997	\$352,042,000
Budget estimate, 1998	280,103,000
House allowance	280,103,000
Committee recommendation	282,728,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$282,728,000 for wildland fire management, which is a decrease of \$69,314,000 from the fiscal year 1997 level, which included an emergency appropriation of \$100,000, and \$2,625,000 over the House allowance and the budget estimate.

The appropriation includes \$156,728,000 for preparedness, within which \$700,000 is provided to fund the startup and first year of operating costs for a type I hotshot crew in Alaska. This crew, the Tazlina Hotshots, is to be managed by the Alaska Fire Service as an intertribal, interagency hotshot crew. Of the funding provided for the hotshot crew, \$200,000 is provided on a one-time basis for equipment and training. Also within the funding provided for preparedness, \$1,925,000 is included for redevelopment of the temporary and obsolete Interior interagency fire operations center in Billings, MT. The amount provided funds construction of the base taxiway, air tanker loading site, and operations. The recommendation includes \$126,000,000 for suppression operations.

CENTRAL HAZMAT FUND

Appropriations, 1997	\$12,000,000
Budget estimate, 1998	14,900,000
House allowance	12,000,000
Committee recommendation	14,900,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$14,900,000 for the central hazardous materials fund, the same as the budget estimate and \$2,900,000 above the House allowance.

CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 1997	\$4,333,000
Budget estimate, 1998	3,154,000
House allowance	3,254,000
Committee recommendation	3,154,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$3,154,000, which is \$1,179,000 less than the fiscal year 1997 funding level, the same as the budget estimate, and \$100,000 less than the House allowance.

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

Appropriations, 1997	\$113,500,000
Budget estimate, 1998	101,500,000
House allowance	113,500,000
Committee recommendation	120,000,000

The Payments in Lieu of Taxes [PILT] Program provides payments to local units of Government containing certain federally owned lands that cannot be taxed or, in many cases, developed by

the local Governments. Thus, PILT is a critical source of local government funding in the public land States of the West.

The Committee recommends \$120,000,000 for PILT, which is \$6,500,000 over the fiscal year 1997 funding level and the House allowance. The increase is included to address the higher PILT levels authorized in Public Law 103-379; and, amendments to the act providing for PILT in 1996 which authorized PILT payments to the unorganized borough of Alaska, where almost 60 percent of the Federal land of Alaska is located. The Committee is aware that certain of Alaska's eligible units of general local Government did not receive PILT for the years 1983-95.

The amount by which BLM failed to pay eligible local governments totals \$565,673. The Committee appreciates the Bureau's efforts to resolve promptly this issue, and directs the Bureau to pay the local units of government for the years 1983-95 from within the funds appropriated.

The Committee notes that PILT is but one of many programs under this subcommittee's jurisdiction for which increased or new authorization levels have been enacted in recent years and which constrained spending levels affect the subcommittee's ability to fund fully.

LAND ACQUISITION

Appropriations, 1997	\$10,410,000
Budget estimate, 1998	9,900,000
House allowance	12,000,000
Committee recommendation	9,400,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$9,400,000 for land acquisition, a decrease of \$500,000 below the budget estimate and a decrease of \$2,600,000 below the House allowance.

The following table shows the Committee's recommendations:

<i>Area and State</i>	<i>Committee recommendation</i>
Lake Fork of the Gunnison, CO	\$900,000
Otay Mountains/Kuchamoa, CA	1,000,000
Santa Rosa Mountains, CA	1,000,000
Washington County desert tortoise, UT	2,000,000
Western Riverside County, CA	1,000,000
Acquisition management	3,000,000
Emergencies/inholdings	500,000
Total	9,400,000

OREGON AND CALIFORNIA GRANT LANDS

Appropriations, 1997	\$103,015,000
Budget estimate, 1998	101,406,000
House allowance	101,406,000
Committee recommendation	101,406,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$101,406,000, the same as the budget estimate and the House allowance.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Appropriations, 1997	\$9,113,000
Budget estimate, 1998	7,510,000
House allowance	9,113,000
Committee recommendation	9,113,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$9,113,000 for range improvements, the same as the fiscal year 1997 level and the House allowance. The Committee understands that the budget request did not reflect accurately the receipt estimates to be used for this activity, as required by law.

SERVICE CHARGES, DEPOSITS, AND FORFEITURES

Appropriations, 1997	\$7,966,000
Budget estimate, 1998	7,966,000
House allowance	7,966,000
Committee recommendation	7,966,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$7,966,000, the same as the budget estimate and the House allowance.

MISCELLANEOUS TRUST FUNDS

Appropriations, 1997	\$7,605,000
Budget estimate, 1998	7,605,000
House allowance	7,605,000
Committee recommendation	7,605,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$7,605,000, the same as the budget estimate and the House allowance.

FISH AND WILDLIFE AND PARKS

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Appropriations, 1997	\$526,047,000
Budget estimate, 1998	561,614,000
House allowance	591,042,000
Committee recommendation	584,364,000

The Committee recommends \$584,364,000 for resource management, an increase of \$22,750,000 over the budget estimate and a decrease of \$6,678,000 below the House level. The following table shows the amounts provided by activity as compared to the budget estimate.

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Ecological services:			
Endangered species:			
Candidate conservation	\$4,903,000	\$5,303,000	+\$400,000
Listing	5,190,000	5,190,000	
Consultation	26,528,000	24,528,000	− 2,000,000
Recovery	42,160,000	42,160,000	
Subtotal, endangered species	78,781,000	77,181,000	− 1,600,000
Habitat conservation	56,998,000	58,098,000	+ 1,100,000

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Environmental contaminants	9,074,000	9,074,000	.....
Subtotal, ecological services	144,853,000	144,353,000	- 500,000
Refuges and wildlife:			
Refuge operations and maintenance	191,951,000	211,951,000	+ 20,000,000
Law enforcement operations	35,964,000	35,964,000	.....
Migratory bird management	17,107,000	17,607,000	+ 500,000
Subtotal, refuges and wildlife	245,022,000	265,522,000	+ 20,500,000
Fisheries:			
Hatchery operations and maintenance	37,859,000	38,859,000	+ 1,000,000
Lower Snake River compensation fund	11,612,000	11,612,000	.....
Fish and wildlife management	19,729,000	20,479,000	+ 750,000
Subtotal, fisheries	69,200,000	70,950,000	+ 1,750,000
General administration:			
Central office administration	13,669,000	13,669,000	.....
International affairs	5,610,000	5,610,000	.....
Regional office administration	22,693,000	22,693,000	.....
National Conservation Training Center	13,063,000	13,063,000	.....
Servicewide administrative support	42,504,000	42,504,000	.....
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	5,000,000	6,000,000	+ 1,000,000
Subtotal, general administration	102,539,000	103,539,000	+ 1,000,000
Total, resource management	561,614,000	584,364,000	+ 22,750,000

Endangered species.—The Committee recommends \$77,181,000 for endangered species, a decrease of \$1,600,000 from the budget request and \$1,100,000 over the House level.

Within the amount provided for candidate conservation, \$400,000 is provided for Alabama sturgeon conservation efforts in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The amount provided for consultation includes \$560,000 for the Iron County habitat conservation plan. The Committee understands the Service will seek matching funds for this activity.

The Committee has also included \$300,000 to initiate an environmental impact statement on the reintroduction of wolves to Olympic National Park. The Committee expects the EIS to address thoroughly the potential impact of wolves on the people and communities that would be directly affected by reintroduction. Specifically, the EIS should include a detailed assessment of the potential interaction between the wolves and the people who live, work, or recreate in the park, national forest, and surrounding lands. The Committee is interested in both a scientific analysis of the frequency and impact of potential wolf-human interactions, and a review of the opinions and attitudes regarding wolf introduction of those who live in the immediate area and would be most likely to have direct contact with the wolves. The EIS should also address any potential impacts that wolf introduction may have on hunting on the Olympic Peninsula. The Committee notes that agreement to allocate

funds for the EIS should not be interpreted as an endorsement of wolf introduction. A decision to proceed or not to proceed with introduction will be made following a thorough review of the EIS, and an assessment of available funding versus the needs of other priority programs in this bill. The Committee also notes that it does not intend to support wolf introduction unless it is clearly demonstrated in the EIS that such introduction has the support of a majority of the people who live or work in the immediate introduction area, and whose families, livestock, and pets would be most likely to encounter the wolves if introduced.

Within the amount provided for recovery, the Committee expects the Service to continue to monitor wolf populations in both Yellowstone National Park and the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area, and to work with local communities to ensure timely reporting of wolf movements. The Committee has provided \$300,000 for the Nez Perce Tribe for continued assistance in monitoring efforts. The Committee also expects the Service to continue its participation in the wolf predation reimbursement program in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and non-Federal entities.

The Committee has also provided \$75,000 for a habitat-based population viability assessment for grizzly bear reintroduction in the Bitterroot-Selway Wilderness Area.

The Committee has provided the same level of funding as provided in fiscal year 1997 for the Virgin River integrated resource management plan, the Colorado River Basin Recovery Program, the Natural Communities Conservation Planning [NCCP] Program, and the Peregrine Fund for continued activities in support of California condor recovery. The Committee also urges the Service to consider allocating funding for water table studies for use in any future listing decisions regarding the Bruneau Hot Spring snail.

The Committee is concerned about continued delays in the issuance of captive bred wildlife permit regulations. The Department is directed to issue such regulations not later the January 1, 1998.

Habitat conservation.—The Committee recommends \$58,098,000 for habitat conservation, an increase of \$1,100,000 over the budget request. Within the amount provided, \$23,689,000 is for project planning, including \$600,000 for the Middle Rio Grande (Bosque) Program, \$200,000 for Platte River studies, and \$1,131,000 for the Chicago Wetlands Office. The amount provided also includes the requested funding for coastal ecosystems and the national wetlands inventory. The amount provided for Partners for Wildlife includes \$750,000 for regional fisheries enhancement groups in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and \$200,000 for the partners program in Vermont. The Reno biodiversity initiative, the Klamath basin working group and Missouri Chutes studies are continued at the fiscal year 1997 level.

The Committee is concerned that permitting for new oil and gas projects in Alaska not be delayed and that permits for these projects be processed in a timely and expeditious fashion. Given the importance of these new developments to the State of Alaska and the Nation, the Committee expects that the budget request for the "Fish and Wildlife Service" accounts for the increased demand on permitting resources. Should the Fish and Wildlife Service not be

able to meet permit time lines for new developments in a timely and expeditious fashion, the Committee expects to receive from the agency a report and reprogramming request to make necessary funds available to meet timely permit processing milestones.

Environmental contaminants.—The Committee recommends \$9,074,000 for environmental contaminants, the same as the budget request.

Refuges and wildlife.—The Committee recommends \$265,522,000 for refuges and wildlife, an increase of \$20,500,000 over the budget request and a decrease of \$8,828,000 below the House level. The amount provided includes increases over the request of \$20,000,000 for refuge operations and maintenance and \$500,000 for the North American waterfowl management plan to provide base funding for the Pacific coast and intermountain wetlands joint ventures.

The Committee has provided the significant increase for refuge operations and maintenance to help the Service undertake high-priority projects in its maintenance management system, and to address operating shortfalls at refuges around the country. The Committee expects the Service to use a portion of this increase to establish operating bases at the Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge and at the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, including establishing a presence in the valley itself. The Committee also encourages the Service to enhance alien species control efforts in the Hawaii refuges, and to give a high priority to activities at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Refuge.

The Committee directs the Service to complete all action on the double-crested cormorant depredation order so that this document will be functional before the fall 1997 migration of cormorants. Subsequently, necessary steps shall be undertaken jointly by the Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [APHIS] animal damage control program to evaluate and implement population management strategies for fish eating bird species at nesting, roosting, and wintering sites when depredating on commercial, sport, or forage fish, or when causing or about to cause other problems.

The Committee is concerned about the severe overgrazing problem created by improper management of the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep located on the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Reservations. While the herd is perhaps one of the finest in North America, its dramatic population increase jeopardizes the economic stability of surrounding private ranches. Testing has demonstrated that disease will eventually lead to a dramatic die off of the herd due to overgrazing and poor management. The Committee urges the tribe to consider alternative management techniques, including transportation to other tribal lands or States whose governments have requested animals to rebuild their herds. The expertise of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep could assist the tribe in improving their big game management measures. At a time when the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes desire to take over all responsibilities of managing the Moise National Bison Range, the Committee is skeptical of such a management transfer given the mismanagement of the bighorn sheep.

Of the funds provided for the Office of Migratory Bird Management, the Committee directs the Fish and Wildlife Service to con-

duct a study of the effects of hunting season framework extensions on migratory waterfowl populations. This study should include, but not be limited to, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Minnesota.

The Committee is concerned that harvest restrictions on dusky Canadian geese have led to increasing agricultural depredation by the broader goose population in southwest Washington and Oregon. Economic losses are estimated to be in the millions of dollars. The Committee directs the Service to submit to the Committee by March 15, a report that describes the Service's response to this problem to date, additional actions that could be taken to combat the problem, and the costs associated with the various options.

Fisheries.—The Committee recommends \$70,950,000 for fisheries, an increase of \$1,750,000 over the budget request. The increase provided over the request includes \$1,000,000 for hatchery operations and maintenance. The Committee expects the Service to target this increase to endangered species recovery work to be performed at the Mora hatchery and other locations. The recommended amount also includes increases of \$200,000 for Yukon River escapement monitoring and research and \$50,000 for the regional mark processing center. A \$500,000 increase is provided for whirling disease research. The Committee understands that \$750,000 of the funds provided for this research will be allocated for work with the National Partnership on the Management of Wild and Native Cold Water Fisheries.

The Committee notes that the amount provided for fisheries includes increases over the fiscal year 1997 level of \$500,000 for aquatic nuisance species control and \$578,000 for the Great Lakes initiative.

Recent declines in mainland caribou herds on the Alaska Peninsula have forced State game managers to eliminate the subsistence hunt for the region's villages. The Committee is interested in determining whether the Adak caribou population may serve as a dedicated source of broodstock for translocation of discrete caribou herds on islands of Alaska. The Committee is requesting a report from the Fish and Wildlife Service whether suitable habitat exists for such translocation on islands outside of the public domain. The Fish and Wildlife Service should prepare a report for the Committee to determine whether suitable habitat exists for such translocation outside of the public domain. The report should be prepared in consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and should include preliminary cost estimates for the various translocation options included in the study.

General administration.—The Committee recommends \$103,539,000 for general administration, an increase of \$1,000,000 over the budget request. The increase provided is for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The Committee encourages the Service to work with the U.S. Geological Survey to support the science and education programs at the Caddo Lake Institute.

General.—To the extent general increases are provided for programs that include a forest plan component, the Committee expects the Service to provide an increase for forest plan activities that is proportional to the general increase provided.

The Committee is concerned about the Service's recent proposal to create a new regional office. The Committee directs the Service not to proceed with establishment of the new office pending congressional approval consistent with existing reprogramming procedures. The reprogramming request should identify in detail both the immediate and long-term costs of the proposed office, the impact on Service personnel in the region, and the expected benefits in terms of program delivery.

The Committee is very concerned about a secretarial order recently issued by the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce regarding the administration of the Endangered Species Act [ESA] in relation to Indian tribal lands. Although this order has no force of law, it purports to change the administration of the ESA in ways that are flatly inconsistent with the statute.

For example, the order provides that conservation restrictions to protect a listed species shall not be directed at a tribal activity unless the conservation purpose of the restriction cannot be achieved by reasonable regulation of non-Indian activities. In other words, if an Indian and non-Indian are engaged in exactly the same activity, the order says that the activity by the non-Indian will be curtailed first, and that the activity by the Indian will be curtailed, if at all, only as a last resort. Nothing in the law supports this preferential treatment for Indian activities.

In the designation of critical habitat, the order directs the Departments to engage in the same sort of preferential treatment. The appendix to the Order provides that in designating critical habitat, the Services shall evaluate and document the extent to which the conservation needs of the listed species can be achieved by limiting the designation to other lands. Again, nothing in the law supports burdening private land with a critical habitat designation while sparing adjacent tribal land.

The Committee believes strongly that Indian lands should be treated no differently with respect to the Endangered Species Act. Nothing in the current version of the Endangered Species Act authorizes treating Indian lands differently from non-Indian lands, both public and private. If the administration believes that the ESA should be rewritten to achieve the results purportedly required by this Order, it should propose legislation to accomplish this goal. Until such legislation is enacted, however, the Committee expects the Department to adhere to the ESA as written.

Bill language.—Bill language is included which provides a technical correction for the fee authority of the National Conservation Training Center and which provides that the funds are available until expended.

CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 1997	\$59,256,000
Budget estimate, 1998	35,921,000
House allowance	40,256,000
Committee recommendation	43,653,000

The Committee recommends \$43,653,000 for construction, an increase of \$7,732,000 over the budget request and \$3,397,000 over the House level. The amount provided includes \$5,910,000 for con-

struction management, \$1,000,000 for emergency projects, and \$36,743,000 for line item construction projects.

The Committee recommends the following distribution of funds:

Project/description	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation
Baker Island National Wildlife Refuge, HI: Assessment/site investigation	\$250,000	\$250,000
Bear River National Wildlife Refuge, UT: Dike repair		800,000
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, MD: Administrative building		335,000
Bozeman Fish Technology Center, MT: Planning and design	606,000	606,000
Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, IL: Rehabilitate sewage treatment facilities	1,659,000	1,659,000
Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery, ME: Station rehabilitation	3,900,000	3,900,000
Creston National Fish Hatchery, MT: Jessup Mill Pond Dam	1,500,000	1,500,000
Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, NJ: Green Village disposal assessment/site investigation	250,000	250,000
Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, WI: Replace boardwalk		425,000
John Hay Estate, NH: Rehabilitation		1,000,000
Keauhou Bird Conservation Center, HI: Complete construction		1,000,000
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, AK: Access trail and public use facility rehabilitation		480,000
Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife Complex, AK: Construct aircraft hangar at Galena	915,000	
Merced National Wildlife Refuge, CA: Water distribution center	2,548,000	2,548,000
Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, MO: Replace bridges		702,000
National Black Footed Ferret Conservation Center: Phase I planning and design	250,000	250,000
National Elk Refuge, WY: Replace irrigation system		400,000
Orangeburg National Fish Hatchery, SC: Rehabilitate drainage canal	833,000	833,000
Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge, MD: Cash Lake Dam	2,515,000	2,515,000
Region 2, OK-TX-AZ-NM: Solid waste cleanup	445,000	445,000
Saint Marks National Wildlife Refuge, FL: Replace six bridges	469,000	469,000
Saint Vincent National Wildlife Refuge, FL: Replace the Outlet Creek Bridge	186,000	186,000
Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, TX: Road rehabilitation	1,208,000	1,208,000
Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, MI: Rehabilitate Houlihan Road Bridge	520,000	520,000
Southwest Fisheries Technology Center, NM: Mora hatchery		2,000,000
Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge, WA: Trail construction and access		840,000
Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, TN:		
Rehabilitate public access road through Duck River unit	2,500,000	2,500,000
Replace two bridges	139,000	139,000
Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, AK: Construct four-plex residence at Dillingham	335,000	
Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, WA: Maintenance building	843,000	843,000
Upper Mississippi River NW&FR, IL: Construct administrative facility	510,000	510,000
Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, OK:		
Grama Lake and Comanche Dams	4,800,000	4,800,000
Road rehabilitation	1,840,000	1,840,000
Other (nonspecific):		
Bridge safety inspections	495,000	495,000
Dam safety inspections	495,000	495,000
Project total	30,011,000	36,743,000

The funds provided for Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge are for a trail project in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service.

Funds are included also in Forest Service construction account for this purpose.

The Committee has no objection to the proposed reprogramming which would provide \$672,000 for replacement of the burned headquarters/administration building at Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge, CO.

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FUND

Appropriations, 1997	\$4,000,000
Budget estimate, 1998	4,628,000
House allowance	4,128,000
Committee recommendation	4,328,000

The Committee recommends \$4,328,000 for natural resource damage assessments, a decrease of \$300,000 from the budget request. While the Committee does not object to the Department's efforts to streamline management of the NRDA program, budget constraints prevent the Committee from providing the substantial increase requested by the administration.

The Committee has also included language in the bill to allow proceeds from past liquidation of stocks and other noncash payments to remain available until expended. This language was requested by the administration. Bill language is also included which will clarify that the Department may make transfers to any trustee, Federal or non-Federal, participating in negotiated legal settlements.

LAND ACQUISITION

Appropriations, 1997	\$44,479,000
Budget estimate, 1998	44,560,000
House allowance	53,000,000
Committee recommendation	58,392,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$58,392,000, an increase of \$13,832,000 above the budget estimate and an increase of \$5,392,000 above the House allowance, and an increase of \$13,913,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level.

The following table shows the Committee's recommendations:

<i>Area and State</i>	<i>Committee recommendation</i>
Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge (Shadmoor), NY	\$2,500,000
Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, FL	2,000,000
Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, TX	1,000,000
Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, VA	2,000,000
Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, TX	700,000
Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, MO	1,000,000
Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, AL	3,000,000
Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, WV	4,000,000
Cape May National Wildlife Refuge, NJ	3,000,000
Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, KY	3,000,000
Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge, FL	400,000
Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, CA (Bair Island)	2,000,000
Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, NJ	2,000,000
Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge, WA	300,000
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, AK	600,000
Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, TX	2,000,000
Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge, MA	332,000
Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge (Black River unit), WA	1,500,000
Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, WV-KY-OH	1,000,000
Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge, IN	500,000

<i>Area and State</i>	<i>Committee recommendation</i>
Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge, ME	1,000,000
Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, ME	1,100,000
Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, VA	2,000,000
Rhode Island complex, Rhode Island	500,000
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, CA	3,000,000
Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge (including Pondicherry), CT-MA-NH-VT	2,000,000
Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, CT	1,100,000
Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, NV	1,000,000
Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, SC	2,000,000
Western Montana project, MT	1,000,000
Acquisition management	8,860,000
Emergency and hardships	1,000,000
Exchanges	1,000,000
Total	58,392,000

Funds for the Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, KY, may be used only to acquire land through purchases from willing sellers, donations, or exchanges. The Secretary is authorized to include hunting and fishing in the development of outdoor activities. The Committee expects the Secretary to ensure that no activity carried out in the refuge will result in the obstruction of the flow of water so as to affect any private land adjacent to the refuge and that the operations of the refuge will not restrict agriculture and silviculture on private lands.

With regard to the funds provided for the Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge, lands within the State of New Hampshire should be acquired from willing sellers only, or through donation or exchange.

COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

Appropriations, 1997	\$14,085,000
Budget estimate, 1998	14,000,000
House allowance	14,000,000
Committee recommendation	14,000,000

The Committee recommends \$14,000,000 for the cooperative endangered species conservation fund, the same as the House and the budget estimate.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND

Appropriations, 1997	\$10,779,000
Budget estimate, 1998	10,000,000
House allowance	10,000,000
Committee recommendation	10,779,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$10,779,000 for the national wildlife refuge fund, the same as the fiscal year 1997 and an increase of \$779,000 over the budget estimate and the House level. These funds are used to make payments to counties in which Service lands are based, in order to compensate the local units of government for lost tax revenues.

REWARDS AND OPERATIONS

Appropriations, 1997	\$1,000,000
Budget estimate, 1998	1,000,000
House allowance	1,000,000
Committee recommendation	1,000,000

The Committee recommends \$1,000,000 for African elephant conservation, the same as the House allowance and the budget estimate. These funds should be matched by non-Federal funding to as great an extent possible.

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

Appropriations, 1997	\$9,750,000
Budget estimate, 1998	15,000,000
House allowance	10,500,000
Committee recommendation	13,000,000

The Committee recommends \$13,000,000 for the North American wetlands conservation fund, which is \$2,500,000 above the House and \$3,250,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level. The Committee notes that the fund has generated \$2.30 in cost sharing for every one Federal dollar expended from the fund. The Committee also notes that \$31,000,000 is estimated to become available to the fund in fiscal year 1998 through permanent appropriations.

RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION FUND

Appropriations, 1997	\$400,000
Budget estimate, 1998	400,000
House allowance	400,000
Committee recommendation	400,000

The Committee recommends \$400,000 for the rhinoceros and tiger conservation fund, which is the same as the budget request and the House level. These funds should be matched by non-Federal funding to as great an extent possible.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND APPRECIATION FUND

Appropriations, 1997	\$800,000
Budget estimate, 1998	800,000
House allowance	800,000
Committee recommendation	800,000

The Committee recommends \$800,000 for the wildlife conservation and appreciation fund, which is the same as the House and the budget request.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

Appropriations, 1997	\$1,154,611,000
Budget estimate, 1998	1,220,325,000
House allowance	1,232,325,000
Committee recommendation	1,249,409,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,249,409,000. The Committee's recommendation is an increase of \$94,798,000 above the fiscal year 1997 enacted level, \$29,084,000 above the budget estimate, and \$17,084,000 above the House allowance.

The following table provides a comparison of Committee recommendations to the budget estimate:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Park management:			
Resource stewardship	\$211,158,000	\$219,992,000	+ \$8,834,000
Visitor services	287,599,000	291,080,000	+ 3,481,000
Maintenance	381,310,000	400,203,000	+ 18,893,000
Park support	241,815,000	240,591,000	- 1,224,000
Subtotal, park management	1,121,882,000	1,151,866,000	+ 29,984,000
External administrative costs	98,443,000	97,543,000	- 900,000
Total, operation of the National Park System	1,220,325,000	1,249,409,000	+ 29,084,000

The amount provided includes \$8,000,000 for a 1-percent across-the-board base increase for all park units, as proposed in the budget request. The Committee has also included \$24,800,000 for a park operations initiative focused on park units with critical health and safety deficiencies, shortfalls in visitor services, and inadequate resource protection capabilities. A portion of these funds will also be allocated to newly created units. The amount provided for the park operations initiative is an increase of \$8,500,000 over the budget request. The allocation of the funds provided above the request is to be consistent with information previously provided to the Committee.

The Committee has not recommended the establishment of a separate Everglades restoration fund as proposed by the administration. However, funding for Everglades activities is provided in the regular appropriations accounts at levels consistent with the budget agreement. The Committee continues to be impressed by the degree of interagency and interjurisdictional cooperation in the Everglades, but sees no compelling reason to forward fund the work being performed. The Committee will continue to evaluate funding needs on a year-to-year basis.

The Committee is aware of proposals to use surplus Wherry Housing units at the Presidio for the purpose of providing housing for the homeless. That use is inconsistent with the general management plan, and is inconsistent with the mission of the Park Service. While the Committee does not object to the movement of Wherry Housing units to a location outside of the Presidio for alternative uses, the Committee will not approve the use of Park Service funds for this purpose for any costs above that which the Park Service might incur if the units were simply removed from the site.

The Committee supports the efforts of the 11th Mississippi Memorial Committee to establish a memorial at the Gettysburg National Military Park honoring the 11th Mississippi Infantry Regiment. The Committee expects the Park Service to provide necessary assistance in this endeavor within the context and intent of the Park Service's established policy for consideration and approval of the erection of additional monuments at Gettysburg National Military Park.

The Committee recognizes the important role national parks play in community sponsored activities on Federal lands. The Committee appreciates the support provided in the past by the Park Service to community organizations that sponsor recreational activities such as bicycle races, foot races, and charity events, including the Rim Rock Run in the Colorado National Monument near Grand Junction, CO, while preserving the integrity of the parks and providing for the safety of the participants. However, the Committee is concerned with recent indications that the Park Service may be narrowly interpreting its policies with regard to support of such activities. The Committee was disappointed to learn of the Secretary's decision to overturn such an event on the George Washington Memorial Parkway earlier this spring. The Committee urges the Park Service to continue its support of community sponsored activities within the national parks, including the Rim Rock Run, while taking reasonable steps to ensure the integrity of the parks and provide for the safety of the participants.

Resource stewardship.—The Committee recommends \$219,992,000 for resource stewardship, an increase of \$26,682,000 over the fiscal year 1997 level and \$8,834,000 over the budget request. Changes from the fiscal year 1997 level include increases of \$1,245,000 for a 1-percent across-the-board increase; \$7,693,000 for the park operations initiative; \$500,000 for the abandoned mine lands program; \$580,000 for the desert mining program; \$1,000,000 for air quality monitoring, including \$100,000 for PM-10 research; \$1,000,000 for inventory and monitoring; and \$100,000 for the Northwest ecosystem office. The amount recommended also includes an increase of \$12,000,000 for Everglades science activities reflecting the Committee's decision not to establish a separate Everglades restoration fund as proposed by the administration. The Committee has provided \$1,500,000 for the new vanishing treasures initiative, which is focused on protection of ancient ruins and historic structures in the intermountain field area. The Committee has also provided an increase of \$2,000,000 for historic structures stabilization, an increase of \$873,000 for cataloging at the 291 park units that manage museum collections, \$1,000,000 for cyclic maintenance, \$1,458,000 for 6(c) retirement back pay and associated costs, and \$2,933,000 for uncontrollable cost increases. Within the amounts provided, the Park Service should allocate \$80,500 for rehabilitation of the George Washington Carver National Monument.

The Committee recommends that the Park Service use a portion of the increase provided for inventory and monitoring to continue and enhance groundwater monitoring at Yellowstone and to continue administration of the Yellowstone Controlled Ground Water Area in cooperation with the State of Montana.

The Committee has not provided the requested increase of \$2,400,000 for cooperative research units. The Committee finds this request inconsistent with the Department's frequently stated position that core research capabilities for the Department are to be maintained within the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey.

The Committee understands that the amounts provided will enable the Park Service to carry out its responsibilities under the

various settlement agreements relating to the relicensing of hydroelectric projects in the Ross Lake National Recreation Area.

Visitor services.—The Committee recommends \$291,080,000 for visitor services, an increase of \$19,103,000 over the fiscal year 1997 level and \$3,481,000 over the budget request. Changes from the fiscal year 1997 level include increases of \$2,422,000 for a 1-percent across-the-board increase, \$8,802,000 for the park operations initiative, \$2,878,000 for 6(c) retirement back pay and associated costs, and \$5,601,000 for uncontrollable cost increases. A reduction of \$600,000, as proposed in the budget, has been taken for one time costs associated with the Presidential inaugural.

Maintenance.—The Committee recommends \$400,203,000 for maintenance, an increase of \$32,505,000 over the fiscal year 1997 level and \$18,893,000 over the budget request. Changes from the fiscal year 1997 level include increases of \$2,681,000 for a 1-percent across-the-board increase, \$7,044,000 for the park operations initiative, \$103,000 for safety training, \$16,865,000 for a transfer in of the equipment replacement program from construction, and \$6,212,000 for uncontrollable costs increases. A reduction of \$400,000, as proposed in the budget, has been taken for one time costs associated with the Presidential inaugural.

Park support.—The Committee recommends \$240,591,000 for park support, an increase of \$11,624,000 over the fiscal year 1997 level and a reduction of \$1,224,000 from the budget request. Changes from the fiscal year 1997 level include increases of \$1,712,000 for a 1-percent across-the-board increase, \$1,261,000 for the park operations initiative; \$320,000 for a workers compensation initiative to provide retraining and reduce fraud and abuse; \$970,000 for financial management improvements; \$500,000 for information management upgrades; \$963,000 to establish information management capabilities at seven park units; \$300,000 for education programs; and \$4,476,000 for uncontrollable costs increases. The Committee has also provided an increase of \$422,000 for social science programs critical to the implementation of the Government Performance and Results Act.

An increase of \$700,000 has been provided for the national trails system, of which \$100,000 is for the Park Service trails office in support of Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail activities, and \$400,000 of which is for technical assistance and challenge cost share grants related to sites, activities and events along the length of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The Park Service is encouraged to work with the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council in allocating the funds provided. The remaining \$200,000 is provided as proposed in the budget, including support for the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail and the California and Pony Express National Historic Trails.

External administrative costs.—The Committee recommends \$97,543,000 for external administrative costs, an increase of \$4,884,000 over the fiscal year 1997 level and a reduction of \$900,000 from the budget request. Changes from the fiscal year 1997 level include \$700,000 for electronic acquisition systems, \$1,000,000 for telecommunications, and \$3,184,000 for uncontrollable costs increases.

The Committee notes the May 1997, GAO report titled “Telecommunications Management: More Effort Needed by Interior and the Forest Service to Achieve Savings.” The report concluded that, while the Department of the Interior has undertaken a number of telecommunications initiatives that have resulted in significant financial savings, the Department is not systematically identifying and acting on other opportunities to consolidate and optimize telecommunications resources within and among its bureaus or its 2,000-plus field locations. Until the Department can demonstrate that it is responding to the recommendations contained in this report, the Committee will remain reluctant to approve significant investments in telecommunications programs and equipment.

Other.—Within the funds provided for planning, the Park Service should work with the National Center for Accessibility to conduct an accessibility study of the Natchez National Historical Park. The report should include estimates of the costs to implement the report’s recommendations, and should be submitted to the Committee by January 30, 1997.

Within 90 days of passage of this act, the National Park Service shall report to the Committee on the status of the establishment of the Family History Center at the Ellis Island National Monument. The report shall include a plan detailing the milestones, costs, fundraising targets, and the proposed operation and management of the Family History Center, including accessing historical documents such as immigrant ship manifests.

Within the amounts provided in the park operations initiative for Alaska parks, the Park Service is directed to use at least \$100,000 to establish a Katmai National Park and Preserve satellite office on Kodiak Island.

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PRESERVATION

Appropriations, 1997	\$37,976,000
Budget estimate, 1998	42,063,000
House allowance	43,934,000
Committee recommendation	45,284,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$45,284,000, an increase of \$3,221,000 above the budget estimate, an increase of \$1,350,000 above the House allowance, and an increase of \$7,308,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level.

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Recreation programs	\$506,000	\$506,000	.....
Natural programs	9,984,000	9,984,000	.....
Cultural programs	18,699,000	19,199,000	+ \$500,000
International park affairs	1,658,000	1,658,000	.....
Environmental and compliance review	350,000	350,000	.....
Grant administration	1,715,000	1,715,000	.....
Heritage Partnership Programs:			
Commissions and grants	3,908,000	4,500,000	+ 592,000
Technical support	1,250,000	850,000	– 400,000
Subtotal	5,158,000	5,350,000	+ 192,000

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Statutory or contractual aid for other activities:			
Alaska Native Cultural Center	750,000	.....	— 750,000
Aleutian World War II National Historic Area .....	.....	100,000	+ 100,000
Blackstone River Corridor Heritage Commission .....	.....	324,000	+ 324,000
Brown Foundation	102,000	102,000	.....
Dayton Aviation Heritage Commission	48,000	48,000	.....
Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal .....	.....	829,000	+ 829,000
Ice Age National Scientific Reserve	806,000	806,000	.....
Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission .....	.....	238,000	+ 238,000
Johnstown Area Heritage Association	50,000	50,000	.....
Lower Mississippi Delta .....	.....	65,000	+ 65,000
Martin Luther King, Jr. Center	534,000	534,000	.....
National Constitution Center	236,000	236,000	.....
Native Hawaiian culture and arts program	750,000	750,000	.....
New Orleans Jazz Commission	67,000	67,000	.....
Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor Commission .....	.....	200,000	+ 200,000
Roosevelt Campobello International Park Com- mission	650,000	650,000	.....
Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preserva- tion Commission .....	.....	758,000	+ 758,000
Vancouver National Historic Reserve .....	.....	285,000	+ 285,000
Wheeling National Heritage Area .....	.....	480,000	+ 480,000
Subtotal, statutory or contractual aid	3,993,000	6,522,000	+ 2,529,000
Total, National recreation and preservation ..	42,063,000	45,284,000	+ 3,221,000

Recreation programs.—The Committee recommends an increase over the fiscal year 1997 level of \$12,000 for uncontrollable cost increases.

Natural programs.—The Committee recommends increases over the fiscal year 1997 level of \$113,000 for uncontrollable cost increases and \$1,000,000 for the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program [RTCA]. The Committee expects the increase for the RTCA Program to be applied to activities within the scope of the existing program, and not to be applied to new initiatives. Within the amounts provided for natural programs, the Committee recommendation includes \$250,000 to continue the Lake Champlain program and \$150,000 for ongoing support of the Connecticut River conservation partnerships.

The Committee understands that funding is included in the budget request and in this bill to continue the Old Spanish Trail study.

Cultural programs.—The Committee recommends increases over the fiscal year 1997 level of \$135,000 for uncontrollable cost increases and \$500,000 for the native American graves protection and repatriation program.

International park affairs.—The Committee recommends an increase over the fiscal year 1997 level of \$26,000 for uncontrollable cost increases.

Environmental compliance.—The Committee recommends an increase over the fiscal year 1997 level of \$12,000 for uncontrollable cost increases.

Grant administration.—The Committee recommends an increase over the fiscal year 1997 level of \$39,000 for uncontrollable cost increases.

Heritage partnerships.—The Committee recommends \$5,350,000 for the heritage partnerships program. Within this amount is \$850,000 for technical support and \$4,500,000 for grants to heritage areas and historic districts consistent with Public Law 104-333. The Committee has not earmarked funds for particular heritage areas within this amount. The Park Service should evaluate proposals based upon consistency with the authorizing statute, the cost constraints of the overall program, the level of cost-sharing proposed, threats to historic resources, the degree to which planning has been completed, the extent to which projects are ready to be implemented, technical feasibility, and other factors that the Park Service may deem appropriate.

Statutory or contractual aid.—The Committee recommends \$6,522,000 for statutory or contractual aid.

Funds provided for the Lower Mississippi Delta are for an archaeological study at Eaker Air Force Base. The study should build on existing feasibility studies, and should explore potential funding sources outside the Park Service for any recommended archaeological research or display facilities.

The increase provided for the Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal is for work at Two Rivers Landing.

Funds requested for the Alaska Native Cultural Center have, for fiscal year 1998, been transferred to the construction account to offset the costs of construction of the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

Appropriations, 1996	\$36,612,000
Budget estimate, 1997	45,612,000
House allowance	40,412,000
Committee recommendation	39,812,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$39,812,000 for the historic preservation fund, an increase of \$3,200,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level, a decrease of \$5,800,000 below the budget estimate, and a decrease of \$600,000 below the House allowance.

The amount provided includes \$36,312,000 for grants-in-aid to States, Indian tribes, and historically black colleges and universities, and \$3,500,000 for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This will be the final year of appropriations to the Trust.

Within the amount provided is an increase over the fiscal year 1997 level of \$400,000 for grants to Indian tribes seeking to assume historic preservation responsibilities on reservation lands, as proposed in the budget.

The Committee has provided \$4,622,000 for restoration of historic buildings at historically black colleges and universities. The amount provided includes \$1,422,000 to continue base funding for projects identified by the field assessment team pursuant to Executive Order 12677. An additional \$3,200,000 is provided for restoration projects authorized under section 507 of Public Law 104-333, the Omnibus Parks Act of 1996. Based upon information provided to the Committee, this is the maximum amount for which non-Federal matching funds are likely to be raised during the fiscal year.

The Park Service shall select projects to be funded in fiscal year 1998 based upon the condition of the structure, the urgency of the work to be performed, the readiness of institution to perform the work, the historic significance of the structure, and the degree of non-Federal cost sharing that can be achieved. No single facility should be granted more than \$1,000,000 of the funds provided. Within the amount provided, \$200,000 is for the Park Service to prepare a comprehensive assessment of the condition of the colleges authorized in the Omnibus Parks Act of 1996. This information will be used by the Committee in making funding decisions in future years.

In order to assure that funds are expended prudently pursuant to the required condition assessment, bill language is included which provides that these funds are to remain available until expended.

CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 1997	\$182,744,000
Budget estimate, 1998	150,000,000
House allowance	148,391,000
Committee recommendation	167,894,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$167,894,000, an increase of \$17,894,000 above the budget estimate and an increase of \$19,503,000 above the House allowance.

The following table shows projects contained in the budget estimate and the Committee recommendation:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CONSTRUCTION

	Budget request	Committee recommendation
Acadia National Park, ME:		
Restore historic carriage roads	\$1,200,000	
Upgrade utilities and facilities	5,300,000	5,300,000
Alaska Native Heritage Center, AK (construct center)		2,200,000
Amistad National Recreation Area, TX (construct sewage treatment facilities)	750,000	750,000
Blackstone River Valley National Historic Commission, MA/RI (directional signs, et cetera)		500,000
Blue Ridge Parkway, TN (repair Sims Pond Dam)	1,100,000	1,100,000
Boston National Historical Park, MA (replace elevators, State Street building)	1,600,000	1,600,000
Cape Hatteras National Seashore, NC (move lighthouse)		2,000,000
Center for Archeological Studies, AL (construct storage facility)		500,000
C&O Canal National Historical Park, MD (design and engineering)		500,000
Darwin Martin House, NY (restoration)		500,000
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, PA (repair Hidden Lake Dam)	900,000	900,000
Denali National Park and Preserve, AK (rehabilitate Riley Creek utilities)	4,150,000	4,150,000
Dry Tortugas National Park, FL (Fort Jefferson rehabilitation)		250,000
El Malpais National Monument, NM (multiagency center with BLM)		3,000,000
Everglades National Park, FL:		
Modified water delivery	¹ 11,900,000	11,900,000
Replace Flamingo water system	3,000,000	3,000,000

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CONSTRUCTION—Continued

	Budget request	Committee recommendation
Fort McHenry National Monument, MD (rehabilitate historic fort walls)	1,800,000	1,800,000
Fort Smith National Historic Site, AR (rehabilitation)		3,400,000
Fort Sumter National Monument, SC (site development)		2,860,000
Gateway National Recreation Area, NY (rehabilitate Jacob Riis Park)	4,500,000	3,100,000
Gateway National Recreation Area, NJ (protect entrance road)	4,800,000	4,800,000
Gauley National Recreation Area, WV (facilities planning)		750,000
General Grant National Monument, NY (restore memorial and grounds)	900,000	900,000
Gettysburg National Military Park, PA (rehabilitate facilities, monuments)		700,000
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, AK (wastewater treatment)		1,731,000
Grand Canyon National Park, AZ (transportation vehicles)	2,900,000	2,900,000
Hispanic Cultural Center, NM (arts center)		3,000,000
Hot Springs National Park, AR (stabilization, lead paint)		500,000
Independence National Historical Park, PA (rehabilitate/replace utilities)	6,300,000	4,300,000
Isle Royale National Park, MI (rehabilitate park vessel <i>Ranger III</i>)	2,300,000	2,300,000
Katmai National Park and Preserve (rehabilitation)		200,000
Kenai Fjords National Park, AK (interagency facility)		300,000
Lake Mead National Recreation Area, NV (rehabilitate waste water and water systems)	4,700,000	4,700,000
Manzanar National Historic Site, CA (repair fence)		310,000
Marsh-Billings National Historical Park, VT (rehabilitate historic carriage house)	2,400,000	2,400,000
Minute Man National Historical Park, MA (historic Battle Road trail)	2,000,000	2,000,000
Mount Rainier National Park, WA (construct Paradise Valley employee dorm)	2,452,000	2,452,000
Natchez Trace Parkway, MS (road construction)		8,000,000
National Capital Parks—Central, DC:		
Jefferson Memorial rehabilitation	4,500,000	4,500,000
Washington Monument rehabilitation	3,500,000	1,000,000
New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, MA (roof repair, access)		153,000
New River Gorge National River, WV (access, trails stabilization)		2,525,000
Oklahoma City Memorial, OK (construction)		1,000,000
Penn Center, SC (rehabilitation)		500,000
President's Park, DC (replace HVAC)	11,500,000	11,500,000
Sequoia National Park, CA (replace giant sequoia facilities)	6,000,000	3,000,000
Shiloh National Military Park, MS (Corinth Battlefield interpretive center)		1,000,000
Timpanogos Cave National Monument, UT (joint administrative facility with Forest Service)		510,000
Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, NC (produce exhibits for museum)	600,000	
Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, OK (produce exhibits for museum)	600,000	600,000
Vancouver National Historical Reserve, WA (planning, compliance, restoration)		2,223,000
Vicksburg National Military Park, MS (rehabilitation)		2,595,000
Wind Cave National Park, SD (replace cave system elevators)	1,400,000	1,400,000
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, AK (design interpretive center)		400,000
Zion National Park, UT (purchase buses)	6,850,000	3,210,000
Subtotal, line-item projects	99,902,000	127,669,000

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CONSTRUCTION—Continued

	Budget request	Committee recommendation
Emergency, unscheduled, housing	15,808,000	15,000,000
Planning	20,600,000	17,500,000
Equipment	17,865,000	.....
General management plans	6,900,000	6,900,000
Special resource studies	825,000	825,000
Grand total, construction	¹ 161,900,000	167,894,000

¹ For comparison purposes, Everglades modified water delivery (\$11,900,000) is shown in the budget estimate column even though the funds were requested in a different account.

The Committee has provided funds to plan and prepare for the relocation of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, which is imminently threatened by continued erosion of the coastline. The lighthouse is a national landmark and an important symbol for the people of North Carolina, and a significant amount of Federal and non-Federal funds have been expended for its protection. The Committee is committed to completion of this project in a timely manner in order to preserve this historic structure.

Initial funding has also been provided for the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial. These funds are provided subject to appropriate authorization.

While the Committee understands the 10-year development plan for the Blackstone Heritage corridor should be completed by the end of the current fiscal year, the funds provided for Blackstone should not be expended until such plan is complete.

Within the funds provided for general management plans, \$150,000 should be provided for a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating Central High School in Little Rock, AR, as a unit of the National Park System due to its importance in interpreting the development of the civil rights movement in the United States.

Funds provided for Gettysburg National Military Park are to supplement, not displace, other increases that would be available for Gettysburg within the park operations initiative, the increase for historic structures stabilization, or other accounts.

With respect to funds provided for work at Wrangell-St. Elias and Glacier Bay, the Park Service is expected to coordinate with the local Alaska native corporations pursuant to section 1307 of the ANILCA. The Committee also understands that planning for better access to Wrangell-St. Elias is underway, and is the subject of an agreement with the State of Alaska. The Committee recommends substantial improvements to and along existing State roads in the park area shall, at minimum, proceed in parallel with the design and construction of the visitor center.

Within the funds provided for design, sufficient funding should be available to update plans for the Riley Creek utility upgrades at Denali National Park.

The Committee understands that the Park Service intends to allocate \$2,800,000 in fiscal year 1997 to continue work on the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park highway road relocation project, and that additional funds will be allocated in fiscal

year 1999 from Federal Highway Lands Program funds. The Committee supports efforts to complete this project in fiscal year 1999.

Funds provided for the Pen Center, SC, and the Darwin Martin House in Buffalo, NY, are to be derived pursuant to the Historic Preservation Fund Act.

Funds provided for the Hispanic Cultural Center are provided subject to appropriate authorization.

The Committee expects the National Park Service to be of assistance to the city of Ridgeland and Madison County, MS, in addressing the needs for bridge replacement on Rice Road and Old Canton Roads, which span the Natchez Trace Parkway.

The Committee does not agree with the Park Service's proposal to move Brooks River Lodge in Katmai National Park and has prohibited the use of any funds to do so. The Committee expects the Park Service to find alternative means to manage increased day use through the improvement or expansion of existing facilities, boardwalks and boat landings, without instituting or utilizing a quota system on visitors. The Committee recommends \$200,000 for design of such work.

The Committee has recommended transfer of the "Equipment replacement" account to the maintenance activity in the "Operating" account to reflect the annual nature of these expenditures.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

(RESCISSION)

The Committee recommends a rescission of \$30,000,000 in annual contract authority provided by 16 U.S.C. 4601-10a. This authority has not been used in recent years and there are no plans to use it in fiscal year 1998.

LAND ACQUISITION AND STATE ASSISTANCE

Appropriations, 1997	\$53,915,000
Budget estimate, 1998	70,900,000
House allowance	129,000,000
Committee recommendation	124,790,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$124,790,000, an increase of \$53,890,000 above the budget estimate and a decrease of \$4,210,000 below the House allowance.

The following table shows the Committee recommendation:

<i>Area and State</i>	<i>Committee recommendation</i>
Appalachian National Scenic Trail, multiple States	\$4,200,000
Arkansas Post National Memorial (Menard/Hodges site), AR	440,000
Aztec Ruins National Monument, NM	600,000
Big Cypress National Preserve, FL	10,000,000
Channel Islands National Park, CA	1,000,000
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, GA	1,000,000
Denali National Park and Preserve, AK	2,000,000
Everglades National Park, FL	66,000,000
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, VA	3,500,000
Gauley National Recreation Area, WV	1,750,000
Golden Gate National Recreation Area (Giacomini Ranch), CA	3,000,000
Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, ID	800,000
Haleakala National Park, HI	1,000,000
Minute Man National Historical Park, MA	500,000
National Western Trails Historical Center (complete), IA	650,000

<i>Area and State</i>	<i>Committee recommendation</i>
New River Gorge National River (including Eades Mill), WV	2,900,000
Olympic National Park, WA	3,000,000
Petroglyph National Monument, NM	2,000,000
Saguaro National Park, AZ	2,000,000
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, TX	2,000,000
Santa Monica Mountains National Park, CA	3,000,000
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (Kennicott), AK	3,000,000
Acquisition management	7,450,000
Emergencies/hardships/deficiency/relocation	3,000,000
Total	124,790,000

Funds provided for land acquisition at New River Gorge National River may be used within the Bluestone River National Scenic River.

Language has been included in general provisions, title I of the bill relating to the expenditure of funds for Kantishna mining claims.

EVERGLADES RESTORATION FUND

Appropriations, 1997	
Budget estimate, 1998	\$100,000,000
House allowance	
Committee recommendation	

The Committee has not established an Everglades restoration fund as proposed by the administration. Funding for Everglades restoration activities have instead been included in the regular appropriations accounts, at levels consistent with the budget agreement.

ENERGY AND MINERALS

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH

Appropriations, 1997	\$740,051,000
Budget estimate, 1998	745,388,000
House allowance	755,795,000
Committee recommendation	758,160,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$758,160,000 for surveys, investigations, and research of the U.S. Geological Survey [USGS]. This amount is \$12,772,000 above the budget request, \$18,109,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level, and \$2,365,000 above the House allowance. The following table provides a comparison of the Committee's fiscal year 1998 recommendations with the budget estimate:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
National Mapping Program:			
National data collection and integration	\$60,916,000	\$62,096,000	+\$1,180,000
Earth science information management and delivery	32,711,000	33,146,000	+ 435,000
Geographic research and applications	37,298,000	37,543,000	+ 245,000

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Subtotal, National Mapping Program	130,925,000	132,785,000	+ 1,860,000
Geologic hazards, resource and processes:			
Geologic hazards assessments	73,303,000	75,032,000	+ 1,729,000
Geologic landscape and coastal assessments ...	70,515,000	72,986,000	+ 2,471,000
Geologic resource assessments	83,888,000	87,157,000	+ 3,269,000
Subtotal, geologic hazards, resource and processes	227,706,000	235,175,000	+ 7,469,000
Water resources investigations:			
Water resources assessment and research	103,444,000	95,851,000	- 7,593,000
Water data collection and management	25,868,000	28,247,000	+ 2,379,000
Federal-State coop program	63,345,000	66,231,000	+ 2,886,000
Water Resources Research Act program	1,750,000	4,553,000	+ 2,803,000
Subtotal, water resources investigations	194,407,000	194,882,000	+ 475,000
Biological research:			
Biological research and monitoring	122,680,000	124,815,000	+ 2,135,000
Biological information management and delivery	11,390,000	11,145,000	- 245,000
Cooperative research units	10,390,000	11,199,000	+ 269,000
Subtotal, biological research	145,000,000	147,159,000	+ 2,159,000
General administration	24,805,000	25,584,000	+ 779,000
Facilities	22,545,000	22,575,000	+ 30,000
Total, surveys, investigations, and research	745,388,000	758,160,000	+ 12,772,000

National Mapping Program.—The Committee recommends \$132,785,000 for the National Mapping Program. When compared with the fiscal year 1997 level, this amount includes an increase of \$1,860,000 for uncontrollable cost increases and a decrease of \$850,000 in geographic research and applications programs. The Committee agrees with the proposal to redirect \$1,200,000 within existing funds for a new urban dynamics initiative. The Committee continues to support the national atlas project and expects that the current funding level will be maintained in fiscal year 1998.

The Committee recognizes that our Nation has made a substantial investment in the collection, management, and distribution of Landsat Earth observation satellite data and commends the USGS for taking the lead, as delegated by the Department of the Interior, under the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992, Public Law 102-555, to establish the national satellite land remote sensing data archive. This archive ensures proper storage, preservation, and timely access to these data for long-term monitoring and global environmental studies. In 1998, two new satellites—Landsat 7 and EOS—become operational and will acquire unprecedented amounts of data. Current data volumes in the archive will increase tenfold (from about 100 terabytes to over 1,000 terabytes) by the year 2000. Availability of these data will greatly increase the effectiveness of short- and long-term natural resource, natural disaster, en-

vironmental, and economic analyses. The Committee encourages the USGS to plan for the expanded capacity needed to both preserve and ensure the availability of these data. USGS should consider the funding requirements for these activities in the development of its fiscal year 1999 budget and beyond to maintain this continually growing, permanent record of the Earth.

Geologic hazards, resources, and processes.—The Committee recommends \$235,175,000 for geologic hazards, resources, and processes programs. When compared with the fiscal year 1997 level, this amount includes increases of \$2,743,000 for uncontrollable costs, \$3,000,000 for continued development of the Global Seismic Network, and \$1,000,000 for enhancements in seismic, geodetic, geochemical, and remote-sensing monitoring at hazardous volcanoes in Hawaii, Alaska, and elsewhere in the United States. The Committee concurs with the reduction of \$2,848,000 to the continental surveys program proposed in the budget request with the understanding that any of its vital functions will be absorbed by other appropriate programs within the division. The Committee does not agree with the proposed budget reduction of \$1,726,000 to the national cooperative geologic mapping program and has restored those funds to the program.

Last year, in response to a directive in the Senate report accompanying the fiscal year 1997 Interior appropriations bill, the Geological Survey undertook a study of the full scope of the geophysical, geologic, and natural resources data collection and storage issues in Alaska. The findings of that study were provided to the Committee in a report issued earlier this year. Among its recommendations, the Committee believes that too, in particular, merit funding by the Survey in fiscal year 1998. Therefore, the Committee has included \$2,000,000 for the minerals at risk project, which will enable work to begin on both the development of a mineral and geologic data base, and the assembly of existing library materials into a coordinated, streamlined network. Further, the Committee directs the USGS to report to the Committee, not later than 120 days after enactment of this bill, additional funding requirements necessary to implement other recommendations contained in the report, and to recommend the fair allocation of this amount among the participants and beneficiaries of the study on a cost-shared basis.

Water resources investigations.—The Committee recommends \$194,882,000 for water resources investigations programs. When compared with the fiscal year 1997 level, this amount includes an increase of \$3,801,000 for uncontrollable costs and a decrease of \$1,425,000 from the Water Information Delivery Program. In addition, the Committee has restored \$1,657,000 for continuation of the Acid Rain Program, which was proposed for elimination as a separate monitoring effort.

The Committee does not agree with proposed budget reductions to either the Federal-State cooperative water partnership or the Water Resources Research Act Program. The Committee recommends restoring funds for both programs to their current levels and has included an additional amount for uncontrollable cost increases. The Committee expects that the State Water Resources Research Institutes Programs will be administered in accordance

with the provisions of section 104(b) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984, as amended by Public Law 104-147.

The Committee anticipates funding to continue on the work plan for the Middle Rio Grande basin as set forth in the budget request. In addition, funding for Lake Champlain monitoring programs is expected to be maintained at current levels.

The Committee agrees with the Survey's proposal to dedicate \$900,000 to the Great Salt Lake basins study unit of the NAWQA program in fiscal year 1998. Within these funds, the Committee expects a water-quality plan to be undertaken for the Bear River basin, one of three major river systems entering the Great Salt Lake. In completing this plan, the study unit is expected to include the Bear River Compact Commission in its work to the maximum extent possible, particularly where cost savings and efficiencies can be achieved.

Biological research.—The Committee recommends \$147,159,000 for the Biological Research Division. When compared with the fiscal year 1997 level, this amount includes an increase of \$2,659,000 for uncontrollable costs; \$3,000,000 for science support for management of Federal lands; \$1,000,000 for restoration of the Great Lakes fisheries and habitats; \$500,000 for coastal habitats studies; \$500,000 for Pacific salmon studies; \$1,000,000 for endocrine disruption research; and \$1,000,000 for the cooperative research units.

As outlined in the budget estimate, the Committee understands that additional resources provided for science support for management of Federal lands will be used for the following research activities: \$1,200,000 for weeds in the West; \$750,000 for exotic species in the East; \$800,000 for integrated monitoring; and \$250,000 for air quality impacts of biological resources. The Committee encourages the Division to explore the feasibility of including the Lake Champlain watershed in its research into exotic species in the East.

In providing funds to meet both uncontrollable costs and programmatic increases of the Division, the Committee expects that, at a minimum, current base budgets will be maintained for each of the science centers, including the Leetown facility, and other field unit operations. Where proposed changes in funding for any of these facilities might result in reductions to current funding levels, the Committee expects that its approval will be sought prior to final action being taken by the Division.

The \$1,000,000 increase for the cooperative research units is provided in order to fill some of the 20 position vacancies that now exist at established units. The Committee concurs with the Division's intention to give priority to those units that have carried vacancies for the greatest length of time and have unit leader vacancies. The Service may provide Fish and Wildlife Service funded payment in lieu of taxes [PILT] to local entities for properties being transferred to the Survey from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

General administration.—The Committee recommends \$25,584,000 for general administration. This amount includes an increase of \$779,000 above the budget estimate for uncontrollable costs.

Facilities.—The Committee recommends \$22,575,000 for facilities. This amount includes an increase of \$30,000 above the budget estimate for uncontrollable costs.

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

The Minerals Management Service [MMS] is responsible for managing offshore energy and mineral resources, as well as collecting, distributing, accounting, and auditing of mineral leases on Federal and Indian lands. In fiscal year 1998, it is estimated that MMS will collect and distribute \$6,700,000,000 from over 107,000 Federal and Indian leases.

ROYALTY AND OFFSHORE MINERALS MANAGEMENT

Appropriations, 1997	\$156,955,000
Budget estimate, 1998	157,922,000
House allowance	139,621,000
Committee recommendation	135,722,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$135,722,000, a decrease of \$22,200,000 from the budget estimate and a decrease of \$3,899,000 below the House allowance. The Committee recommendations compared to the budget estimates are shown in the following table:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Outer Continental Shelf lands:			
Leasing and environmental program	\$30,095,000	\$30,095,000	
Resource evaluation	21,121,000	22,921,000	+ \$1,800,000
Regulatory program	36,277,000	36,277,000	
Information management program	13,941,000	13,941,000	
Use of receipts	— 41,000,000	— 65,000,000	— 24,000,000
Subtotal, Outer Continental Shelf lands	60,434,000	38,234,000	— 22,200,000
Royalty management:			
Valuation and operations	31,284,000	31,284,000	
Compliance	32,312,000	32,312,000	
Indian allottee refunds	15,000	15,000	
Program services office	2,564,000	2,564,000	
Subtotal, royalty management	66,175,000	66,175,000	
General administration:			
Executive direction	1,815,000	1,815,000	
Policy and management improvement	3,628,000	3,628,000	
Administrative operations	12,118,000	12,118,000	
General support services	13,752,000	13,752,000	
Subtotal, general administration	31,313,000	31,313,000	
Total, royalty and offshore minerals management	157,922,000	135,722,000	— 22,200,000

The general reduction proposed in the Outer Continental Shelf [OCS] Lands Program is offset by an increase in the amount of fees that the Minerals Management Service is authorized to retain and

apply to the OCS Program. These fees are available as a result of increased rental receipts realized from the continuing highly successful sales in the western Gulf of Mexico. An increase above the budget request of \$1,800,000 is provided in the Resource Evaluation Program specifically for the Marine Minerals Resource Center Program to contribute to the responsible exploration and sustainable development of seabed minerals.

The Committee notes the significant reductions in the Royalty Management Program in the budget request, and the agency's contention that these reductions are attributable to operational efficiencies; not reductions in effectiveness. The Committee urges the agency to evaluate the effects of these reductions as implemented to assure that the integrity of the royalty audit and collections programs are not compromised. While the Committee is concerned about the reductions proposed by MMS, it has approved the reductions, based on MMS indications that program effectiveness will be retained at historic levels.

The Committee notes that a feasibility study is near completion regarding the taking of oil and/or gas in-kind. In consideration of this study and the several public meetings on the subject, the Committee expects the MMS to continue testing and evaluation of such a program through use of pilot tests, should the study indicate the program can be a viable tool for royalty collection efficiency. It is expected that at least one such test will be initiated during fiscal year 1998.

The Committee is concerned about the development of an annual audit plan, and expects the MMS to continue plan development and to report quarterly on actual audit activity as specified by the House.

The Minerals Management Service has proposed new regulations on oil valuation for the purpose of determining royalties owed to the Federal Government and the States. The Committee is aware that MMS has received expressions of concern from the oil industry and affected States about the proposed new regulations. The MMS should work diligently to address these concerns during the rule-making process. MMS is encouraged to ensure that the Federal Government and States receive all the royalties to which they are entitled.

Bill language.—Pursuant to the administration's request, the Committee has reluctantly included bill language under general provisions, Department of the Interior to prohibit the use of funds for Outer Continental Shelf [OCS] leasing and development activities in several areas. This language is similar to that included in previous appropriations acts, but is changed to conform to the 5-year OCS development plan. The Committee notes that development activities outside of approved areas identified in the 5-year plan is not permitted under law. As such, the moratoria language requested by the administration is redundant and largely irrelevant. The Committee strongly urges the administration to stand by its own 5-year plan and discontinue its request for moratoria beginning in the fiscal year 1999 budget request. The Committee recognizes the need to acquire additional computer equipment for the royalty management program, and has increased the authorization for use of carryover funds for this purpose to \$3,000,000.

OILSPILL RESEARCH

Appropriations, 1997	\$6,440,000
Budget estimate, 1998	6,118,000
House allowance	6,118,000
Committee recommendation	6,118,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$6,118,000, the same as the House allowance and the budget estimate.

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement [OSMRE], through its "Regulation and technology" account, regulates surface coal mining operations to ensure that the environment is protected during those operations and that the land is adequately reclaimed once mining is completed. The OSMRE accomplishes this mission by providing grants to those States and tribes that maintain their own regulatory and reclamation programs and by conducting oversight of State programs. Further, the OSMRE administers the regulatory programs in the States and for the tribes that do not have their own programs and on Federal lands.

Through its "Abandoned mine reclamation fund" account, the OSMRE provides environmental restoration at abandoned coal mines using tonnage-based fees collected from current coal production operations. In their unreclaimed condition these abandoned sites may endanger public health and safety or prevent the beneficial use of land and water resources.

REGULATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Appropriations, 1997	\$94,672,000
Budget estimate, 1998	93,709,000
House allowance	95,437,000
Committee recommendation	97,437,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$97,437,000, an increase of \$3,728,000 above the budget estimate and \$2,000,000 above the House allowance. A comparison of the budget estimates and the Committee recommendation is as follows:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Environmental restoration	\$90,000	\$96,000	+ \$6,000
Environmental protection	72,353,000	73,053,000	+ 700,000
Technology development and transfer	9,502,000	12,006,000	+ 2,504,000
Financial management	738,000	746,000	+ 8,000
Executive direction	10,526,000	11,036,000	+ 510,000
Subtotal, regulation and technology	93,209,000	96,937,000	+ 3,728,000
Civil penalties	500,000	500,000	
Total, regulation and technology	93,709,000	97,437,000	+ 3,728,000

The Committee has included an increase of \$1,728,000 to cover a portion of fixed cost increases. Also included is \$2,000,000 specifically for an acid mine drainage technology initiative. The Committee expects OSMRE to pursue cooperative efforts involving the Na-

tional Mine Land Reclamation Center, other appropriate Federal agencies, and the National Mining Association. The purpose of this effort is to identify, evaluate, and develop technologies that will reduce the formation of acid pollutants that can drain into streams and rivers.

The Committee notes that interim final rules were published on April 21, 1997, to rectify problems with the permitting process relative to the applicant violator system. The U.S. Court of Appeals invalidated previous rules as inconsistent with the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. Implementation of final rules is essential for consistent long-term understanding of the permit application and evaluation process. The Committee expects OSMRE to give high priority to involvement by industry and interest groups in the development of final rules, and to pursue implementation of the rules promptly.

ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND
(Definite, Trust Fund)

Appropriations, 1997	\$177,085,000
Budget estimate, 1998	177,348,000
House allowance	179,624,000
Committee recommendation	177,624,000

The Committee recommends \$177,624,000 for the abandoned mine reclamation fund, which is \$2,000,000 under the House funding level and \$276,000 above the budget request. A comparison of the Committee recommendation and the budget estimate is as follows:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Environmental restoration	\$165,573,000	\$165,849,000	+\$276,000
Technology development and transfer	1,746,000	1,746,000	
Financial management	5,312,000	5,312,000	
Executive direction	4,717,000	4,717,000	
Total	177,348,000	177,624,000	+ 276,000

The Committee has included a modest increase of \$276,000 to cover a portion of fixed cost increases. The Committee has included \$5,000,000, as requested, for the Appalachian clean streams initiative to address acid mine drainage problems. The Committee has received expressions of concern that projects funded under the Appalachian clean streams initiative may not be as high a priority as other projects regularly funded through the AML grant program. The Committee expects OSMRE to evaluate carefully projects to assure work to be accomplished is at least as high a priority as those funded through the grant program.

Bill language.—As in prior years, the bill includes language related to the conduct of the AML program. The Committee has included language that maintains the Federal emergency reclamation program and limits expenditures in any one State to 25 percent of the total appropriated for Federal and State-run emergency programs. Bill language is also included to permit States to use prior-

year carryover funds from the emergency program without being subject to the 25-percent statutory limitation per State. The Committee has also recommended bill language which would fund minimum program State grants at \$1,500,000 per State and bill language which provides \$5,000,000 to be used for projects in the Appalachian clean streams initiative.

The Committee has also included language specific to the State of Maryland authorizing the State to set aside the greater of \$1,000,000 or 10 percent of the total of the grants made available to the State under title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, subject to specific provisions identified in the bill language.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 1997	\$1,443,502,000
Budget estimate, 1998	1,542,305,000
House allowance	1,526,815,000
Committee recommendation	1,527,024,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,527,024,000 a decrease of \$15,281,000 below the budget estimate, an increase of \$209,000 above the House allowance, and \$83,522,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level.

The following table provides a comparison of the budget estimate with the Committee recommendations:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
TRIBAL BUDGET SYSTEM			
Tribal priority allocations:			
Tribal government	\$303,117,000	\$303,117,000	
Human services	134,928,000	134,928,000	
Education	50,933,000	50,933,000	
Public safety and justice	94,795,000	94,795,000	
Community development	56,507,000	56,507,000	
Resources management	57,772,000	57,772,000	
Other trust services	29,969,000	29,969,000	
General administration	21,327,000	21,327,000	
Small and needy tribes distribution	8,000,000	8,000,000	
Subtotal, tribal priority allocations	757,348,000	757,348,000	
Other recurring programs:			
Tribal government	5,000,000	5,000,000	
Education:			
School operations:			
Forward funding	380,909,000	374,290,000	-\$6,619,000
Other school operations	86,097,000	86,097,000	
Subtotal, school operations	467,006,000	460,387,000	- 6,619,000
Continuing education	30,411,000	28,411,000	- 2,000,000

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Subtotal, education	497,417,000	488,798,000	— 8,619,000
Community development	16,371,000	16,371,000	.....
Resources management	38,377,000	38,377,000	.....
Subtotal, other recurring programs	557,165,000	548,546,000	— 8,619,000
Nonrecurring programs:			
Tribal government	2,375,000	2,375,000	.....
Public safety and justice	584,000	584,000	.....
Resources management	31,220,000	31,220,000	.....
Other trust services	30,750,000	26,000,000	— 4,750,000
Subtotal, nonrecurring programs	64,929,000	60,179,000	— 4,750,000
Total, tribal budget system	1,379,442,000	1,366,073,000	— 13,369,000
BIA OPERATIONS			
Central office operations:			
Tribal government	2,605,000	2,605,000	.....
Human services	704,000	704,000	.....
Public safety and justice	2,487,000	2,487,000	.....
Community development	984,000	984,000	.....
Resources management	3,082,000	3,082,000	.....
Other trust services	1,549,000	1,549,000	.....
General administration:			
Education program management	2,074,000	2,074,000	.....
Other general administration	34,254,000	33,854,000	— 400,000
Subtotal, general administration	36,328,000	35,928,000	— 400,000
Subtotal, central office operations ..	47,739,000	47,339,000	— 400,000
Area office operations:			
Tribal government	1,336,000	1,336,000	.....
Human services	969,000	969,000	.....
Public safety and justice	568,000	568,000	.....
Community development	3,086,000	3,086,000	.....
Resources management	3,157,000	3,157,000	.....
Other trust services	10,761,000	8,563,000	— 2,198,000
General administration	23,207,000	23,207,000	.....
Subtotal, area office operation	43,084,000	40,886,000	— 2,198,000
Special programs and pooled overhead:			
Education	14,019,000	14,019,000	.....
Public safety and justice	3,264,000	3,264,000	.....
Community development	3,451,000	4,137,000	686,000
Resources management	1,320,000	1,320,000	.....
Trust services	504,000	504,000	.....
General administration	49,482,000	49,482,000	.....
Subtotal, special programs	72,040,000	72,726,000	686,000
Total, BIA operations	162,863,000	160,951,000	— 1,912,000

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Total, operation of Indian programs	1,542,305,000	1,527,024,000	- 15,281,000

Tribal priority allocations.—The Committee recommends \$757,348,000 for the tribal priority allocations activity [TPA], the same as the budget estimate and the House allowance. Tribes cite TPA as their highest budget priority, and in 1998, TPA will comprise almost one-half of the BIA's operating budget (49 percent).

The Committee is aware of the substantial need for replacement and repair construction of tribal schools. The Committee's available funding for tribal school construction, however, is limited and largely restricted to only those schools which are on the BIA's school construction priority list. Due to the overwhelming number of requests and the clear need for school construction and repair of tribal schools which are not on the BIA's school priority list, the Committee has included a provision which would provide tribal governments the authority to use TPA funds for the design and construction of replacement schools in the BIA system if they so wish. Tribal governments which place a high priority on the replacement of schools should not be restricted from using TPA funds for this purpose. Due to BIA concerns that the uncontrolled construction of additional schools will create significant pressure in the future for additional funding to support such facilities, future funding for the subsequent replacement of school facilities that are developed with funds other than designated BIA school construction funds will need to be provided from non-Federal funding sources.

A provision is included in title I, general provisions, regarding TPA and waiver of tribal sovereign immunity.

The TPA budget activity was created in 1993 toward fulfilling goals of Indian self-determination, in response to recommendations of the BIA/DOI/tribal joint task force on reorganization. The Committee applauds efforts of the tribes and the BIA toward Indian self-determination. However, the Committee does not believe that the current pro rata distribution of TPA funds is an appropriate method. About 70 percent of TPA funds are distributed on this pro rata basis among all tribes as the following table shows:

Area	Number of tribes	Population	Trust acres	Fiscal year 1998 TPA base funding	Dollars per		
					Indian	Acre	Tribe
Aberdeen	16	128,412	5,997,355	\$52,525,500	\$409.0	\$8.8	\$3,282,800
Albuquerque	24	59,598	4,392,358	27,616,500	463.4	6.3	1,150,700
Anadarko	23	45,535	476,427	19,514,300	428.6	41.0	848,400
Billings	7	42,427	6,468,477	29,782,000	702.0	4.6	4,254,600
Eastern	27	50,272	442,584	25,286,100	501.0	56.9	932,800
Juneau	226	85,259	884,131	49,660,000	582.5	56.2	219,700
Minneapolis	34	76,883	1,208,384	35,712,500	464.5	29.6	1,050,400
Muskogee	18	284,740	660,920	29,593,900	103.9	44.8	1,644,100
Navajo	1	225,668	15,432,171	48,993,800	217.1	3.2	48,993,800
Phoenix	43	100,854	12,560,571	60,376,300	598.7	4.8	1,404,100
Portland	42	104,841	4,663,947	81,288,100	775.3	17.4	1,935,400
Sacramento	95	55,717	446,473	22,866,200	410.4	51.2	240,700

Area	Number of tribes	Population	Trust acres	Fiscal year 1998 TPA base funding	Dollars per		
					Indian	Acre	Tribe
Total	556	1,260,206	53,633,798	483,115,200	383.4	9.0	868,900

The BIA has been unable to provide the Committee with satisfactory information on the basis for this pro rata distribution of about 70 percent of TPA, except to say that it is historical in nature. To continue allocating Federal funds under the current formula, which fails to consider the economic situation of each tribe and provides alarmingly unequal funding, increases the economic disparity among Indian tribes and undermines self-sufficiency and self-determination. Economic self-sufficiency leads to self-determination. Those tribes that have substantial business income should be, in part or in whole, self-supporting.

The Committee believes that TPA funding should be distributed to tribes in order of economic need, all toward the agreed upon goal of self-determination. The Committee supports providing the most needy Indian tribes a preference for funding from the TPA account for all programs. Indian tribes that are most economically disadvantaged should receive the majority of funds provided in the TPA account. The Committee recognizes that the BIA would not be able to implement such a distribution method for fiscal year 1998 because it does not have the business income information it needs from the tribes on which to make distributions based on economic need. The Committee has included a provision directing the tribes to provide, and authorizing the BIA to collect, information on tribal business income with a goal of implementing the new distribution formula for fiscal year 1999.

The Committee directs the BIA, in consultation with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, to develop several options for changing the current funding formula for the TPA account to take into consideration all tribal business revenue, including gaming revenues, license fees and royalties, including pass-through payments of tribal business income to shareholders based on tribal membership. Payments by corporations to individual shareholders based on stock ownership and not tribal membership is not considered tribal business revenue unless the corporation is operated by a tribe.

The BIA is directed to submit its recommendations for formula-driven distribution of TPA, which shall include several options for the consideration of the Appropriations Committees, to the Committees by January 1, 1998.

The BIA should provide assistance to the tribes upon the tribes' request, especially the small and needy tribes, in the compilation and submission of tribal business revenue to the BIA. Tribes which do not submit information to the BIA by November 1, 1997, for the purpose of aiding the Bureau in its determination of a new need-based formula, and by April 15 of every subsequent year, shall not receive TPA funding for the next fiscal year, as it will not be possible for the BIA to determine their need-based share of TPA.

The Committee notes that, currently, about 30 percent of TPA funds are already distributed by formula to tribes meeting certain criteria. The activities representing these funds are the following:

the Indian Child Welfare Act [ICWA] program; new tribes; Johnson-O'Malley education assistance; housing improvement [HIP]; road maintenance; contract support; welfare assistance; and certain wildlife and parks funds that were specifically identified to tribes.

Although they are included in the TPA activity account, new tribes, HIP, road maintenance, contract support, and welfare assistance funds are distributed each year by formula in accordance with specific criteria, so they are not included in what is referred to as TPA base funding. The Committee recognizes that the BIA has been consulting with tribes on whether to discontinue the current formula-driven distribution process for these programs. The Committee directs the continued allocation of these funds based on need in accordance with specific criteria.

The Committee concurs with the House recommendation that up to \$3,400,000 may be used for additional employee displacement costs.

Other recurring programs.—The Committee recommends \$548,546,000 for other recurring programs, an increase of \$14,380,000 above the fiscal year 1997 funding level and \$750,000 above the House allowance. This amount includes an increase over the fiscal year 1997 level of \$7,697,000 for fixed costs and a decrease of \$3,067,000 for internal transfers.

The Committee recommends increases over the fiscal year 1997 funding level of \$5,000,000 for the Indian self-determination fund, \$2,000,000 for Indian School Equalization Program [ISEP] funds, \$1,000,000 for student transportation, and \$1,000,000 for tribally controlled community colleges.

The Committee recommendation includes increases in resources management over the fiscal year 1997 level of \$500,000 for irrigation operations and maintenance and \$250,000 toward fulfillment of the terms of the Northwest Tribes Fishing Access Sites Memorandum of Agreement [MOA] of June 1995 for construction of fishing access sites along the Columbia River and the Bonneville Dam Pool. The Secretary of the Army is required, in accordance with Public law 100-581, to acquire, develop, and improve land and facilities for 30 fishing access sites as necessary for four treaty tribes along the Columbia River. The cost for the U.S. Army exceeds \$50,000,000. The BIA is required, through the terms of the implementing MOA with the U.S. Army, to contribute at least \$250,000 annually for law enforcement activities, mainly enforcing the fishing use regulations imposed on the sites. Within funding provided for tribal management, \$600,000 is included for the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, \$639,000 for the InterTribal Bison Cooperative, and \$69,000 for the Alaska Sea Otter Commission.

The Committee understands BIA has initiated an evaluation of the unleased lands within the Wapato irrigation project [WIP]. The Committee expects the BIA to complete the WIP unleased lands evaluation and submit it to the Committee by May 1, 1998. The Committee expects this evaluation to include an identification of all lands within the Yakama Indian Reservation that were inappropriately included in the operation and maintenance assessment roll of the WIP and that should be considered for removal from such assessment roll, as well as all lands that should or could be added to the assessment roll.

The Committee is concerned that the BIA's process for appraising the rental value of Indian lands fails accurately to appraise such lands at the present fair annual rental value. A recent GAO study reported that the BIA's appraisals of the rental values of idle lands within the Yakama Indian Reservation were unrealistically high. The Committee feels such appraisals harm the ability of Indian tribes wishing to rent lands from being able to market such lands at competitive prices. Furthermore, such appraisals and appraisal practices may place unwarranted financial hardships on the lessees of such land. The Committee directs GAO to conduct an audit and provide recommendations on the BIA's method of appraising the rent value of Indian lands by April 1, 1998. Such audit, at the least, should include the following: (1) an evaluation of the BIA's current appraisal method of the rent value of Indian lands and any recent attempts to improve the effectiveness or accuracy of such appraisals; (2) a comparison of the BIA's appraisal process to the appraisal process used by other Federal agencies and the private sector; (3) input of individuals from the private sector who lease Indian lands as to impairments to leasing; and (4) an analysis of alternative ways to provide appraisals of Indian land, such as relying on the private sector or transferring the BIA's appraisal function to another Federal agency, including any changes in Federal laws and regulations that may be necessary to implement various alternatives.

The Committee is concerned about the continuing accumulation of operations and maintenance [O&M] assessment balances at the Wapato irrigation project.

In addition, the Committee notes that an inspector general's audit of the project included several recommendations to resolve the many problems plaguing the Wapato irrigation project including the development of adequate assessment rates, the billing of landowners or water users of project lands for annual O&M charges, the collection of delinquent O&M charges owed the project, and the enforcement of debt collection procedures and termination of water deliveries to lands with delinquent charges. It is the Committee's understanding that the BIA has established a task force to implement these recommendations. The Committee notes that it is imperative that fiscal solvency of the project be achieved as quickly as possible. The Committee, therefore, directs the BIA to prioritize the task force's activities and continue implementation of the inspector general recommendations as quickly as possible, taking into consideration the unleased lands evaluation and GAO audit of the appraisal process requested above. The task force should include a representative from the private sector who leases Indian lands at the earliest date possible if one is not already included.

Nonrecurring programs.—The Committee recommends \$60,179,000 for nonrecurring programs. The amount provided includes an increase of \$405,000 for fixed costs and a decrease of \$2,668,000 for internal transfers.

Central office operations.—The Committee recommends \$47,339,000 for central office operations. The amount provided includes increases of \$940,000 for fixed costs and \$500,000 for trust-

related records management, and a decrease of \$600,000 for internal transfers.

Area office operations.—The Committee recommends \$40,886,000 for area office operations. This amount includes increases over the fiscal year 1997 level of \$893,000 for fixed costs and \$1,200,000 for trust-related records management, and a decrease of \$68,000 for internal transfers.

Special programs and pooled overhead.—The Committee recommends \$72,726,000 for special programs and pooled overhead, \$1,347,000 below the appropriation for fiscal year 1997. This amount includes increases of \$383,000 for fixed costs, \$2,000,000 for employee displacement costs, and \$728,000 for the United Tribes Technical College, located in Bismarck, ND; and decreases of \$1,569,000 for trust services transferred to the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, and \$2,801,000 for internal transfers.

CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 1997	\$94,531,000
Budget estimate, 1998	125,118,000
House allowance	110,751,000
Committee recommendation	125,051,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$125,051,000, a decrease of \$67,000 below the budget estimate, an increase of \$14,300,000 above the House allowance, and an increase of \$30,520,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level.

The following table provides a comparison of the budget estimate with the Committee recommendation:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Education	\$49,179,000	\$54,379,000	+ \$5,200,000
Public safety and justice	16,500,000	14,500,000	– 2,000,000
Resources management	51,321,000	48,321,000	– 3,000,000
General administration	2,146,000	2,146,000	.....
Construction management	5,972,000	5,705,000	– 267,000
Total, construction	125,118,000	125,051,000	– 67,000

Education.—The Committee recommends \$54,379,000 for construction of education facilities, which is \$23,240,000 above the fiscal year 1997 funding. The amount provided includes increases of \$40,000 for fixed costs; \$8,000,000 for facilities improvement and repair; \$14,000,000 for the construction of Many Farms High School in Arizona; \$1,800,000 for preliminary site work for Pyramid Lake High School in Nevada, which is the next school on the priority list ready for construction; \$1,600,000 for preliminary site work for Sac and Fox Settlement School in Iowa; and \$1,800,000 for completion of rebuilding the WaHeLut School in Washington. While the Committee concurs with the policy of the Bureau in adhering to the replacement school priority list, the Committee remains extremely concerned about the \$682,000,000 backlog of BIA school repair and replacement work. Design of the Pyramid Lake High School has been completed for over 1 year, and the Commit-

tee is concerned that continued delay may result in an obsolete design. The Committee expects the Bureau to request funds to complete the Pyramid Lake School in fiscal year 1999. The WaHeLut School was destroyed by flooding in February 1996, and was designated one of five lead projects by the administration in reinventing the school construction process, which is supposed to reduce by 50 percent the time it takes to deliver a completed school. The groundbreaking for construction was on May 1, 1997, and construction is targeted for completion in November 1997.

The Committee is aware of assistance that has been provided in prior years for the Marty Indian School, South Dakota. To the extent that there are additional high-priority requirements identified for the facilities which service the elementary grades at this location, the Bureau should give consideration to these needs through the emergency or minor repair programs within the educational facility improvement and repair program.

The BIA is again reminded that, based on its own testimony, requests for design funding must not continue to outdistance the ability of the Congress to appropriate funds in this period of diminishing resources.

Public safety and justice.—The Committee recommends \$14,500,000 for construction of public safety and justice facilities. The amount provided includes increases of \$1,000,000 for facilities improvement and repair and \$9,100,000 for construction of the Ute Mountain Ute Detention Center in Colorado.

Resources management.—The Committee recommends \$48,321,000 for construction of resources management projects. The amount provided includes increases over the fiscal year 1997 level of \$75,000 for fixed costs and \$2,000,000 for safety of dams.

General administration.—The Committee recommends \$7,851,000 for general administration, which includes an increase over the fiscal year 1997 level of \$105,000 for fixed costs.

INDIAN LAND AND WATER CLAIMS SETTLEMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS PAYMENTS TO INDIANS

Appropriations, 1997	\$69,241,000
Budget estimate, 1998	59,352,000
House allowance	41,352,000
Committee recommendation	43,352,000

The Committee recommends \$43,352,000 for Indian land and water claims settlements and miscellaneous payments to Indians, a decrease of \$16,000,000 below the budget request, an increase of \$2,000,000 above the House allowance, and a decrease of \$25,889,000 below the fiscal year 1997 level. Funding is provided for the following settlements:

	<i>Committee recommendation</i>
Catawba	\$8,000,000
Northern Cheyenne	5,500,000
Pyramid Lake water rights settlement	3,500,000
Ute Indian rights settlement	25,000,000
Total	42,000,000

The Committee allowance also includes \$1,352,000 for miscellaneous payments to Indians pursuant to various legislative settlements, an increase of \$500,000 over the House allowance and the budget estimate. The increase is for restoration of churches on the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands destroyed or raided during World War II. The appropriate bill language has also been included which authorizes these payments pursuant to Public Laws 100-383 and 103-402.

INDIAN GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 1997	\$5,000,000
Budget estimate, 1998	5,004,000
House allowance	5,000,000
Committee recommendation	5,000,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$5,000,000, a decrease of \$4,000 below the budget request and the same level as the House allowance for the "Indian Guaranteed Loan Program" account.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES

INSULAR AFFAIRS

ASSISTANCE TO TERRITORIES

Appropriations, 1997	\$65,188,000
Budget estimate, 1998	67,214,000
House allowance	68,214,000
Committee recommendation	67,214,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$67,214,000, the same as the budget estimate, a decrease of \$1,000,000 below the House allowance, and an increase of \$2,026,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level.

The amounts recommended by the Committee compared to the budget estimates are shown in the following table:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Territorial assistance:			
Office of Insular Affairs	\$3,849,000	\$3,849,000	.....
Technical assistance	6,200,000	6,200,000	.....
Maintenance assistance fund	3,300,000	3,300,000	.....
Brown tree snake	1,600,000	1,600,000	.....
Insular management controls	1,491,000	1,491,000	.....
Subtotal, territorial assistance	16,440,000	16,440,000	.....
American Samoa: Operations grants	23,054,000	23,054,000	.....
Northern Mariana Islands: Covenant grants	27,720,000	27,720,000	.....
Total, assistance to territories	67,214,000	67,214,000	.....

Territorial assistance.—The Committee recommends \$16,440,000 for territorial assistance, the same as the budget request. The recommended amount includes an increase of \$1,005,000 over the current year level to implement the recommendations of the Brown

Tree Snake Control Committee. The Committee recommends that \$800,000 of the amount provided for brown tree snake control be transferred to the Biological Research Division of the U.S. Geological Survey for eradication and control research. The recommended amount also includes an increase over the current year level for maintenance assistance to provide limited exceptions or reductions to local matching requirements. While the Committee recognizes that adjustments to matching requirements may in some cases be appropriate, either to protect prior Federal investment in insular facilities or to ensure continued delivery of critical services in the insular areas, the Committee expects the Department to be judicious in making such adjustments. The Committee will closely monitor the use of these funds in considering whether the increase should be maintained as part of the program base.

American Samoa.—The Committee recommends \$23,054,000 for operations grants to American Samoa, the same as the budget request.

The Committee is encouraged that the American Samoa Government has expressed a strong commitment to improving its fiscal management practices. The Committee urges the Government to work aggressively to implement the recommendations of the joint working group, and hopes to see progress when reviewing the joint working group's semiannual report. While cognizant of the time required by a new administration to evaluate existing governmental policies and develop new initiatives, the Committee will continue to oppose release of currently withheld infrastructure funds in the absence of significant progress on fiscal reform. Such progress will be closely monitored during the current fiscal year, and will be a critical factor in allocating funds in fiscal year 1999.

The Committee also understands that the American Samoa Government is developing a proposal to improve management of island health care facilities. While the Committee will encourage the Department to consider carefully any such proposal, the Committee will continue to oppose the release of Federal funds for new hospital construction in the absence of a sound management plan that will ensure adequate protection of the Federal investment in health care facilities.

CNMI/covenant grants.—The Committee recommends \$27,720,000 for covenant grants, the same as the budget request. The fiscal year 1996 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act included a provision authorizing the reallocation of the covenant grants. Consistent with that provision and the fiscal year 1998 budget request, the Committee has provided \$11,000,000 for CNMI construction, \$4,580,000 for impact aid to Guam, \$10,140,000 for American Samoa construction, and \$2,000,000 for the CNMI immigration, labor and law enforcement initiative.

Guam.—Of the funds provided for covenant grants, \$4,580,000 is for Guam to mitigate the impacts of the implementation of the compacts of free association.

COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION

Appropriations, 1997	\$23,538,000
Budget estimate, 1998	20,445,000
House allowance	20,445,000
Committee recommendation	20,545,000

The Committee recommends \$20,545,000 for compact of free association, an increase of \$100,000 over the budget estimate, an increase of \$100,000 above the House allowance, and \$2,993,000 below the fiscal year 1997 level.

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Compact of free association—Federal services	\$7,354,000	\$7,354,000	.....
Mandatory payments—Program grant assistance	12,000,000	12,000,000	.....
Enewetak support	1,091,000	1,191,000	+\$100,000
Total, compact of free association	20,445,000	20,545,000	+ 100,000

Federal services assistance.—The Committee recommends \$7,354,000 for Federal services assistance, the same as the budget request.

Program grant assistance.—The Committee recommends \$12,000,000 for program grant assistance, the same as the budget request. The reduction from fiscal year 1997 is consistent with the annual funding schedule included in the compact of free association with the Republic of Palau.

Enewetak support.—The Committee recommends \$1,191,000 for Enewetak support, an increase of \$100,000 over the current year level to offset a portion of fixed cost increases. The Committee recognizes the importance of the support program to the people of Enewetak, and understands that the relevant authorizing committees are considering extending and expanding the program. While sympathetic to the need for further agricultural development to sustain a growing population, the Committee notes that the support program was established as a temporary program. The Committee will continue to consider funding requirements on a year-by-year basis.

Rongelap Atoll.—The September 19, 1996, agreement between the Governments of the United States and Rongelap Atoll represents a full and final settlement of United States obligations with regard to resettlement assistance. As such, the Committee recommends no funds for this purpose.

Bill language.—The Committee has included language under “General Provisions, Department of the Interior” that raises the cap on funds available from the resettlement trust fund for the people of Bikini for projects on Kili or Ejit. This provision also allows the cap to be adjusted annually for inflation.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 1997	\$58,286,000
Budget estimate, 1998	58,286,000
House allowance	58,286,000
Committee recommendation	58,286,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$58,286,000 for fiscal year 1998, the same as the budget estimate and the House level.

The Committee directs that the Secretary and agency heads carefully assess the land exchange on Alaska's North Slope proposed by the Arctic Slope Regional Corp. The review of this proposed land exchange should proceed concurrently with the Department's current planning effort with respect to the proposed lease sale in the northeastern area of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska [NPR-A]. If concluded, this proposed exchange would expand conservation system units such as the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. This review should also address any related North Slope exchange proposed by the State of Alaska. Any costs associated with this land exchange review should not come from any funds provided for and attendant to preparing and conducting the proposed lease sale in the northeastern area of NPR-A. The Committee intends that this land exchange review not result in any delay in the preparation or issuance of the draft environmental impact statement, final environmental impact statement nor the timing for the proposed NPR-A lease sale. The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a report on the status of the proposed land exchanges by the end of this fiscal year.

The Secretary is directed to provide to the congressional committees of jurisdiction the detailed economic data used to make recommendations and the rationale used for making those recommendations to FERC concerning project No. 5-021 license.

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Departmental direction	\$10,836,000	\$10,836,000	.....
Management and coordination	20,574,000	20,574,000	.....
Hearings and appeals	7,039,000	7,039,000	.....
Central services	18,637,000	18,637,000	.....
Bureau of Mines workers compensation/unemployment	1,200,000	1,200,000	.....
Total	58,286,000	58,286,000	.....

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 1997	\$35,443,000
Budget estimate, 1998	35,443,000
House allowance	35,443,000
Committee recommendation	35,443,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$35,443,000 for fiscal year 1998, the same as the budget estimate and the House level.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 1997	\$24,439,000
Budget estimate, 1998	24,500,000
House allowance	24,439,000
Committee recommendation	24,500,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$24,500,000 for fiscal year 1998, the same as the budget estimate and an increase of \$61,000 over the House level and the fiscal year 1997 level.

NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 1997	\$1,000,000
Budget estimate, 1998	1,000,000
House allowance	1,000,000
Committee recommendation	1,000,000

The Committee has amended the language that recommends an appropriation of \$1,000,000, the same as the House allowance and the budget estimate.

The Commission continues to operate without a permanent chair. The Committee cannot encourage the administration enough to appoint a permanent chair of the Commission, preferably someone with experience in monitoring and regulating of gaming. As established by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, the Commission's objectives are to regulate and monitor gaming on Indian lands in order to protect Indian gaming as a means of generating Indian tribal revenues.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 1997	\$32,126,000
Budget estimate, 1998	39,337,000
House allowance	32,126,000
Committee recommendation	35,689,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$35,689,000 for the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, \$3,648,000 below the budget estimate, \$3,563,000 more than the House allowance and the fiscal year 1997 level.

The increase over the House level ensures that the same level of resources are available for Indian trust management improvements as in fiscal year 1997. The increase reflects the movement in 1998 of funding of \$1,569,000 for land records systems improvements, from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to the Office of Special Trustee; and the additional resource made available to the Office of Special Trustee over its regular appropriation, through a transfer in fiscal year 1997, of \$1,994,000 of unobligated balances in the Indian land

and water claims settlements and miscellaneous payments to Indians appropriation.

The Committee understands that the demands placed on the Office of the Special Trustee to support activities related to settlement efforts and ongoing tribal and IIM litigation are significant. These activities are critical to ensuring that Government appropriately addresses its past management of Indian trust accounts. Accordingly, the Committee has allocated funding for settlement and litigation support at the base level of \$1,624,000. However, the costs to support such activities are often unpredictable, and the Committee expects the Office to use effectively the reprogramming flexibility provided by the Committee to meet any unanticipated costs. The Office is further expected to keep the Committee apprised of settlement and litigation activities through its semiannual reports to the Committee.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The Committee has included in "General Provisions, Department of the Interior" various legislative provisions affecting the Department of the Interior. Several of these provisions have been carried in previous years and others are proposed new this year. The provisions are:

SEC. 101. Provides Secretarial authority to transfer program funds for expenditures in cases of emergency when all other emergency funds are exhausted.

SEC. 102. Provides for expenditure or transfer of funds by the Secretary in the event of actual or potential emergencies including forest fires, range fires, earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, storms, oilspills, grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks, and in case of surface mine reclamation emergencies.

SEC. 103. Provides for use of appropriated funds for operation of garages, shops, warehouses, and similar facilities.

SEC. 104. Provides for use of appropriated funds for contracts, rental cars and aircraft, certain library memberships, and certain telephone expenses.

SEC. 105. Provides for use of appropriated funds to purchase uniforms or to provide a uniform allowance.

SEC. 106. Provides that contracts issued for services and rentals with appropriated funds be in effect for a period not to exceed 12 months.

SEC. 107. Strikes House language related to revised statute 2477.

SECS. 108-111. Restricts use of funds provided in the act for certain offshore leasing and related activities pursuant to the revised 5-year plan for Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing.

SEC. 112. Provides that advance payments under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act may be invested only in obligations of the United States or in instruments that are guaranteed or insured by the United States, or may be deposited into accounts that are insured by an agency or instrumentality of the United States.

SEC. 113. The Senate has included language that provides for lump sum payment of severance pay, continued health benefits, job

training for private sector employment, and restoration of unused annual leave to Federal helium operations employees who are separated as a result of the closure of the Federal helium program. The Senate provision modifies the House language with the inclusion of terms on job training and annual leave. No additional appropriation is necessary, as all costs will be paid from the helium fund.

SEC. 114. Senate deletes House-proposed language limiting establishment of a new regional office for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

SEC. 115. The Committee has included language to convey the Bowden National Fish Hatchery, located in Randolph County, WV, to the State of West Virginia for the sole use for the fish culture program by the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The property reverts to the United States if it is used by any other party or for any other purpose.

SEC. 116. Inserts language amending section 115 of Public Law 103-332 to include allowing incremental funding of cooperative research agreements with funds provided by other Federal agencies through reimbursable or other agreements pursuant to the Economy Act. Previously the section allowed only for funds from the Department of the Interior to be used in such a manner.

SEC. 117. Modified Public Law 100-446 to change the annual amount that can be expended for Kili and Ejit at Bikini Atoll, and provides for subsequent inflation adjustments.

SEC. 118. The Senate has included language directing the BIA to develop a new formula for distribution of tribal priority allocation funding on the basis of need, taking into consideration tribal business revenue. The provision is explained within the BIA section of this report.

SEC. 119. The Committee has included language which amends section 116 of the Omnibus Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1997 to complete the transfer of the Bureau of Mines facility in Salt Lake City, UT, to the University of Utah. The language is necessary because BLM still holds the land on which the facility, which was shut down in 1995, is located.

SEC. 120. The Committee has included a provision regarding tribal sovereign immunity. The provision would require any tribe receiving TPA funds to waive any claim of immunity in civil actions in Federal courts. In addition, the provision would allow non-Indians to bring civil actions against Indian tribes in Federal courts.

The legal doctrine of sovereign immunity permits a government to protect itself from legal challenges or suit. Over the course of the last century, Federal, State, the local governments have either abolished or severely restricted the doctrine of sovereign immunity. Only Indian tribes in the United States use this doctrine to assert complete immunity.

The Committee is concerned that the right to due process, which is guaranteed to all citizens of the United States under the fifth amendment of the Constitution, is denied in civil disputes between Indian tribes and non-Indians because Indian tribes continue to use the doctrine of sovereign immunity to shield themselves and their actions from legal review in neutral courts. This matter is of particular concern in issues concerning individual private property rights.

Citizens of the United States have the inherent right to have their disputes decided by a neutral court or arbitrator. This right is significantly diminished for non-Indian citizens of the United States who live or work on or near Indian reservations and who find themselves in civil disputes with an Indian tribe. According to the 1990 census, there are over 300,000 non-Indians living on fee land within the exterior boundaries of the reservation. These 300,000 Americans currently lack the right to have their civil claims against an Indian tribe heard before a Federal court. This provision will guarantee that the due process rights of all American citizens and their right to be heard before a neutral legal entity is protected.

SEC. 121. The Committee has included this section to provide for an equitable and expeditious means to transfer inholdings in the Kantishna region of Denali National Park and Preserve to the Park Service. The Committee believes that the inholdings in the Kantishna area transferred to the Park Service pursuant to this section are to be managed in the same manner as contiguous park lands, pursuant to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. By including a prohibition on unauthorized use of any property transferred pursuant to this section, the Committee does not intend the Secretary to prohibit any party with rights of access to cross any transferred lands from thereafter enjoying such rights.

SEC. 122. Extends the limitations period for the filing of claims by Alaska Native corporations against the Department of the Interior with respect to the land conveyance dispute involving lands within Lake Clark National Park which are the subject of the Deficiency Agreement dated August 31, 1976.

SEC. 123. Provides that the fair market value for the initial computation of the payment to the Kodiak Island Borough pursuant to the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act shall be based on the purchase price of parcels acquired from the specified parties.

SEC. 124. Authorizes the Park Service to assist the city of Berlin, NH, in identifying and studying the historic and cultural assets of the Androscoggin River Valley.

TITLE II—RELATED AGENCIES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

Appropriations, 1997	\$179,786,000
Budget estimate, 1998	179,781,000
House allowance	187,644,000
Committee recommendation	188,644,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$188,644,000, an increase of \$8,863,000 above the budget estimate, an increase of \$1,000,000 over the House allowance, and \$8,858,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level.

The Committee feels increased emphasis on conducting the forest inventory and analysis is essential, particularly in the South and Southeastern States. The Committee encourages the collection of forest inventory information from outside sources, such as contracts and other innovative approaches which are being accomplished in the southern station. An additional \$3,000,000 is provided to accelerate the inventory process with specific attention to States where maximum contributions are provided through State, industry, and citizen partnerships. The Forest Service is encouraged to pursue a reduction of the inventory cycle to 5 years in all regions through increased use of such partnerships.

An additional \$3,000,000 is being provided to the Pacific Northwest Station for research operations. The production of commodity outputs from national forest land is dropping dramatically. The Committee is concerned that research project priorities may not reflect the need to evaluate improved methods of increasing commodity production in an environmentally acceptable manner.

The presence of significant loadings of hazardous fuels and the potential for catastrophic fire is a concern to the Committee. This problem is particularly acute in northern Arizona and New Mexico. The Committee has provided \$700,000 for the Rocky Mountain Station, with \$400,000 to be used for studies of the economic utilization of materials removed for fuels reduction purposes, and to inventory fuel conditions in pilot areas. The remaining \$300,000 is provided for studies of management options for fuels removal and prescribed fire, and the effects of these options on insect and disease problems. Prior to expenditure of these funds, the Rocky Mountain Station is expected to submit a plan of research for this work no later than December 31, 1997, to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The Committee has also provided \$1,000,000 for the Rocky Mountain Research Station for monitoring and research to support

Region 3 southwest wildland ecosystem-restoration projects, as developed by a joint region-station project team, that will also include appropriate expertise from other organizations.

The Committee has not included funds, which were provided in fiscal year 1997, to continue the partnership for forest health projects with Northern Arizona School of Forestry and the Department of the Interior. The Committee has provided funding for the National Agroforestry Center in Lincoln, NE, and directs the Forest Service to maintain current funding for agroforestry research at this center.

The Committee supports the functions of the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, and has provided an additional \$450,000 above the request which was the level of funding in fiscal year 1997. The Forest Service is directed to assure that the institute's funding is maintained at fiscal year 1997 levels.

Funds are included to support the activities of Forest Service research locations at Princeton, Parsons, and Morgantown, WV, at fiscal year 1997 levels with adjustments allowed for fixed costs. The Committee expects funds will not be reallocated away from these programs to other initiatives or programs.

The Committee has included \$500,000 as a cooperative share in the establishment of a fine hardwoods tree improvement and regeneration center at Purdue University in partnership with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the university, and other sources.

In light of the continuous reduction in timber harvest from Federal lands, the Committee is concerned about maximizing the use of forest products and assuring the use of the most efficient and ecologically sound harvesting equipment. A substantial economic impact has occurred in southeast Alaska and the western regions as a result of the reduced harvesting. Also, newer land management plans are concentrating on ecosystem management principles which involve increased thinnings and harvest of other low-quality material. Accordingly, the Committee directs the Forest Service to initiate a feasibility study regarding the establishment of a harvesting and wood utilization laboratory in Sitka, AK. The laboratory's charter would include the testing and development of timber harvest equipment and technology which promotes the ecologically sensitive harvesting of timber, and to identify new types of value-added timber products which can be processed from low-grade, small-sized timber harvested throughout the West. The Forest Service is directed to complete this feasibility study no later than June 1, 1998. The study should include an analysis of opportunities to cooperate in research and share costs with other Federal agencies, the State, local communities, and private industry. The study should also include other options for accomplishing the research objectives such as utilizing existing facilities and obtaining cooperative expertise from specialists in southeast Alaska.

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

Appropriations, 1997	\$155,461,000
Budget estimate, 1998	156,408,000
House allowance	157,922,000
Committee recommendation	162,668,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$162,668,000, an increase of \$6,260,000 above the budget estimate, \$4,246,000 above the House allowance, and \$7,207,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level.

The following table provides a comparison of the budget estimate with the Committee recommendations:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Forest health management:			
Federal lands forest health management	\$36,690,000	\$36,690,000	.....
Cooperative lands forest health management ...	16,300,000	16,800,000	+ \$500,000
Cooperative lands fire management	18,002,000	20,152,000	+ 2,150,000
Subtotal, forest health management	70,992,000	73,642,000	+ 2,650,000
Cooperative forestry:			
Forest stewardship	23,380,000	23,380,000	.....
Stewardship Incentive Program	10,230,000	8,500,000	- 1,730,000
Forest Legacy Program	4,006,000	6,006,000	+ 2,000,000
Urban and community forestry	25,500,000	25,500,000	.....
Economic action programs	9,000,000	11,540,000	+ 2,540,000
Pacific Northwest assistance programs	13,300,000	14,100,000	+ 800,000
Subtotal, cooperative forestry	85,416,000	89,026,000	+ 3,610,000
Total, State and private forestry	156,408,000	162,668,000	+ 6,260,000

Forest health management.—The Committee recommends \$73,642,000 for forest health management, which is \$2,650,000 above the budget request.

The objectives of the Federal forest health management program are to detect and evaluate insect and disease epidemics on Federal lands; to maintain healthy, productive forest environments by preventing and suppressing damaging insects and diseases; and to improve the capacity to protect forest health by developing new and improved technology for use in survey, technical assistance, prevention, and suppression activities. This program provides for professional forest health assistance, detection surveys, and evaluations on all Federal forested lands, including those managed by the Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Smithsonian Institution, and Department of Defense. The Committee recognizes the critical need for cooperation among Federal agencies in improving overall forest health on Federal lands, and has provided \$36,690,000 in fiscal year 1998, which is an increase of \$3,525,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level.

The cooperative lands forest health management program provides assistance to State and private landowners in detecting and evaluating insect and disease outbreaks and the prevention and suppression of insects and diseases. Additional funds above the fiscal year 1997 enacted level have been provided in the amount of \$1,800,000 to continue these important cooperative efforts. The Committee expects the Forest Service to allocate a portion of these increased funds to the Vermont Forest Monitoring Cooperative for

the purpose of carrying out work on acid deposition, ozone pollution, air quality impacts, and other projects critical to downwind States.

In light of the responsibility of the Forest Service for forest health, the Committee directs the agency to establish, in cooperation with the Kenai and other affected boroughs, a multiparty task force to prepare an action plan to manage the spruce bark beetle infestations and rehabilitate the infested areas. This task force shall include representatives of the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the Kenai Borough, representatives from the timber industry, and the Native, environmental, tourism, and recreational communities. The Committee has included bill language to exempt this task force from requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Committee directs that the task force produce a report and action plan no later than June 30, 1998. The Committee has provided \$500,000 for this task force which includes funds providing support for travel and related expenses of participants from the affected boroughs.

The Committee is very concerned about potentially catastrophic fires on national forest and adjacent private lands. With increased hazardous fuel loadings and the encroachment of urban development adjacent to Federal lands in many parts of the United States, there is a critical need for improved cooperative relationships with State foresters and local authorities in fire suppression and fire preparedness. The Committee supports an improved effort in cooperative fire lands management, and provides \$2,150,000 above the request level for this program.

Cooperative forestry.—The Committee recommends \$89,026,000 for cooperative forestry, which is \$3,610,000 above the budget request.

The Committee has provided \$8,500,000 for the Stewardship Incentives Program, which is \$4,000,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level. The Forest Service is expected to manage the program in a manner that gives priority to the greatest amount of sustained commodity production from private lands and/or to mitigate the effects of commodity production from Federal lands. Within funds made available for the Stewardship Incentive Program, the Forest Service is expected to provide \$200,000 to continue support for forestry programs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The Committee has provided \$23,380,000 for the Forest Stewardship Program, which is equal to the budget request. Within this program, the Committee directs that the fiscal year 1997 funding level for the Agroforestry Center at Lincoln, NE, be retained.

The Committee has provided \$6,006,000 for the Forest Legacy Program, which is \$2,000,000 above the budget request. Of the total provided for the Legacy Program, no less than \$2,000,000 is to be provided for the Mountains to Sound greenway project.

The Economic Action Program has been provided \$11,540,000, which is \$2,540,000 above the budget request. Included in the Committee's recommendation is \$5,500,000 to retain the Rural Development Through Forestry Program, including the Northeast-Midwest

program at the fiscal year 1997 level. Also included is \$1,200,000 to retain the Wood in Transportation Program at the fiscal year 1997 level. The northeastern area is provided \$200,000, the same as the fiscal year 1997 level, to strengthen the role of the Forest Service in assisting the Hardwoods Training Center in Princeton as it seeks to become economically self-sustaining. The Committee has provided \$215,000 for annual Columbia Gorge payments to counties.

The Pacific Northwest assistance program is provided \$14,100,000, which is \$800,000 above the budget estimate specifically for pursuit of land exchanges between willing public and private owners in the Umpqua River Basin, OR. Bill language is included associated with this initiative.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

Appropriations, 1997	\$1,278,176,000
Budget estimate, 1998	1,325,672,000
House allowance	1,364,480,000
Committee recommendation	1,346,215,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,346,215,000, an increase of \$20,543,000 from the budget estimate, \$18,265,000 below the House allowance, and \$68,539,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level.

The distribution of the Committee's recommendations are as follows:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Land management planning	\$133,997,000	\$35,174,000	-\$98,823,000
Inventory and monitoring		96,823,000	+ 96,823,000
Recreation use:			
Recreation management	168,318,000	176,596,000	+ 8,278,000
Wilderness management	34,069,000	34,069,000	
Heritage resources	13,906,000	13,906,000	
Subtotal, recreation use	216,293,000	224,571,000	+ 8,278,000
Wildlife and fisheries habitat management:			
Wildlife habitat management	29,998,000	31,263,000	+ 1,265,000
Inland fish habitat management	17,157,000	18,157,000	+ 1,000,000
Anadromous fish habitat management	22,521,000	22,521,000	
Threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat management	27,218,000	27,218,000	
Subtotal, wildlife and fisheries habitat management	96,894,000	99,159,000	+ 2,265,000
Rangeland management:			
Grazing management	29,581,000	29,581,000	
Rangeland vegetation management	15,807,000	17,807,000	+ 2,000,000
Subtotal, rangeland management	45,388,000	47,388,000	+ 2,000,000
Forest land management:			
Timber sales management	208,000,000	208,000,000	

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Forest land vegetation management	61,765,000	65,765,000	+ 4,000,000
Subtotal, forestland management	269,765,000	273,765,000	+ 4,000,000
Soil, water, and air management:			
Soil, water, and air operations	24,645,000	24,645,000	.....
Watershed improvements	25,084,000	25,084,000	.....
Subtotal, soil, water, and air management	49,729,000	49,729,000	.....
Minerals and geology management	35,335,000	35,335,000	.....
Land ownership management:			
Real estate management	44,047,000	46,047,000	+ 2,000,000
Landline location	15,006,000	15,006,000	.....
Subtotal, land ownership management	59,053,000	61,053,000	+ 2,000,000
Infrastructure management:			
Road maintenance	82,974,000	84,974,000	+ 2,000,000
Facility maintenance	24,277,000	24,277,000	.....
Subtotal, infrastructure management	107,251,000	109,251,000	+ 2,000,000
Law enforcement operations	61,967,000	63,967,000	+ 2,000,000
General administration	250,000,000	250,000,000	.....
Total, National Forest System	1,325,672	1,346,215,000	+ 20,543,000

Land management planning.—The Committee recommends \$35,174,000 for national forest and grassland planning, including plan amendments, revisions, and updates. The Committee is extremely concerned about the Forest Service's commitment to responsible land management planning. The planning process is broken and in desperate need of overhaul. Recent problems with the Tongass land management plan and the Columbia basin ecosystem assessments lend strong credence to the premise that when the Forest Service nears completion of a plan, it will in most circumstances become burdened by organizational doubt; stop the plan, and begin anew. This premise is strongly enforced by the General Accounting Office [GAO] report, "Forest Service Decision-Making: a Framework for Improvement," in particular a finding by the General Accounting Office that the Forest Service either did not implement findings of its own internal task force on forest planning, or phased implementation over a period of 10 years. Meanwhile the Forest Service has been revising its planning regulations since 1990 and has twice been at the point of issuing final proposed regulations, only to withdraw them at the last minute. The Committee expects these planning regulations to be issued promptly, and has included appropriate bill language which prohibits the expenditure of funds for revision of national forest land management plans, until the regulations are released. The Committee has separated inventory and monitoring functions from for-

est planning functions to improve the ability of Congress to track planning costs.

The Committee is concerned that the conduct of large ecoregion assessments may be in violation of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and if so, may have resulted in the wasted expenditure of a significant amount of Federal funds. Legislation is currently being considered which could address this problem. The Committee directs the Forest Service not to initiate any new large-scale ecoregion or other multiforest assessments pending enactment of such legislation. The Committee is also concerned about the astronomical costs associated with implementation of recommendations included in the Columbia basin ecosystem assessments. The Committee notes that the Forest Service did not propose funds in fiscal year 1998 for implementation of decisions from the Columbia basin ecosystem assessments. The Committee directs the Forest Service not to use any funds for such implementation, pending a request for reprogramming. The Committee will not entertain any reprogramming request which does not clearly and fully identify what the effect of the reprogramming would be on the base programs of the agency. In particular, the Committee expects the Forest Service to explain which projects and activities would not be accomplished (within and/or outside of the Columbia basin region) due to any reprogramming. The Committee further expects the Forest Service to provide a detailed plan in the fiscal year 1999 budget justification which specifically addresses how the Forest Service intends to meet program budget requirements identified in the assessments, and from what programs these funds will be proposed for allocation. As with any reprogramming, the Committee expects the Forest Service to provide specific details regarding how implementation affects the base program nationwide.

The Committee is aware of the intense local interest in the preferred alternative for the draft environmental impact statement for the Columbia basin ecosystem study. Because of this interest and the large amount of documentation for the public to study from this project's inception 4 years ago, the Committee directs the inter-agency team to extend the current 120 day comment period to June 6, 1998.

Inventory and monitoring.—The Committee recommends \$96,823,000 for inventory and monitoring activities and recognizes that these activities are essential for successful implementation of forest plan revisions and for assessment of management actions prescribed in forest plans.

Recreation use.—The Committee recommends \$224,571,000 for recreation use, which is \$8,278,000 above the budget request. The Committee applauds the initiatives taken by the Forest Service in several recreation programs including implementation of the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, attention to universal accessibility for recreation facilities and establishment of partnerships for development, and management of the recreation program. The Committee continues to believe that the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program can play a significant role in reducing the size of the maintenance backlog. The Forest Service is encouraged to assure adequate attention is given to the collection of fees in recreation demonstration areas in order to assure the public is fully cog-

nizant of the reasons fees are needed and the projects which such fees will finance. Modern collection methods, including the use of credit and debit cards is encouraged in high-use areas. The Committee is encouraged by past efforts to showcase universal access sites and encourages continued application of universal access standards in new sites where possible.

Within the recommended program, the Committee has provided \$300,000 for the intermountain region to complete the Great Western Trail feasibility study and related activities, and \$3,500,000 above the budget request for trail maintenance activities in the Pacific Northwest region.

The Committee has included \$100,000 for the 1998 Alaska Gold Rush Centennial. The Committee notes the Alaska Legislature's official recognition of the Alaska gold rush task force, as the group responsible for the organization of a centennial celebration throughout the State, and in conjunction with Canada and the State of Washington. Within the \$100,000 increase is \$50,000 to prepare, in consultation with the Alaska gold rush centennial task force, rotating exhibits for Alaska public lands information centers and \$50,000 to prepare and conduct, in consultation with the Alaska gold rush task force, interpretation and living history on the Alaska ferries.

Within the increases provided for region 6, the Committee directs the Forest Service to complete an environmental analysis for maintenance and reconstruction on sections of the Juniper Ridge and Langille Ridge trails on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

The Committee is concerned about Forest Service regulation and policy which attempt to control the concept of solitude in wilderness within our national forests. The Committee believes that a primary focus of the Forest Service in wilderness areas is the protection of the physical environment and ecosystems of the wilderness resource. However, the agency's land managers have developed regulations that attempt to bring wilderness into compliance with social standards, which are subjective, and which artificially set numbers of allowable encounters per day between human beings. The regulations limit the number of people who are allowed to use a given trail on a given day, purportedly to achieve solitude in the wilderness. Rather than regulating solitude by limiting the number of encounters on a given trail and the number of tents seen from a given point with a view, the Committee strongly recommends that the Forest Service consider the on-the-ground impacts such as trampled vegetation, human waste, uncontrolled fire pits, and soil erosion, with a view to protecting the resource and mitigating damage.

Wildlife and fish management.—The Committee recommends \$99,159,000 for wildlife and fish management, which is an increase of \$2,265,000 above the request level. The Committee urges continued emphasis on habitat restoration and improvement for wildlife and inland fish. The Committee encourages continued cooperation with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the challenge cost share program in order to encourage quality interagency programs and private party partnerships.

Rangeland management.—The Committee recommends \$47,388,000 for the rangeland management program, which is \$2,000,000 above the budget request.

The Committee is very concerned about the apparent lack of funds being distributed at the ranger district level for on-the-ground management of rangeland resources. While total funding for the rangeland management program has increased in past years, it is apparent these funds are being diverted for land management planning and other purposes. This lack of funding and management attention to on-the-ground resources has led to a contentious relationship with many permittees and adjacent landowners. The Committee expects the Forest Service to work closely with lessees, permittees, and landowners in the development and revision of allotment management plans and further expects the agency to do so in full compliance with provisions of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act.

Continued progress is expected by the Committee regarding NEPA analysis of the remaining allotments. The Committee fully expects the Forest Service to accomplish analysis of a minimum of 1,200 allotments in fiscal year 1998.

The Committee is aware of and concerned about attempts within region 6 of the Forest Service grazing program to penalize ranchers in perpetuity for alleged violations. While the Committee recognizes the need to impose sanctions on those who routinely and blatantly violate permit conditions, the Committee discourages the practice of imposing unlimited penalties in all but the most extreme cases. The Committee recommends that grazing permit penalties on Forest Service lands be limited to 1 year, at which time an agency review of the alleged violations should be undertaken to determine if the penalty is still necessary.

The spread of noxious weeds continues to be of great concern to the Committee. The Forest Service should increase its efforts and work with other Federal agencies to control the spread of noxious weeds to prevent the loss of land productivity. The Committee has recommended an additional \$2,000,000 for this purpose.

The Committee is also specifically concerned about the outbreak of noxious weeds on the Okanogan National Forest, which is losing over 7,000 acres of grazing land annually. The Committee is also aware of the adverse impact, the current lack of success in controlling this outbreak on Federal lands is having, on adjacent private lands. Therefore, the Committee urges the Okanogan National Forest to work closely with the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board to develop meaningful and effective solutions relating to noxious weed control.

Within the funds provided, the Committee encourages region 6 to fund the Okanogan National Forest's activities targeted at the eradication of noxious weeds. The region is encouraged to commit funds necessary to assist the Forest Service with developing and completing an environmental assessment on spraying, which is required in order to ensure that a herbicide may be used to effectively deal with the problem over the long term.

Forestland management.—The Committee recommends \$273,765,000 for forestland management activities. Included in the Committee recommendation is \$208,000,000 for timber sales man-

agement functions, which is equal to the budget request, and \$65,765,000 for forestland vegetation management, which is \$4,000,000 above the budget request. These additional funds are to be used to improve timber stand health.

The Committee has funded the timber sales management program to produce a total sale offer of 3.8 billion board feet [BBF], consisting of 2.525 BBF of green sales, and 1.275 BBF of salvage sales. The funding should be allocated in a manner which will optimize forest plan outputs, and to those forests which have the highest likelihood of attaining forest plan goals, objectives, and targets. The Committee expects the Forest Service to continue with its quarterly report on the timber sales program. The report should include detailed information on the status of the timber sale pipeline and identification of the volume offered, sold, and harvested, categorized as net merchantable product sold and transferred to purchasers.

Accomplishment of timber offer volumes specified in the President's plan for the Pacific Northwest is a major issue of importance to the Committee. The President's request includes \$14,600,000 specifically to accomplish timber offer targets. With this funding, the Committee expects full accomplishment of harvest levels specified in the President's plan.

The harvest level funded in this bill is significantly lower than historic levels. This has resulted in major impacts to local economies with high dependency on the availability of Federal timber. These economies cannot withstand further reductions in the amount and type of timber and timber products offered. The Committee feels strongly that the ratio of sawtimber to other forest products offered be maintained at no less than recent historic levels. The Committee is also concerned about the quality of timber sale offerings as evidenced by the increasing amount of volume offered, but not sold for fiscal years 1994 through 1996. The Committee expects the Forest Service to offer timber sales with a maximum probability for sale and cost-effective harvest, and to assure that volume funded by Congress for offer by the Forest Service maintains a high probability of sale. The Committee is also concerned about the cost of preparing timber sales and the disparity in costs between Forest Service regions. The Forest Service is encouraged to examine all possible avenues for reducing overall timber sale preparation costs.

The Committee remains concerned about timber harvest accountability and the attention given by the Forest Service to timber theft prevention. Statements continue to be made that the Forest Service is not serious about timber theft prevention. Priority should be given to training program development for timber theft prevention and detection. The Committee notes that a recent study has been completed on methods for timber measurement and payment. Continued progress is encouraged in the transition to the tree measurement method of payment. Where payment by timber scale continues to occur, adequate attention must be given to assuring the scale process occurs in full compliance with Forest Service policy for check scaling, including obtaining the required amount of remote check scales.

The orderly preparation of timber sale volume in the pipeline for later offering is of critical importance to accomplishment of annual sale offering goals. The Committee is aware that the ability to accomplish the fiscal year 1998 sale offering program is tenuous based on the relatively small percentage of volume which has been prepared through the NEPA process. With establishment of the pipeline restoration fund in fiscal year 1996, the Committee expects the Forest Service to accomplish its goal of achieving a minimum of 70 percent of the next year sale offering volume fully prepared by the close of the prior fiscal year.

Soil, water, and air management.—The Committee recommends \$49,729,000 for soil, water, and air management activities, which is equal to the budget request.

Minerals and geology management.—The Committee recommends \$35,335,000 for minerals and geology management activities, which is equal to the budget request.

Land ownership management.—The Committee recommends \$61,053,000 for land ownership management, which is \$2,000,000 above the budget request. The Committee expects the Forest Service to use the additional funds to improve public services and agency responsiveness.

Infrastructure management.—The Committee recommends \$109,251,000 for infrastructure management, which is \$2,000,000 above the budget request. The Committee has provided this increase for road maintenance activities to offset reductions in road maintenance due to decreased timber harvest. Included in the increase is \$68,400 for the purpose of creating and maintaining scenic vistas through vegetation management along the Talimena Scenic Byway.

Law enforcement operations.—The Committee recommends \$63,967,000 for law enforcement operations, which is an increase of \$2,000,000 above the budget request. The increase is provided in recognition of increased operational costs and demands for public and employee safety and protection of natural resources. The Committee is very concerned about the conduct of law enforcement operations which are not directly related to national forest activities on the Cleveland National Forest. The Committee directs the Forest Service to maintain no more than the level of law enforcement employees on the Cleveland National Forest, including permanent and temporarily assigned employees, that existed prior to the initiation of Operation Gatekeeper by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The Committee encourages continued emphasis on timber theft prevention, detection, and investigation, and supports the incorporation of investigative activities under the direct supervision of regional special agents in charge.

The Committee takes note of the recent independent review of the law enforcement structure including findings relative to national priorities, maintenance of a Forest Service management perspective within the law enforcement organization, the significant benefits from cooperative law enforcement relationships, and the need for funding flexibility for national priorities. The Committee is concerned about the cost of large resource protection and public safety operations associated with protests, large group gatherings, and unanticipated events, and the related impacts to the local na-

tional forest law enforcement program. The Committee urges the Forest Service to continue to use cooperative law enforcement agreements in fiscal year 1998 including use of these agreements to provide services for protests, large group gatherings, and unplanned events.

General administration.—The Committee recommends \$250,000,000, which is equal to the budget request. The Committee is concerned about the ability of the organization to provide adequate administrative support and management funding to the organization in its traditional decentralized manner while reducing administrative staffing and making the necessary changes to clean up its financial management weaknesses. The Forest Service is encouraged to reduce overall administrative costs through centralization of processes and use of service centers to perform administrative operations. The Committee does not support the concept that administrative functions must be under the direct control of local forest supervisors. The Forest Service is encouraged to continue the integration of project 615 computer equipment, and to maintain all avenues of flexibility for upgrading equipment to take advantage of new technology which can promote efficiency. The Committee urges increased centralization of personnel offices, and financial accounting and procurement functions as a way of reducing overall costs.

General.—The Committee has not provided specific funding for international forestry activities, similar to the past 2 years. The Committee recommends that the Forest Service may spend up to \$4,000,000 from benefiting functions to cover vital international activities of benefit to those programs. From these funds, the Committee directs the Forest Service to allocate an additional \$230,000 for international forestry activities by the Institute of Pacific Island Forestry.

The Committee notes that release of the required 5-year national resource program review, as required under the Renewable Resources Planning Act has been delayed. This release was required in 1995, and is currently 2 years late, rendering its utility as a 5-year program questionable. The Government Performance Results Act requires development of a strategic plan which in many ways is duplicative of requirements for the 5-year national resource program review. The Committee is concerned about the potential for wasteful spending through duplicate efforts, and has included bill language which prohibits the expenditure of funds for the development of the Resources Planning Act 5-year program.

Substantial reductions have occurred in timber volume offered from the Alaska region. Release of the draft Tongass land management plan assures that this reduced level will continue to bring hardship to local communities and the forest products industry. In light of these reductions, the Committee expects the Forest Service to modify its organization in accordance with the expected workload in the Tongass land management plan, and align its administrative presence in a manner which places forest supervisors and the regional foresters in areas where plan priorities have been identified and acceptable levels of public service can best be maintained. Accordingly, the Committee directs the Forest Service to relocate the regional office in Alaska from Juneau to Ketchikan, and eliminate the forest supervisor's office in Petersburg. The Commit-

tee further directs the Forest Service to establish in Wrangell, any zone positions made necessary by the move of the regional office and closing of the Petersburg office. The Committee further directs that the Ketchikan Area forest supervisor's office be colocated with the regional office, that all administrative services formerly provided by the supervisor's office be performed by regional office staff, and all other technical or resource management services be consolidated between the two offices. The Committee directs the Forest Service to submit a plan for the Committee's approval no later than March 1, 1998, which will describe the following: (a) Costs of implementing this direction; (b) availability of facilities; (c) any zone or other positions (including a description of planned responsibilities) which may be established in Wrangell; and (d) a description of the phases necessary to implement all relocations no later than March 1, 1999.

The Committee commends the Forest Service's efforts to leverage its funds with non-Federal partners through its challenge cost share program. In order to assure that a maximum of funds be available for matching partners at the field level, the Committee directs that a cap of 10 percent be placed on administrative support charges against challenge cost share funds. This cap shall not apply to essential activities associated with resource assessment analysis functions which are required prior to implementation.

The Committee is concerned that release of the required 5-year national resource program review, as required under the Renewable Resources Planning Act has been delayed. This release was required in 1995, and is currently 2 years late, rendering its utility as a 5-year program questionable. The Government Performance Results Act requires development of a strategic plan which in many ways is duplicative of requirements for the 5-year national resource program review. The Committee is concerned about the potential for wasteful spending through duplicate efforts, and has included bill language which prohibits the expenditure of funds for the development of the Resources Planning Act 5-year program.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Appropriations, 1997	\$1,080,016,000
Budget estimate, 1998	514,311,000
House allowance	591,715,000
Committee recommendation	582,715,000

The Committee recommends a total appropriation of \$582,715,000 for wildland fire management. This recommendation represents an increase of \$68,404,000 above the budget request and a decrease of \$9,000,000 below the House allowance.

The recommended amount includes \$319,315,000 for preparedness and fire use functions, an increase of \$16,004,000 over the budget request. The recommended amount also includes \$263,400,000 for suppression operations, an increase of \$52,400,000. The Committee notes that the budget request presumed that additional forest firefighting expenses would be addressed through the multiagency contingency fund for disaster assistance which has not been funded.

The Committee is very concerned about the buildup of hazardous fuels, and has recommended \$50,000,000 for fuel reduction. The

Committee notes the lack of specificity concerning fuel inventory data and the ability to display adequately a priority for fuel treatment on a nationwide basis. In determining priority for expenditure of funds for fuels treatment, emphasis should be placed on reducing the threat to local communities and the protection of health and safety.

Despite the increased funding provided, the Committee is concerned about the prospect for renewed borrowing from the Knutson-Vandenberg [KV] cooperative trust fund for future fire emergencies. Funds provided in the 1997 appropriations acts to repay funds previously borrowed have not been released by the Office of Management and Budget to the Forest Service. The Committee expects the administration to make these funds available for critical reforestation and improvement activities.

The Committee is concerned by the lack of specificity in information regarding the status of the brush disposal fund. The Committee directs the Forest Service to provide a complete report no later than January 31, 1998, which addresses such factors as cash on hand, cash to be received through collections, and the cost of performing current inventory of projects from past timber sales not yet treated, as well as the cost of performing work on sales currently under contract.

The Committee commends the renewed emphasis on fire preparedness as an essential responsibility of all Forest Service employees and the use of the fire 21 strategy to develop a safe and more effective wildland fire protection program.

RECONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 1997	\$180,184,000
Budget estimate, 1998	146,084,000
House allowance	154,522,000
Committee recommendation	160,269,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$160,269,000, an increase of \$14,185,000 above the budget estimate, an increase of \$5,747,000 above the House allowance, and a decrease of \$19,915,000 below the fiscal year 1997 level. The budget estimate and the Committee recommendation are compared in the following table:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Facilities:			
Research	\$2,560,000	\$2,737,000	+\$177,000
Fire, administrative, other	8,196,000	8,596,000	+ 400,000
Recreation	21,526,000	32,013,000	+ 10,487,000
Subtotal, facilities	32,282,000	43,346,000	+ 11,064,000
Roads:			
Timber roads	47,400,000	47,400,000	.....
Recreation roads	26,600,000	26,600,000	.....
General purpose roads	12,294,000	13,294,000	+ 1,000,000
Subtotal, roads	86,294,000	87,294,000	+ 1,000,000

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Trail construction	27,508,000	29,629,000	+ 2,121,000
Timber purchaser credits			
Total, reconstruction and construction	146,084,000	160,269,000	+ 14,185,000

Facilities.—The Committee has included \$2,737,000 for research reconstruction and construction. Within the funds recommended, \$360,000 is provided for planning of an office and laboratory facility to house the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry research and public outreach program.

The Committee has included \$8,596,000 for fire, administrative, and other facility reconstruction and construction.

The Committee considers reconstruction of the Oakridge ranger station on the Willamette National Forest to be a high priority. The destruction of this facility through an act of arson is intolerable. The Committee approves the reprogramming of \$4,000,000 for reconstruction of this facility. Such funds shall be derived from funds provided in fiscal year 1996 in the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions Appropriations Act, that are not required for emergency activities.

The Committee has provided \$32,013,000 for reconstruction and construction of recreation facilities, which is an increase of \$10,487,000 above the budget request. Included in the recommended amount is \$1,200,000 for the Federal share of construction of the Pikes Peak Summit House. The Committee expects that State, local, and other sources will be able to raise all additional funds needed to construct this facility. Also included is \$427,000 for construction of restroom facilities at Lee Canyon and Tahoe Meadows, and for construction of facilities at a boat takeout on the East Fork of the Carson River, on the Toiyabe National Forest. Also included is \$80,000 for repair of the Spruce Knob tower on the Monongahela National Forest. The Committee has included \$205,000 for construction of equestrian camp facilities in Oklahoma. Also included is \$445,000 for construction of a visitor contact station and administrative site on the Choctaw ranger district of the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma, \$725,000 for construction of infrastructure facilities at Waldo Lake on the Willamette National Forest, \$100,000 for the interagency facility in Seward, AK, \$150,000 for campground sanitation projects on the Olympic National Forest, and \$50,000 for upgrades to the water system at Klahowya campground on the Olympic National Forest.

The Committee has included \$1,214,000 for construction of new facilities and the rehabilitation of existing facilities near the venues of the 2002 Winter Olympic games.

Road reconstruction and construction.—The Committee recommends \$87,294,000 for reconstruction and construction of roads. This amount is \$1,000,000 above the budget request which has been included for reconstruction and upgrade of the Hamma Hamma Road on the Olympic National Forest.

The Committee notes the significant economic impact attributed to the loss of timber receipts in southeast Alaska, particularly affecting the community of Wrangell which has no road access to any

other communities. Existing roads across Forest Service lands do provide access to Canadian road infrastructure, except for approximately 15 miles. The Committee directs the Forest Service to prepare a report, to be finalized not later than 120 days after passage of this bill, for the Committee's review, which addresses the feasibility of providing road access from Wrangell to Canada and to Ketchikan. The report shall contain cost estimates for conducting the appropriate environmental analysis, preparation of an environmental impact statement, road improvements, and road construction, based on full utilization of existing infrastructure.

Timber purchaser road credits.—The Committee is concerned about the impact of the administration's request to eliminate timber purchaser road credits on local counties. These counties have already suffered significantly from the reduced timber sale program. Accordingly, the Committee directs the Forest Service to continue the timber purchaser credit program without change. The Committee has not specified a ceiling for the amount of purchaser credits which can be offered.

Trails.—The Committee recommends \$29,629,000 for reconstruction and construction, which is an increase of \$2,121,000 above the budget request. Increases over the request include \$150,000 for construction of the Forest Service portion of trail and trailhead facilities providing access at Steigerwald Lake in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. This is a cooperative project with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Also included in the recommended amount is \$750,000 for construction and repairs of trail facilities at the Taft Tunnel bicycle trail in Idaho, \$76,000 for construction of foot bridges on the Cedar Lake Trail on the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma, \$20,000 for reconstruction of the north/south twin trailhead facilities on the Tonapah ranger district in Nevada, \$125,000 for construction of portions of the Palmetto Trail on the Sumter and Francis Marion National Forests in South Carolina, and \$1,300,000 for construction of portions of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail in Colorado.

LAND ACQUISITION

Appropriations, 1997	\$40,575,000
Budget estimate, 1998	41,057,000
House allowance	45,000,000
Committee recommendation	49,176,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$49,176,000, an increase of \$8,119,000 above the budget estimate, \$4,176,000 above the House allowance, and \$8,601,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level.

The Committee recommendation is shown in the following table:

<i>Area and State</i>	<i>Committee recommendation</i>
Appalachian National Scenic Trail (multiple States)	\$3,000,000
Arapaho National Forest (wedge tract), CO	350,000
California wilderness (inholdings), CA	1,500,000
Chattooga watershed, GA, NC, SC	1,000,000
Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests, WI	2,000,000
Cleveland National Forest (Rutherford Ranch), CA	1,000,000
Columbia River Gorge national scenic area, WA	8,000,000
Gallatin National Forest, MT	1,000,000

<i>Area and State</i>	<i>Committee recommendation</i>
Green Mountain National Forest (Taconic Crest and Vermont Rivers), VT	3,000,000
Hoosier National Forest, IN	500,000
Lake Tahoe Basin (including Martis Peak), NV	900,000
Los Padres National Forest (Big Sur), CA	1,000,000
Mark Twain National Forest, MO	500,000
Michigan lakes and streams, MI	250,000
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, WA	700,000
Nantahala National Forest (Thompson River), NC	1,200,000
New Mexico National Forests, NM	750,000
Ouachita National Forest (Cossatot River), AR	1,000,000
Ozark National Forest (Richland Creek), AR	326,000
Pacific Northwest streams (including Sam's River), WA, OR	2,500,000
Sawtooth National Forest and National Recreation Area, ID	1,800,000
Sumter National Forest (Lake Jocassee), SC	3,250,000
Wasatch-Cache National Forest (Bonneville Trail), UT	500,000
White Mountain National Forest (Lake Tarleton), NH	2,650,000
White River National Forest (Warren Lakes), CO	700,000
Acquisition management	7,500,000
Cash equalization	1,800,000
Wilderness protection	500,000
Total	49,176,000

The funds provided for the Columbia River Gorge include not more than \$625,000 for acquisition of the Cannard tract. Funds for acquisition of this tract shall not be obligated until an agreement is reached between the Forest Service and the property owner regarding the donation of an additional, adjacent tract to the Forest Service for inclusion in the scenic area.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR NATIONAL FORESTS, SPECIAL ACTS

Appropriations, 1997	\$1,069,000
Budget estimate, 1998	1,069,000
House allowance	1,069,000
Committee recommendation	1,069,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,069,000, the same as the budget estimate and the House allowance.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS TO COMPLETE LAND EXCHANGES

Appropriations, 1997	\$210,000
Budget estimate, 1998	210,000
House allowance	210,000
Committee recommendation	210,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$210,000, the same as the budget estimate and the House allowance.

RANGE BETTERMENT FUND

(Special Fund, Indefinite)

Appropriations, 1997	\$3,995,000
Budget estimate, 1998	3,811,000
House allowance	3,811,000
Committee recommendation	3,811,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$3,811,000, the same as the budget estimate and the House allowance.

GIFTS, DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS FOR FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

Appropriations, 1997	\$92,000
Budget estimate, 1998	92,000
House allowance	92,000
Committee recommendation	92,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$92,000, the same as the budget estimate and the House allowance.

MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE RESTORATION FUND

Appropriations, 1997	\$100,000
Budget estimate, 1998	100,000
House allowance	100,000
Committee recommendation	100,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$100,000, the same as the budget request and the House allowance.

COOPERATIVE WORK, FOREST SERVICE

Appropriations, 1997	\$128,000,000
Budget estimate, 1998	
House allowance	
Committee recommendation	

The Committee has not included funding for the cooperative work account, consistent with the budget request.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The Committee has continued many of the same administrative provisions as provided in prior years.

Language is included to allow the Forest Service to match up to \$2,500,000 in private contributions on a one-for-one basis for projects on National Forest System lands or related to Forest Service programs. Based on Forest Service assurances that Federal funding for administrative expenses of the foundations will be phased out totally by fiscal year 2000, the Committee has authorized up to \$1,000,000 of the Federal funds provided may be used for administrative expenses of the foundation.

Language is included which increases funds available for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to \$2,000,000 on a one-for-one matching basis with private contributions for projects on National Forest System lands.

The Committee has included an exception to normal reprogramming procedures for the move of the Region 10 regional office and related office closures and restructuring.

The Committee has included language authorizing the use of funds available to the Forest Service for retrofitting the commanding officer's building to accommodate relocation of the forest supervisor's office for the San Bernardino National Forest.

The Committee has directed that a task force be established to study the spruce bark beetle problem in Alaska, and has included bill language which exempts this task force from requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The Committee is concerned about the need to mitigate inefficient, overcrowded, or unsafe conditions in Forest Service facilities,

and has included bill language authorizing up to \$250,000 for minor construction and reconstruction projects with requirements for reporting to Congress on such projects.

The Committee feels continued preservation of the Grey Towers National Historic Landmark and continuation of its programs is important. Language has been included in administrative provisions which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements as appropriate with the Pinchot Institute for Conservation and other public or private groups to provide for management, maintenance, restoration, and other activities at Grey Towers.

Language is placed in administrative provisions which authorizes payments to Del Norte County, CA, pursuant to the Smith River National Recreation Area Act.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY

The Committee recommends a rescission of \$101,000,000 for clean coal technology. The funds proposed for rescission are available due to the termination or modification of previously selected clean coal projects.

The Committee has not approved the advance appropriation proposed for the purpose of initiating a clean coal program targeting the China market. The Department should instead focus on successfully completing ongoing projects in the current program. The Committee does not object to the use of up to \$15,000,000 in available funds for administration of the clean coal program.

FOSSIL ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Appropriations, 1997	\$364,704,000
Budget estimate, 1998	346,408,000
House allowance	313,153,000
Committee recommendation	363,969,000

The Committee recommends \$363,969,000 for fossil energy research and development, an increase of \$17,561,000 over the budget request and \$50,816,000 over the House level. The amounts recommended by the Committee as compared to the budget request are shown in the table below:

	Budget estimate	Committee rec- ommendation	Change
Coal:			
Advanced clean fuels research:			
Coal preparation	\$5,064,000	\$5,064,000	
Direct liquefaction	5,816,000	5,816,000	
Indirect liquefaction	4,223,000	4,223,000	
Advanced research and environmental technology	741,000	1,741,000	+ \$1,000,000
Subtotal, advanced clean fuels research	15,844,000	16,844,000	+ 1,000,000

	Budget estimate	Committee rec- ommendation	Change
Advanced clean/efficient power systems:			
Advanced pulverized coal-fired power- plant	5,462,000	10,462,000	+ 5,000,000
Indirect fired cycle	10,927,000	4,927,000	- 6,000,000
High efficiency:			
Integrated gasified combined cycle	22,342,000	22,342,000	.....
Pressurized fluidized bed	17,875,000	17,875,000	.....
Advanced research and environmental technology	9,734,000	9,734,000	.....
Subtotal, advanced clean/effi- cient power systems	66,340,000	65,340,000	- 1,000,000
Advanced research and technology develop- ment	19,729,000	18,289,000	- 1,440,000
Transfer to cooperative R&D	- 1,864,000	.....	+ 1,864,000
Subtotal, coal	100,049,000	100,473,000	+ 424,000
Oil technology:			
Exploration and production supporting re- search	33,785,000	31,585,000	- 2,200,000
Recovery field demonstration	6,053,000	6,053,000	.....
Exploration and production environmental research	6,411,000	6,286,000	- 125,000
Processing research and downstream oper- ations	5,920,000	5,820,000	- 100,000
Subtotal, oil technology	52,169,000	49,744,000	- 2,425,000
Gas:			
Natural gas research:			
Exploration and production	14,895,000	13,932,000	- 963,000
Delivery and storage	993,000	993,000	.....
Advanced turbine systems	31,379,000	45,000,000	+ 13,621,000
Utilization	4,808,000	6,308,000	+ 1,500,000
Environmental research/regulatory im- pact analysis	4,617,000	4,017,000	- 600,000
Subtotal, natural gas research ...	56,692,000	70,250,000	13,558,000
Fuel cells:			
Advanced research	1,210,000	1,210,000	.....
Molten carbonate systems	32,669,000	32,669,000	.....
Advanced concepts	12,412,000	12,412,000	.....
Subtotal, fuel cells	46,291,000	46,291,000	.....
Subtotal, gas	102,983,000	116,541,000	+ 13,558,000
Cooperative research and development	5,836,000	5,840,000	+ 4,000
Fossil energy environmental restoration	12,935,000	12,935,000	.....
Fuels conversion, natural gas, and electricity	2,173,000	2,173,000	.....
Headquarters program direction	14,659,000	14,659,000	.....
Energy Technology Center program direction	48,107,000	52,107,000	+ 4,000,000
General plant projects	2,532,000	2,532,000	.....

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Mining and materials partnerships	4,965,000	6,965,000	+ 2,000,000
Total, fossil energy research and development	346,408,000	363,969,000	+ 17,561,000

Coal.—The Committee recommends \$100,473,000 for coal research, an increase of \$424,000 over the budget request. The amounts provided for particular activities as compared to the budget request are shown in the following table:

<i>Budget activity/subactivity/project</i>	
Coal-derived liquids—Consortium for Fossil Fuel Liquefaction Science	+\$1,000,000
Advanced pulverized coal-fired powerplant—downselect to one contract	+ 4,000,000
AFB hospital waste project (complete testing)	+ 1,000,000
Indirect fired cycle	– 6,000,000
Advanced research and technology development:	
Coal technology export	– 200,000
University coal research	– 700,000
Undergraduate internships	– 50,000
Technical and economic analysis	– 200,000
International program support	– 100,000
HBCU's	– 190,000
Subtotal, Advanced research and technology development	– 1,440,000

The Committee again notes with dismay the inconsistencies between the administration's budget proposal for the fossil program and its public pronouncements with regard to global climate change, air pollution, particulate matter, and related issues. Despite increases in efficiency and expanded use of renewable energy sources, by any reasonable estimate fossil fuels will continue to comprise the vast majority of domestic energy consumption well into the next century. At the same time, fossil fuel use in developing countries is expected to increase dramatically, and will wipe out domestic gains in emissions reduction unless advanced technologies are developed to the point where they are reasonably priced and sufficiently reliable to meet the needs of those countries. It is absolutely clear that to attain the particulate matter, CO₂ and other emissions standards contemplated by the administration, advanced fossil fuel technologies, including coal technologies, will be necessary. A narrow policy of regulation alone may ultimately enable the United States to attain these standards, but will do little to address the global emissions problem and will be far more costly than a strategy that emphasizes technology development. The Committee strongly urges the administration to pursue a more balanced policy in this regard, and to recognize the fossil program's important role within that policy.

The Committee has not agreed to the proposed transfer of \$1,864,000 from coal research to the "Cooperative research and development" account. While the Committee encourages facilities that currently receive cooperative research and development funding to compete for coal and other research program funds, the Committee will continue to address base funding for those facilities in the cooperative research and development budget activity.

Natural gas research.—The Committee recommends \$116,541,000 for natural gas and fuel cell research, an increase of \$13,558,000 over the budget request. The amounts provided for particular activities as compared to the budget request are shown in the following table:

<i>Budget activity / subactivity / project</i>	
Exploration and production—coal mine methane	—\$963,000
Advanced turbine systems	+ 13,621,000
Utilization—gas-to-liquids	+ 1,500,000
Environmental and regulatory analysis:	
Technology development	— 500,000
Outreach and technology transfer	— 100,000

The Committee has provided additional funding for the turbines program to reduce overall costs and enable completion of the program by the year 2000. The Committee hopes the administration will allocate sufficient resources in its fiscal year 1999 budget to continue the program on this schedule.

The Committee has provided the requested amount for fuel cells. While the Committee does not direct a down selection to two fuel cell contracts at this time, the Committee urges the Department to explore opportunities to phase or schedule the existing contracts in a manner that will enable completion of the contracts within anticipated funding constraints.

Oil technology.—The Committee recommends \$49,744,000 for oil technology research, a decrease of \$2,425,000 from the budget request. The amounts provided for particular activities as compared to the budget request are shown in the following table:

<i>Budget activity / subactivity / project</i>	
Exploration and production supporting research:	
Analysis and planning	—\$200,000
Impact oversight analysis	— 250,000
Extraction	— 550,000
Reservoir characterization	+ 600,000
Exploration and drilling	— 800,000
Laboratory/industry partnership	— 1,000,000
Subtotal, exploration and production supporting research	— 2,200,000
Exploration and production environmental research—program planning and analysis	— 125,000
Processing research and downstream operations—upgrading technology development	— 100,000

The increase provided for reservoir characterization includes \$350,000 for the Gypsy field project and \$250,000 for the northern midcontinent digital atlas.

Cooperative research and development.—The Committee recommends \$5,840,000 for the cooperative research and development program, an increase of \$4,000 over the budget request. The amount provided includes \$40,000 for program direction. Remaining funds should be split equally between the participating sites.

Environmental restoration.—The Committee recommends \$12,935,000 for environmental restoration, the same as the budget request.

Fuels program.—The Committee recommends \$2,173,000 for the fuels conversion, natural gas, and electricity program, the same as the budget request.

Headquarters program direction.—The Committee recommends \$14,659,000 for headquarters program direction, the same as the budget request.

Energy technology center program direction.—The Committee recommends \$52,107,000 for energy technology center program direction, an increase of \$4,000,000 over the budget request and the same as the House allowance. The Committee expects the Department not to fund activities out of the program direction line item that have been funded in prior years out of the program line items. The Committee has encouraged the Department to use FETC's expertise more broadly. To foster these efforts, the Committee recommends that program direction funds allocated to FETC be available for use to support activities Departmentwide.

General plant projects.—The Committee recommends \$2,532,000 for general plant projects, the same as the budget request.

Mining.—The Committee recommends \$6,965,000 for mining programs, an increase of \$2,000,000 over the request. The increase provided is for the Intermountain Center for Mining Research and Development.

ALTERNATIVE FUELS PRODUCTION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 1997	— \$4,000,000
Budget estimate, 1998	— 1,500,000
House allowance	— 1,500,000
Committee recommendation	— 1,500,000

The Committee recommends that moneys received as investment income on the principal amount in the Great Plains Project Trust, as of October 1, 1997, shall be deposited in this account and immediately transferred to the general fund of the Treasury. This amount is estimated to be \$1,500,000.

NAVAL PETROLEUM AND OIL SHALE RESERVES

Appropriations, 1997	\$143,786,000
Budget estimate, 1998	117,000,000
House allowance	115,000,000
Committee recommendation	107,000,000

The Committee recommends \$107,000,000 for the naval petroleum and oil shale reserves, a decrease of \$10,000,000 from the budget request, \$8,000,000 below the House level, and \$36,786,000 below the fiscal year 1997 level. The amounts recommended by the Committee as compared to the budget estimate are shown in the table below:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Oil reserves:			
Naval Petroleum Reserves Nos. 1 and 2	\$99,500,000	\$89,500,000	— \$10,000,000
Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 3	8,500,000	8,500,000	
Program direction (headquarters)	7,800,000	7,800,000	
Naval oil shale reserves	1,200,000	1,200,000	

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Total, naval petroleum and oil shale reserves	117,000,000	107,000,000	- 10,000,000

The Committee recommendation reflects the minimum amount necessary to continue the profitable operation of the all the reserves, while allowing the Department to proceed with preparations for the sale of Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 1 during fiscal year 1998. However, the Committee expects the Department not to proceed with the sale of NPR-1 in the event the minimum requirements for sale included in the authorizing statute are not met. For this reason, the Committee has included language in the bill allowing the Department to use excess receipts from NPR-1 to operate the field for the remainder of the fiscal year should the sale not be executed.

The Committee has also included language in the bill waiving the statutory requirement to sell NPR-1 oil at prices equivalent to strategic petroleum reserve purchase prices. This requirement is not appropriate since the Committee has not recommended an appropriation for the purchase of oil for the strategic petroleum reserve.

Language has also been included in the bill to resolve a technical issue with regard to accounting for certain naval petroleum reserve revenues.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Appropriations, 1997	\$569,762,000
Budget estimate, 1998	707,700,000
House allowance	644,766,000
Committee recommendation	627,357,000

The amounts recommended for energy conservation, as compared to the budget estimate, are shown in the following table:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Building technology:			
State and community sector:			
Building systems design	\$32,841,000	\$24,056,000	- \$8,785,000
Building equipment and materials	37,151,000	31,071,000	- 6,080,000
Codes and standards	20,573,000	16,173,000	- 4,400,000
Subtotal, State and community sector	90,565,000	71,300,000	- 19,265,000
State and local partnerships:			
Weatherization assistance program	154,100,000	129,000,000	- 25,100,000
State energy program	37,000,000	31,100,000	- 5,900,000
Municipal energy management	1,600,000	1,600,000	.....
Subtotal, State and local partnerships	192,700,000	161,700,000	- 31,000,000
Management and planning	19,150,000	17,850,000	- 1,300,000

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Subtotal, building technology	302,415,000	250,850,000	- 51,565,000
Federal Emergency Management Program:			
Program activities	29,000,000	19,700,000	- 9,300,000
Program direction	3,100,000	1,800,000	- 300,000
Subtotal, Federal Emergency Management Program	31,100,000	21,500,000	- 9,600,000
Industry sector:			
Industries of the future (specific)	55,660,000	52,412,000	- 3,248,000
Industries of the future (crosscutting)	39,120,000	48,120,000	+ 9,000,000
Technology access	37,079,000	25,299,000	- 11,780,000
Management	7,700,000	7,700,000	.....
Subtotal, industry sector	139,559,000	133,531,000	- 6,028,000
Transportation:			
Technology deployment	17,000,000	13,300,000	- 3,700,000
Advanced automotive technologies	129,046,000	114,496,000	- 14,550,000
Advanced heavy vehicle technologies	18,000,000	22,500,000	+ 4,500,000
Transportation materials technologies	30,500,000	34,500,000	+ 4,000,000
Implementation and program management	8,700,000	7,600,000	- 1,100,000
Subtotal, transportation	203,246,000	192,396,000	- 10,850,000
Policy and management	31,380,000	29,080,000	- 2,300,000
Subtotal, energy conservation	707,700,000	627,357,000	- 80,343,000
Offsetting reductions: Use of nonappropriated escrow funds	(- 20,000,000)	(- 20,000,000)	.....
Total, energy conservation	707,700,000	627,357,000	- 80,343,000

The Committee recommends \$627,357,000 for energy conservation, a decrease of \$80,343,000 from the budget estimate, a decrease of \$17,409,000 below the House allowance, and an increase of \$92,448,000 over the fiscal year 1997 level. Of this amount, an indefinite portion is to be derived from the excess amount for fiscal year 1998 as determined under section 3003(d) of the Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987. This amount is from oil overcharge funds, and is estimated to be \$20,000,000.

Buildings.—The Committee recommends \$250,850,000 for building technologies, State and community sector, a decrease below the budget request of \$51,565,000. Included in the amounts provided are \$129,000,000 for weatherization assistance and \$31,000,000 for State energy programs; increases from fiscal year 1997 levels of \$8,155,000 and \$2,100,000, respectively. Changes to the request are shown in the table below:

Budget activity / subactivity / project

Building systems design:	
Building America	- \$2,100,000
Advanced housing technology	- 400,000
Industrialized housing	- 500,000

Budget activity/subactivity/project—Continued

Residential energy efficiency	- 1,000,000
Affordable homes for low-income housing	- 1,000,000
Rebuild America	- 580,000
Commercial/multifamily R&D	- 1,150,000
Best practices	- 2,055,000
Subtotal, building systems design	- 8,785,000
Building equipment and materials:	
Hi-cool heat pump	- 1,050,000
Advanced desiccant technology	500,000
PEM fuel cell research (SIRTI)	2,000,000
Fuel cell building microgeneration	- 700,000
VHF light sources	- 800,000
Lighting applications and impacts	- 500,000
Lighting collaborative	- 580,000
Emerging technology introduction	- 1,100,000
Volume purchases	- 1,500,000
Building materials	- 200,000
Roofs, walls and foundations	- 300,000
High reflectivity surfaces	- 300,000
Electrochromic research	- 600,000
Superwindow collaborative	- 250,000
Advanced glazing	- 700,000
Total, building equipment and materials	- 6,080,000
Codes and standards	- 4,400,000
Weatherization assistance	- 25,100,000
State Energy Program	- 5,900,000
Management and planning:	
Technology and sector data	- 200,000
Analytical studies and planning support	- 500,000
State and local grants	- 600,000
Subtotal, evaluation and planning	- 1,300,000

Funds provided for updating State codes should not be used as a substitute for State funding in cases where States have been unable or unwilling to devote sufficient resources to code programs.

With regard to the home energy rating system program, the Committee expects the Department to continue its scheduled cooperative work with pilot States. However, the Committee understands that ongoing State pilots will be terminated after the pilot States are provided an adequate opportunity to assume full responsibility for their rating systems. Consistent with the budget request, some of this reallocation will occur in fiscal year 1998. This will allow the limited resources available to the HERS program to be reallocated to additional States. The Committee expects the Department's fiscal year 1999 budget request to include a discussion of the status of the various pilot programs.

Federal Energy Management Program.—The Committee recommends \$21,500,000 for Federal energy management, a decrease below the budget request of \$9,600,000. Changes to the request are shown in the table below:

Budget activity/subactivity/project

Innovative financing	-\$3,000,000
Technical assistance	- 3,700,000
Interagency coordination/information transfer	- 2,600,000

Budget activity / subactivity / project—Continued

Program direction	– 300,000
Subtotal, Federal energy management program	– 9,600,000

The Committee has included language in the bill that will allow the Department to accept funds from other agencies in return for assisting agencies in improving energy efficiency in Federal facilities and operations through the use of private financing mechanisms. Such funds shall be retained by the Department and be used only for the purpose of assisting Federal agencies with further efficiency projects through private financing mechanisms.

The Committee supports a more aggressive initiative by all Federal agencies to capture the energy cost savings available through energy conservation retrofit of buildings owned or leased by the Federal Government. The Committee expects that the Energy Policy Act and other relevant laws will be applied such that energy conservation services are acquired from utility or nonutility providers in a competitive manner.

Industry.—The Committee recommends \$133,351,000 for transportation technologies, a decrease below the budget request of \$6,028,000. Changes to the request are shown in the table below:

Budget activity / subactivity / project

Industries of the future (specific):	
Forest and paper products	– \$300,000
Steel	– 666,000
Aluminum	– 400,000
Glass	– 882,000
Chemicals	– 1,000,000
Subtotal, industries of the future (specific)	– 3,248,000
Industrial turbines	9,000,000
Technology access:	
Industrial assessment centers	– 1,000,000
Motor challenge	– 1,000,000
NICE-3	– 6,000,000
Climate wise	– 3,780,000
Subtotal, technology access	– 11,780,000

The Committee commends the industry program for the manner in which it has cooperated with industry groups to consolidate and prioritize efficiency research needs. However, the Committee encourages the Department to remain focused on research efforts whose primary focus is energy efficiency, and to not allow the industry program to become a catchall program for research projects in which energy savings are a minor, secondary benefit.

The Committee also urges the Department to identify in its fiscal year 1999 budget request the crosscutting work being done in the industries of the future program related to combustion systems.

The increase provided for the turbine program is intended to be sufficient to allow program completion by the year 2000.

Transportation.—The Committee recommends \$192,396,000 for transportation technologies, a decrease of \$10,850,000 below the budget request. Changes to the request are shown in the table below:

Budget activity / subactivity / project amount

Technology deployment:	
Clean cities	-\$600,000
Infrastructure, systems, and safety	-2,000,000
EPACT replacement fuels	-100,000
Vehicle field test/evaluation	-500,000
Technical information development	-500,000
Subtotal, Technology deployment	-3,700,000
Advanced automotive technologies:	
Student competitions	-150,000
Advanced battery development	-400,000
Hybrid propulsion systems	-3,000,000
High power energy storage	-5,000,000
Fuel cell R&D	-6,000,000
Subtotal, advanced automotive technology	-14,550,000
Advanced heavy vehicle technologies:	
High efficiency engine R&D	1,000,000
Heavy vehicle alternative fuels R&D	3,500,000
Subtotal, advanced heavy vehicle technology	4,500,000
Transportation materials technologies:	
Automotive materials technology:	
Propulsion materials	2,000,000
Lightweight materials	2,000,000
Subtotal, transportation materials technology	4,000,000
Implementation and program management:	
Evaluation, planning and analysis	-600,000
Program direction	-500,000
Subtotal, implementation and program management	-1,100,000

Within the amount provided for systems optimization, the Committee expects the Department to expand its work with the Gas Research Institute on onboard storage technologies for natural gas vehicles. The Committee also encourages the Department to make use of gas utilization expertise at the University of Oklahoma.

With the increase provided for lightweight materials research, the Committee expects the Department to continue and expand its work with the Northwest Alliance for Transportation Technologies [NATT]. The Committee further encourages the Department to work with NATT in implementing its heavy vehicle systems research and development program. The Department should also continue and expand its cooperative work with trucking manufacturers and the Trucking Research Institute.

Within the funds provided for student competitions, the Department is encouraged to initiate a comparable program for precollege students and teachers focused on the science and engineering features of the Partnership for Next Generation Vehicles Program.

The Committee supports the Department of Energy's interstate clean transportation corridor efforts in coordination with the Clean Cities Program. The Committee is aware of a proposal to reduce particulate emissions and to build an advanced transportation industry program by the advanced transportation technology consortium, CALSTART. To the extent this proposal is consistent with the Department's own plans for this program, the Department is

encouraged to work with CALSTART on ways that it can help to advance the clean cities program, particularly in the proposed Non-attainment Rural Community Natural Gas Vehicle Pilot Program in San Bernardino County, CA.

Policy and management.—The Committee recommends \$29,080,000 for transportation technologies, a decrease below the budget request of \$2,300,000. Changes to the request are shown in the table below:

<i>Budget activity / subactivity / project</i>	
Headquarters contractual services	— \$500,000
Golden field office contractual services	— 300,000
Information and communications program	— 1,500,000

ECONOMIC REGULATION

Appropriations, 1997	\$2,725,000
Budget estimate, 1998	2,725,000
House allowance	2,725,000
Committee recommendation	2,725,000

The Committee recommends \$2,725,000 for economic regulation, the same as the House and the budget request. The “Economic regulation” account funds the Office of Hearings and Appeals, which is responsible for all departmental adjudicatory processes except those under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

Appropriations, 1997	\$209,000,000
Budget estimate, 1998	209,000,000
House allowance	209,000,000
Committee recommendation	207,500,000

The Committee recommends \$207,500,000 for operation of the strategic petroleum reserve, a decrease of \$1,500,000 below the budget estimate and the House level. The Committee expects the Department to offset this decrease by using funds currently allocated for completion of a reserve expansion study. The Committee will consider again appropriating funds for this purpose at such time as further expansion of the reserve appears likely.

The amount recommended for SPR operation is to be repaid from the SPR operating fund established in the bill to receive proceeds from the sale of SPR oil. While the Committee is disappointed that SPR operations must be financed by oil sales in fiscal year 1998, spending constraints and other high-priority programs within this bill prevent the Committee from appropriating new budget authority for SPR operations.

SPR PETROLEUM ACCOUNT

The Committee does not recommend appropriations for the acquisition of oil for the strategic petroleum reserve.

The Committee has again included language in the bill that allows normal operations at Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 1 (Elk Hills) even though the fill rate of the strategic petroleum reserve is less than 75,000 barrels per day. The Committee also recommends a limitation of \$5,000,000 on all outlays from the petro-

leum account. Identical provisions were included in the fiscal year 1997 bill.

ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 1997	\$66,120,000
Budget estimate, 1998	62,800,000
House allowance	66,800,000
Committee recommendation	62,800,000

The Committee recommends \$62,800,000 for the Energy Information Administration, the same as the budget request, \$4,000,000 below the House level, and \$3,320,000 below the fiscal year 1997 level.

While recognizing the degree to which the Energy Information Administration's budget has been cut over the past several years, the Committee is concerned about the reduction in State-level data collection on fuel use and pricing. The Committee urges the EIA to include in its fiscal year 1999 budget request a discussion of its ongoing work in this area, as well as an estimate of the additional resources required to upgrade its State-level data collection capabilities.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES

Appropriations, 1997	\$1,806,269,000
Budget estimate, 1998	1,835,465,000
House allowance	1,829,008,000
Committee recommendation	1,958,235,000

The Committee recommends \$1,958,235,000 for Indian health services, an increase of \$122,770,000 above the budget estimate, an increase of \$129,227,000 over the House level, and \$151,966,000 over the fiscal year 1997 level.

The Committee recommends an additional \$19,976,000 to offset partially fixed cost increases that the budget estimate did not include. The Committee is concerned that, for the last several years, the IHS budget estimate has not included true figures for its uncontrollable increases for pay costs, population growth, and inflation. As a result, important health services may be threatened as program dollars are needed to pay the uncontrollable costs. The Committee encourages the IHS to forward more accurate figures for its fixed costs to the Committee in its budget estimates.

The amounts recommended by the Committee as compared to the budget estimate are shown in the following table:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Clinical services:			
IHS and tribal health delivery:			
Hospital and health clinic programs ...	\$898,022,000	\$916,874,000	+\$18,852,000
Dental health program	64,737,000	66,177,000	+ 1,440,000

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Mental health program	39,034,000	39,770,000	+ 736,000
Alcohol and substance abuse program	91,677,000	91,991,000	+ 314,000
Contract care	374,348,000	374,375,000	+ 27,000
Subtotal, clinical services	1,467,818,000	1,489,187,000	+ 21,369,000
Preventive health:			
Public health nursing	27,994,000	28,607,000	+ 613,000
Health education	8,855,000	8,932,000	+ 77,000
Community health representatives program	44,311,000	44,312,000	+ 1,000
Immunization (Alaska)	1,328,000	1,328,000	.....
Subtotal, preventive health	82,488,000	83,179,000	+ 691,000
Urban health projects	25,777,000	25,288,000	- 489,000
Indian health professions	28,293,000	29,320,000	+ 1,027,000
Tribal management	2,348,000	2,348,000	.....
Direct operations	46,924,000	48,311,000	+ 1,387,000
Self-governance	9,097,000	9,106,000	+ 9,000
Contract support costs	172,720,000	168,702,000	- 4,018,000
Facilities and environmental health support .....	.....	102,794,000	+ 102,794,000
Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements: Hospital and clinic accreditation (est. collecting)	(247,397,000)	(247,397,000)	.....
Total, Indian Health Services	1,835,465,000	1,958,235,000	+ 122,770,000

Hospitals and health clinics.—The Committee recommends \$916,874,000 for hospitals and health clinics. This amount includes increases above the fiscal year 1997 enacted level of \$24,480,000 for fixed costs and \$6,370,000 for staffing new facilities, and a decrease of \$7,800,000, which is a transfer to the facilities account to consolidate all utility costs.

The Committee has included \$3,000,000 for the establishment of an initiative to provide grants to tribes and Indian organizations to support community-based efforts to reduce the incidence of diabetes among American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The Committee understands that legal challenges are not yet resolved with respect to the emergency services at the Wagner, SD, health care facility. In the interim, the Committee understands that IHS continues to provide such services at this location, and the Committee expects IHS to continue this practice in fiscal year 1998 within the total funds provided.

Dental health.—The Committee recommends \$66,177,000 for dental health. This amount includes increases above the fiscal year 1997 enacted level of \$2,336,000 for fixed costs and \$1,058,000 for staffing new facilities.

Mental health.—The Committee recommends \$39,770,000 for mental health. This amount includes increases over the fiscal year 1997 enacted level of \$1,195,000 for fixed costs and \$234,000 for staffing new facilities.

Alcohol and substance abuse.—The Committee recommends \$91,991,000 for alcohol and substance abuse prevention and treat-

ment. This amount includes an increase above the fiscal year 1997 enacted level of \$509,000 for fixed costs.

Contract health services.—The Committee recommends \$374,375,000 for contract health services. This amount includes an increase above the fiscal year 1997 enacted level of \$50,000 for fixed costs and a program increase of \$6,000,000, with a portion of this increase for new tribes.

Public health nursing.—The Committee recommends \$28,607,000 for public health nursing. This amount includes increases above the fiscal year 1997 enacted level of \$995,000 for fixed costs and \$936,000 for staffing new facilities.

Health education.—The Committee recommends \$8,932,000 for health education. This amount includes increases above the fiscal year 1997 enacted level of \$143,000 for fixed costs and \$157,000 for staffing new facilities.

Community health representatives.—The Committee recommends \$44,312,000 for community health representatives. This amount includes increases over the fiscal year 1997 enacted level of \$1,000 for fixed costs and \$338,000 for staffing new facilities.

Alaska immunization.—The Committee recommends \$1,328,000 for the Alaska Immunization Program, the same as the House and the fiscal year 1997 enacted level.

Urban health.—The Committee recommends \$25,288,000 for urban health. This amount includes increases over the fiscal year 1997 enacted level of \$20,000 for fixed costs and \$500,000 for programs.

Indian health professions.—The Committee recommends \$29,320,000 for Indian health professions. This amount includes increases over the fiscal year 1997 enacted level of \$50,000 for fixed costs and \$1,000,000 for the Indians into Psychology Program.

Tribal management.—The Committee recommends \$2,348,000 for tribal management, the same as the House and the fiscal year 1997 enacted level.

Direct operations.—The Committee recommends \$48,311,000 for direct operations. This amount includes an increase over the fiscal year 1997 enacted level of \$2,252,000 for fixed costs and a decrease of \$2,650,000 in downsizing savings.

Self-governance.—The Committee recommends \$9,106,000 for self-governance. This amount includes an increase over the fiscal year 1997 enacted level of \$16,000 for fixed costs.

Contract support costs.—The Committee recommends \$168,702,000 for contract support. This amount includes increases over the fiscal year 1997 enacted level of \$7,500,000 for the Indian self-determination fund for new and expanded contracts and \$482,000 as a transfer from the "Facilities" account.

Facilities and environmental health support.—The Committee recommends \$102,794,000 for facilities and environmental health support. This amount includes increases over the fiscal year 1997 enacted level of \$3,065,000 for fixed costs, \$907,000 for staffing new facilities, and a transfer of \$7,800,000 from the services account to consolidate utility costs.

Funds provided for the facilities program are to be distributed in accordance with a methodology that addresses the fluctuating an-

nual workload and maintains parity among IHS areas and the tribes as the workload shifts.

Reimbursables.—The Committee has provided language that authorizes the Indian Health Service to provide goods and services on a reimbursable basis in a manner consistent with the change in law enacted in the 1997 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (Public Law 105–18).

Alaska Native Medical Center.—The Committee has included language in title III, general provisions regarding the governance of the Alaska Native Medical Center.

Contracting and compacting in Alaska.—The Committee has provided language in title III, general provisions regarding the submission of a GAO report on the regional health care system in Alaska.

Funding Parity.—The Committee is aware that there are a number of tribes whose funding is well below their level of need, including the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewas. The Committee urges the Indian Health Service to work within its allocation to begin to rectify funding inequities. The Committee requests that IHS prepare in a timely fashion a report on IHS' progress in bringing parity to those tribes whose level of need is funded below 60 percent and what actions might be possible to address such situations, including associated costs.

INDIAN HEALTH FACILITIES

Appropriations, 1997	\$247,731,000
Budget estimate, 1998	286,535,000
House allowance	257,310,000
Committee recommendation	168,401,000

The Committee has provided \$168,401,000 for Indian health facilities, a decrease of \$118,134,000 below the budget request, a decrease of \$88,909,000 below the House, and \$79,330,000 below the fiscal year 1997 enacted level. The amounts recommended by the Committee as compared to the budget estimate are shown in the following table:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Maintenance and improvement	\$39,334,000	\$39,334,000	.....
Construction facilities	38,900,000	26,900,000	– \$12,000,000
Sanitation facilities	90,042,000	89,162,000	– 881,000
Facilities and environmental health support	104,772,000	.....	– 104,722,000
Equipment	13,005,000	13,005,000	.....
Contract support	482,000	.....	– 482,000
Total, Indian health facilities	286,535,000	168,401,000	– 118,134,000

Maintenance and improvement.—The Committee recommends \$39,334,000 for maintenance and improvement, the same as the House allowance, the budget request, and the fiscal year 1997 enacted level.

Sanitation facilities.—The Committee recommends \$89,162,000 for sanitation facilities. This amount includes an increase over the fiscal year 1997 enacted level of \$273,000 for fixed costs and a pro-

gram increase of \$1,000,000. Like the House, the Committee has not specified the amount of sanitation funds to be used for new and renovated homes or for addressing the backlog of need for existing homes. The Committee notes that there is a backlog of Indian sanitation facilities deficiencies that, at the end of fiscal year 1995, totaled \$630,000,000 and recognizes the positive impact that reducing this backlog would have on Indian health.

Construction of facilities.—The Committee recommends \$26,900,000 for construction of facilities. Included in the amount provided is \$13,900,000 to begin construction of the Hopi Health Center in Polacca, AZ, and \$13,000,000 to initiate work on the Fort Defiance, AZ, hospital.

Facilities and environmental health support.—The Committee has shifted the facilities and environmental health support activity to the “Indian health services” account.

Equipment.—The Committee recommends \$13,005,000 for equipment, a decrease from the fiscal year 1997 enacted level of \$1,500,000 that reflects administrative savings.

Contract support costs.—The Committee has transferred \$482,000 to the services account to consolidate all contract support costs.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

INDIAN EDUCATION

Funding for this program now falls within the jurisdiction of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee.

OTHER RELATED AGENCIES

OFFICE OF NAVAJO AND HOPI INDIAN RELOCATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 1997	\$19,345,000
Budget estimate, 1998	19,345,000
House allowance	18,345,000
Committee recommendation	15,000,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$15,000,000, a decrease of \$4,345,000 from the budget estimate, \$3,345,000 below the House allowance, and \$4,345,000 below the fiscal year 1997 level.

INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT

PAYMENTS TO THE INSTITUTE

Appropriations, 1997	\$5,500,000
Budget estimate, 1998	5,500,000
House allowance	3,000,000
Committee recommendation	5,500,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$5,500,000, the same as the budget estimate and \$2,500,000 above the House allowance.

Funding is provided with the understanding that this is the last year Federal funding will be provided.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 1997	\$318,492,000
Budget estimate, 1998	334,557,000
House allowance	334,557,000
Committee recommendation	333,708,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$333,708,000 for salaries and expenses of the Smithsonian Institution. This amount is an increase of \$15,216,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level and a decrease of \$849,000 below the budget estimate and the House allowance. The following table provides a comparison of the budget estimate with the Committee recommendation:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Museums and research institutes	\$171,710,000	\$171,572,000	— \$138,000
Program support and outreach	36,099,000	36,099,000	.....
Administration	32,893,000	32,893,000	.....
Facilities services	93,855,000	93,144,000	— 711,000
Total	334,557,000	333,708,000	— 849,000

Increases above the fiscal year 1997 level include the following: \$9,942,000 to meet the uncontrollable costs associated with items such as salaries, utilities, communications, and rent; \$1,225,000 for the final increment of operating funds for the submillimeter array at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory; \$3,924,000 for new facilities support; and \$960,000 for collection information systems. In addition, \$100,000 of the \$935,000 in emergency funds appropriated to the Institution in fiscal year 1997 for enhanced security measures has been retained in the base to meet continuing requirements.

Funds provided for new facilities support include increases of \$2,996,000 for the National Museum of Natural History East Court project; \$593,000 for the National Museum of the American Indian Cultural Resources Center; and \$335,000 for the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

The variance between the budget estimate and the Committee's recommendation is the result of discussions with the Smithsonian Institution and their subsequent identification of reductions based on reestimates and construction schedule changes.

CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS, NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK

Appropriations, 1997	\$3,850,000
Budget estimate, 1998	3,850,000
House allowance	3,850,000
Committee recommendation	3,850,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$3,850,000 for construction and improvements at the National Zoological Park, the same as the budget estimate, the fiscal year 1997 level, and the House allowance.

REPAIR AND RESTORATION OF BUILDINGS

Appropriations, 1997	\$39,000,000
Budget estimate, 1998	32,000,000
House allowance	50,000,000
Committee recommendation	32,000,000

REPAIR AND RESTORATION

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$32,000,000 for the repair and restoration of buildings. This amount is the same as the budget estimate, \$7,000,000 below the fiscal year 1997 level, and \$18,000,000 below the House allowance. The Committee remains concerned about the Institution's maintenance backlog and has recommended a funding level that will provide the Institution with sufficient resources to continue to address its most pressing needs. However, given the budgetary constraints faced by the Committee and its obligation to fund other significant projects, such as construction of the National Museum of the American Indian Mall Museum, additional resources are not available to supplement the budget request.

CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 1997	\$10,000,000
Budget estimate, 1998	58,000,000
House allowance	33,000,000
Committee recommendation	

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$33,000,000, a decrease of \$25,000,000 below the budget estimate and an increase of \$33,000,000 above the House allowance.

The Committee's recommendation includes \$29,000,000 to begin the first phase of construction for the National Museum of the American Indian Mall Museum and \$4,000,000 to complete funding for planning and design of the Dulles extension of the National Air and Space Museum. Bill language is included allowing for a single procurement for the NMAI facility, subject to the availability of funds.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 1997	\$54,281,000
Budget estimate, 1998	53,899,000
House allowance	55,837,000
Committee recommendation	55,837,000

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Care and utilization of art collections	\$20,921,000	\$22,066,000	+\$1,145,000

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Operation and maintenance of buildings and grounds	12,262,000	12,648,000	+ 386,000
Protection of buildings, grounds, and contents	11,663,000	11,933,000	+ 270,000
General administration	9,053,000	9,190,000	+ 137,000
Total	53,899,000	55,837,000	+ 1,938,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$55,837,000 for salaries and expenses at the National Gallery of Art. This amount is an increase of \$1,938,000 above the budget request and the fiscal year 1997 base allocation and the same as the House allowance. Funds above the request level are provided to the gallery in order for uncontrollable cost increases to be met without significant reductions to the current program base that were assumed in the budget estimate.

REPAIR, RESTORATION, AND RENOVATION OF BUILDINGS

Appropriations, 1997	\$5,942,000
Budget estimate, 1998	5,942,000
House allowance	6,442,000
Committee recommendation	5,942,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$5,942,000 for the repair, restoration, and renovation of the gallery's buildings. This amount is the same as the budget request and the 1997 base allocation, and a decrease of \$500,000 from the House allowance. Funds provided will allow the gallery to proceed with two ongoing major renovation projects critical to the protection of collections and public safety: replacement of the West Building skylights, and installation of a new fire protection system. Funds for necessary ongoing minor repair and renovation work are also included within the recommended amount.

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Appropriations, 1997	\$12,475,000
Budget estimate, 1998	11,375,000
House allowance	11,375,000
Committee recommendation	11,375,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$11,375,000 for the operations and maintenance of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. This amount is the same as the budget request, \$500,000 above the fiscal year 1997 base allocation, and the same as the House allowance. In fiscal year 1997, an additional amount of \$1,600,000 in emergency funding was appropriated to the Center for increased security. The proposed funding level for fiscal year 1998 retains a portion of those funds in the base so that the Center can continue to meet the costs of those measures put in place under Public Law 104-208, as well as to meet fixed cost increases and address additional maintenance and repair needs.

CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 1997	\$12,400,000
Budget estimate, 1998	9,000,000
House allowance	9,000,000
Committee recommendation	9,000,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$9,000,000 for the Kennedy Center's capital repair and rehabilitation needs. This amount meets the budget request and is the same as the fiscal year 1997 base allocation and the House allowance. Appropriated funds will be used to continue work on stage I of the comprehensive building plan, which addresses a number of critical remedial actions, including life safety and accessibility projects required to bring the structure up to current standards and codes.

WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 1997	\$5,840,000
Budget estimate, 1998	5,840,000
House allowance	1,000,000
Committee recommendation	5,840,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$5,840,000 for the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. This amount is the same as the budget estimate and the fiscal year 1997 level and an increase of \$4,840,000 above the House allowance.

The Committee notes that in accordance with a directive included in the House report accompanying last year's Interior appropriations bill, the Wilson Center's operations and management were reviewed by the National Academy of Public Administration [NAPA]. Among the recommendations provided in that recently issued report were a realignment of funds among the Center's various activities and the active participation of the Board of Trustees in refining the Center's mission. In light of these proposals, the Committee has not allocated funds among the Center's various divisions, as it has in the past, but rather has apportioned the appropriation into two broader categories: \$4,593,000 for program operations and \$1,247,000 for general administration. This action by the Committee is designed to provide the Wilson Center's leadership with the flexibility to consult with its Board of Trustees and consider NAPA's recommendations before submitting a proposed allocation of its fiscal year 1998 Federal resources to the Committee for its approval in the form of a reprogramming request.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 1997	\$82,734,000
Budget estimate, 1998	119,240,000
House allowance	
Committee recommendation	83,300,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$83,300,000 for grants and administration of the National Endowment for the Arts. This amount is \$35,940,000 below the budget estimate, \$566,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level, and \$83,300,000 above the House allowance.

The following table provides a comparison of the budget estimates and the Committee recommendations:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Grants: Program grants	\$65,339,000	\$37,435,000	-\$27,904,000
State programs:			
State grants	27,643,000	22,250,000	- 5,393,000
State set-aside	7,539,000	6,069,000	- 1,470,000
Subtotal, State programs	35,182,000	28,319,000	- 6,863,000
Subtotal, grants	100,521,000	65,754,000	- 34,767,000
Administrative areas:			
Policy planning and research	450,000	440,000	- 10,000
Administration	17,569,000	16,446,000	- 1,123,000
Computer replacement	700,000	660,000	- 40,000
Subtotal, administrative areas	18,719,000	17,546,000	- 1,173,000
Total, grants and administration	119,240,000	83,300,000	- 35,940,000

The proposed increase above the current budget level will allow the Endowment to meet its uncontrollable cost increases without further erosion to the program budget. In addition, the Committee has included bill language that provides the Chairman of the NEA with specific authority to solicit and invest funds. The Committee believes that it is appropriate to provide the agency with this ability, particularly in light of recent program reductions and discussions within Congress of alternate funding mechanisms designed to create an independent endowment. However, in providing this authority the Committee wants to make clear its recognition that private resources can only enhance but not replace Federal funding. The Committee opposes House action aimed at eliminating the Endowment and remains strongly supportive of its work and the provision of a Federal appropriation to continue its mission.

MATCHING GRANTS

Appropriations, 1997	\$16,760,000
Budget estimate, 1998	16,760,000
House allowance	
Committee recommendation	16,760,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$16,760,000, the same amount as the budget estimate and the fiscal year 1997 level. The House included no funds for this activity.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 1997	\$96,100,000
Budget estimate, 1998	118,250,000
House allowance	96,100,000
Committee recommendation	96,800,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$96,800,000 for grants and administration of the National Endowment for the Humanities. This amount is \$21,450,000 below the budget estimate and the \$700,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level and the House allowance.

The following table provides a comparison of the budget estimates and the Committee recommendations:

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Change
Grants:			
Program grants	\$50,300,000	\$34,000,000	— \$16,300,000
State programs	30,150,000	28,000,000	— 2,150,000
Office of Preservation	21,000,000	18,000,000	— 3,000,000
Subtotal, grants	101,450,000	80,000,000	— 21,450,000
Administrative areas: Administration	16,800,000	16,800,000	.....
Total, grants and administration	118,250,000	96,800,000	— 21,450,000

The proposed increase above the current budget level will allow the Endowment to meet its uncontrollable cost increases without further erosion to the program budget. In addition, the Committee has included bill language that provides the Chairman of the NEH with specific authority to solicit and invest funds. The Committee believes that it is appropriate to provide the agency with this ability, particularly in light of recent program reductions and discussions within Congress of alternate funding mechanisms designed to create an independent endowment. However, in providing this authority the Committee wants to make clear its recognition that private resources can only enhance, but not replace Federal funding. The Committee remains strongly supportive of the Endowment's work and the provision of a Federal appropriation to continue its mission.

MATCHING GRANTS

Appropriations, 1997	\$13,900,000
Budget estimate, 1998	17,750,000
House allowance	13,900,000
Committee recommendation	13,900,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$13,900,000, a decrease of \$3,850,000 from the budget estimate and the same as the fiscal year 1997 level and the House allowance.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

OFFICE OF MUSEUM SERVICES

GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 1997	\$22,000,000
Budget estimate, 1998	26,000,000
House allowance	23,390,000
Committee recommendation	22,290,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$22,290,000 for the Office of Museum Services. This amount is \$3,710,000 below the budget estimate, \$290,000 above the fiscal year 1997 enacted level, and \$1,100,000 below the House allowance. The proposed increase above the current appropriation meets the Office of Museum Services' request for additional administrative dollars to fund uncontrollable cost increases. It also supports proposed organizational changes stipulated in the authorization passed by the Congress last year (Public Law 104-208), which merged the Institute for Museum Services with the Office of Library Sciences, U.S. Department of Education into one independent agency. Programs of the Office of Library Sciences will continue to be funded through the Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill.

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 1996	\$867,000
Budget estimate, 1997	867,000
House allowance	907,000
Committee recommendation	907,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$907,000 for the Commission of Fine Arts. This amount is \$40,000 above the budget estimate and the fiscal year 1997 enacted level and the same as the House allowance. The proposed level includes additional funds to meet anticipated uncontrollable costs increases.

NATIONAL CAPITAL ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Appropriations, 1997	\$6,000,000
Budget estimate, 1998	6,000,000
House allowance	6,000,000
Committee recommendation	7,000,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$7,000,000 for the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program. This amount is an increase of \$1,000,000 above the budget estimate, the fiscal year 1997 enacted level, and the House allowance. Additional funds will provide enhanced grant support to cultural institutions within the District of Columbia, which lack access to the State and local resources typically available to similar organizations throughout the United States.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Appropriations, 1997	\$2,500,000
Budget estimate, 1998	2,745,000
House allowance	2,700,000
Committee recommendation	2,745,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$2,745,000, the same as the budget estimate and \$45,000 over the House allowance. The increase provided over the current year level is for implementation of streamlined regulations under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and for upgrade of the Council's computer system.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 1997	\$5,390,000
Budget estimate, 1998	5,740,000
House allowance	5,700,000
Committee recommendation	5,740,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$5,740,000 for the National Capital Planning Commission. This amount is the same as the budget estimate, \$350,000 above the fiscal year 1997 level, and \$40,000 above the House allowance. At the recommended level, the Commission can fulfill its current responsibilities, meet its fixed costs increases, and implement several key proposals included in the first initiatives program of the monumental core framework plan. The Committee supports the Washington geographic information system project and concurs with House action authorizing the Commission to charge fees to cover the full costs of its products and services, with receipts credited to this account as an offsetting collection. The Committee notes that salaries for the two FTE's requested to support GIS work will be derived from these receipts and not covered by appropriated funds.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 1996	\$500,000
Budget estimate, 1997	
House allowance	
Committee recommendation	

With the completion and dedication of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, the operations of the Commission will no longer be in effect in fiscal year 1998. Bill language addressing the orderly closedown and transfer of the Commission's functions is addressed under title III, general provisions.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 1997	\$31,707,000
Budget estimate, 1998	31,707,000
House allowance	31,707,000
Committee recommendation	31,707,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$31,707,000 for the Holocaust Memorial Council. This amount is the same as the budget request, the fiscal year 1997 level, and the House allowance. An amount of \$1,000,000 provided for security enhancements in fiscal year 1997 has been retained in the fiscal year 1998 base in order for the Holocaust Museum to meet the continuing salary costs of the two new security positions, as well as to fund uncontrollable pay costs and address small maintenance projects. The Committee concurs with the organizational restructuring proposed in the budget and gives approval to the museum to begin implementation in the last quarter of fiscal year 1997.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Committee has recommended inclusion of several general provisions in the bill including the following:

SEC. 301. Provides that contracts which provide consulting services be a matter of public record and available for public review, except where otherwise provided by law.

SEC. 302. Provides a restriction on noncompetitive bidding in the Shawnee National Forest, IL.

SEC. 303. Provides that appropriations available in the bill shall not be used to produce literature or otherwise promote public support of a legislative proposal on which legislative action is not complete.

SEC. 304. Provides that appropriations made available in this bill will not remain available beyond the current fiscal year unless otherwise provided.

SEC. 305. Provides that appropriations made available in this bill cannot be used to provide a cook, chauffeur, or other personal servants.

SEC. 306. Provides for restrictions on departmental assessments unless approved by the Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 307. Continues Buy American provisions and requirements included in previous years.

SEC. 308. Limits the actions of the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management with regard to the sale of giant sequoia trees to a manner consistent with such sales as were conducted in fiscal year 1995.

SEC. 309. Prohibits the National Park Service from implementing a concession contract which permits or requires the removal of the underground lunchroom at Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

SEC. 310. Provides that when construction contracts managed pursuant to specified laws are completed at a lower cost than estimated, the difference shall be expended in a manner determined by the appropriate Secretary after consultation with the affected tribe.

SEC. 311. Provides that quarterly payments to tribes under annual funding agreements pursuant to Public Law 93-638, as amended, may be made on the first business day following the first day of a fiscal quarter.

SEC. 312. Restricts the use of any funds in the bill for the AmeriCorps program unless the reprogramming guidelines are followed and the program is funded in the VA-HUD appropriations bill.

SEC. 313. Prohibits the use of funds appropriated in the bill to demolish the bridge between Jersey City, NJ, and Ellis Island or prevent the pedestrian use of such bridge when it is made known that such use is consistent with generally accepted safety standards.

SEC. 314. Retains mining patent moratorium carried in previous years.

SEC. 315. Prohibits the use of funds for the acquisition of lands in the counties of Gallia, Lawrence, Monroe, or Washington, OH, for the Wayne National Forest.

SEC. 316. Strikes House language that limits the use of funds to prepare, promulgate, implement, or enforce any interim or final rule or regulation on jurisdiction over subsistence fishing in Alaska.

SEC. 317. Deletes language relating to Public Law 101-382, concerning the export of State and Federal timber in the Western United States. This issue is addressed in title VI.

SEC. 318. Includes language restricting the use of funds appropriated in this bill for the western director and special assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture unless the expenditure is approved in advance by the Appropriations Committees in compliance with the reprogramming procedures contained in this report.

SEC. 319. Includes language allowing competition for watershed restoration projects through the "Jobs in the Woods" component of the President's forest plan for the Pacific Northwest to be limited to individuals and entities in historically timber-dependent areas covered by the plan and makes the provision permanent.

SEC. 320. Senate deletes House-proposed language amending the recreation fee demonstration program.

SEC. 321. Language is included to require prior approval by the Appropriations Committees before commencing planning, design, or construction of any project funded with recreation fee demonstration moneys when the estimated total project cost is greater than \$500,000.

SEC. 322. Amends Public Law 96-451 (16 U.S.C 1606a(d)(1)), to allow obligations from the reforestation trust fund to fund forest stand improvement activities related to forest health enhancement and reduction of hazardous fuel loads in the National Forest System.

SEC. 323. Deletes language included by the House concerning the Interior Columbia basin ecosystem management project and the upper Columbia River basin ecosystem management strategy.

SEC. 324. Amends Public Law 104-333 to allow the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area to include areas previously excluded if the governing body of the jurisdiction wishes to be included in the heritage area, and demonstrates so through a revokable resolution to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior and the management entities for the Heritage Area.

SEC. 325. Deletes House language precluding funds appropriated to the Indian Health Service from being used to restructure the funding of Indian health care delivery systems to Alaskan Natives and inserts Senate language related to a consortium for the provision of health services through the Alaska Native Medical Center and the IHS Alaska area office.

The Committee is addressing the issue of governance of the new Alaska Native Medical Center in order to insure efficient, experienced Alaska Native management and control when responsibility for its operation is transferred from the Indian Health Service to Alaska Native management. Management of the Alaska Native

Medical Center and the Alaska area office will be the largest self-governance contract yet to be negotiated under Public Law 93-638, with an annual operating budget approaching \$100,000,000. In an era of limited funding for the Indian Health Service, the Committee considers it imperative that scarce funds available to meet the health needs of Alaska Natives be professionally and prudently managed to provide the maximum amount of high quality health services to Alaska Natives.

The Committee is aware that in over 2 years of negotiations among Alaska's Native entities, the existence of over 200 recognized tribes, regional entities, and various other concerned organizations, has made consensus around a particular governing structure exceptionally difficult to achieve.

The Committee intends in this section to lay out a framework for Alaska Native governance of the Alaska Native Medical Center and for the Alaska area office, including the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering. To draw on the existing expertise of the Alaska Native regional health entities now managing extensive regional health networks in Alaska, the Committee bill calls for formation of a new consortium made up of representatives of each of Alaska's regional Native health entities, the Metlakatla Indian Community, and representatives from villages and subregional health organizations, and governed by a board of directors.

The Committee further intends, by these provisions, to keep the statewide services of the Alaska Native Medical Center and the Alaska area office intact in Anchorage and managed by the new consortium, with the exception of primary care services. The Committee bill directs Cook Inlet Region, Inc., through Southcentral Foundation, or any lawfully designated health care entity of Cook Inlet Region, Inc., to enter into a funding agreement with the Indian health service to provide all primary health care services now being provided by the Alaska Native Primary Care Center and the Alaska Native Medical Center, including through satellite clinics, in order to encourage the efficient management of primary care services provided by both the ANPCC and the ANMC.

The Committee expects Cook Inlet Region, Inc., through Southcentral Foundation (or any lawfully designated health care entity) to form an advisory committee representative of persons eligible to receive primary care services who do not reside within the Cook Inlet region to assure the equitable delivery of such services. Members of the committee should be appointed by the other regional health entities within the Anchorage service unit. The Committee intends that the consortium and Cook Inlet Region, Inc., through Southcentral Foundation (or any lawfully designated health care entity) shall maintain a written agreement governing distribution of statewide third party reimbursement designed to assure the continued financial stability of the Alaska Native Medical Center.

SEC. 326. Several Alaska Native villages and Alaska Native village corporations across the State of Alaska have announced plans to take their share of funds out of Alaska Native regional corporation health care entities in order to provide their own health services. Under Public Law 93-638 Alaska Native villages or Alaska Native village corporations may remove funds previously allocated

to an Alaska Native regional corporation health care entity by giving 90 days advance notice to the Indian Health Service. The removal of these funds undermines the cost-effective nature of the regional corporation health care entities, diminishing the quality of service for all Alaska Natives served by that entity and creating further strains on already limited Indian Health Service funds. The regional health care concept has been developed over the past 20 years in Alaska and has served the Native community well. This amendment will prevent further removals until Congress has an opportunity to review the report that this section requires the General Accounting Office to submit by June 1, 1998. The Committee intends to address this matter further in a future appropriations Act.

SEC. 327. The Committee has not included language proposed by the House related to expenditures for the Man and Biosphere Program and the World Heritage Program administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization [UNESCO]. The Committee understands that designation under these programs imposes no land use restrictions on lands included in the program. Agencies participating do so through existing statutory authorities. These programs cede absolutely no authority to the United Nations or other international organizations to control land use decisions in the United States. International site recognitions defer all land use decisions to Federal, State, or local governments; tribes; or private property owners, subject to domestic law. The Committee expects the agencies to involve the public fully in deliberations over possible designations.

SEC. 328. Includes language permanently prohibiting to use of funds in this or any other act from being used to designate, or post any sign designating, any portion of Canaveral National Seashore in Brevard County, FL, as a clothing-optional area, if such designation would be contrary to county ordinance.

SEC. 329. Inserts language defining the grantmaking capabilities and responsibilities of the National Endowment of the Arts. Grants to individuals may be made only for literature fellowships, national heritage fellowships, or American jazz masters fellowships. The Chairperson of the Endowment will establish procedures to ensure that grants made, except those to a State or local arts agency, will not be used to make a further grant to any other organization or individual to conduct activity independent of the direct grant recipient.

SEC. 330. Inserts language to allow the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities to raise funds and gifts, to deposit such in an interest-bearing account for the appropriate Endowment, and to use such to further the functions of the respective Endowments in accordance with the specified intent of the donors.

SEC. 331. Inserts language to allow the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to make reciprocal delegations of authority, duties, and responsibilities in order to further joint pilot programs to promote customer service and efficiency between the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the management of public lands and forests, provided that there is no extension or altering

of existing applicable public laws or regulations regarding the management of such lands.

SEC. 332. Prohibits the use of any appropriation in the act for any activities associated with the revision of national forest land management plans until such time that the administration publishes new final rules in the Federal Register.

SEC. 333. Prohibits the use of this appropriation to fund any activities associated with the issuance of the 5-year program under the Resources Planning Act. Strategic planning activities carried out for that act should now be completed as part of the agency's compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act, Public Law 103-62.

SEC. 334. Inserts language which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into cooperative agreements with willing private landowners and State and local governments for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other resources on public or private land that benefits these resources within the watershed.

SEC. 335. The Committee has included language providing for the termination of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Commission and the transfer of any remaining, unexpended Commission funds to a nonprofit organization. Any funds transferred are to be used in support of maintenance and repair of the Memorial and public interpretation and education.

SEC. 336. Language has been included in the bill to facilitate land exchanges between the States of Oregon and Washington within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

SEC. 337. Language is included in the bill making a minor adjustment in the boundaries of the Wenatchee National Forest to facilitate a land exchange proposed by the Bureau of Land Management. Identical language has been passed by the House of Representatives.

SEC. 338. Includes language precluding the use of any funds provided in this act for the Center of Excellence for Sustainable Development unless a budget request has been submitted and approved by the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

SEC. 339. The Committee has included provisions prohibiting the use of funds to amend or replace the BLM regulations on surface mining found at 43 C.F.R. 3809, or to prepare a draft environmental impact statement on any such proposal, until the Secretary of the Interior establishes a Committee which prepares and submits a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the House Committee on Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The Committee shall be composed of representatives from the Department and a representative appointed by the Governor of each State that contains public lands open to location under the general mining laws. The report shall (1) contain consensus recommendations on the appropriate relationship of States and Federal land management agencies in environmental, land management and regulation of activities subject to surface mining regulations, (2) identify current and proposed State environmental, land management and reclamation laws regulations, performance standards and policies applicable to

such activities; (3) explain how these State laws, regulations, performance standards and policies are coordinated with Federal surface management efforts; and (4) contain consensus recommendations for how Federal and State coordination can be maximized in the future.

The Committee believes that the most effective way to achieve these goals is through a series of coordinated actions. First, the Committee recommends that the Federal Government should establish a National Surface Management Council. This Council should be composed of representatives from the Federal Government, the States, and the private sector. The Council should be responsible for developing a national surface management strategy, coordinating Federal and State efforts, and providing technical assistance to the States. Second, the Committee recommends that the Federal Government should establish a National Surface Management Fund. This Fund should be used to provide financial assistance to the States for surface management activities. Third, the Committee recommends that the Federal Government should establish a National Surface Management Research and Development Program. This program should be used to support research and development activities that are necessary to improve surface management practices. Finally, the Committee recommends that the Federal Government should establish a National Surface Management Training Program. This program should be used to provide training and technical assistance to State and local officials.

The Committee believes that these actions are necessary to achieve the goals of the National Surface Management Act. The Committee also believes that these actions are feasible. The Federal Government has the resources and the authority to carry out these actions. The States and the private sector are also interested in improving surface management practices. Therefore, the Committee believes that these actions will be successful. The Committee also believes that these actions will result in improved surface management practices, which will lead to improved water quality and increased protection of the Nation's surface resources. The Committee believes that these actions are the best way to achieve these goals.

TITLE IV—DEFICIT REDUCTION LOCK BOX

The Committee has deleted House language establishing a new title creating a deficit reduction lock box. Because this title amends the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, it falls within the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee.

TITLE V—PRIORITY LAND ACQUISITIONS AND EXCHANGES

In addition to the amounts included elsewhere in this bill for land acquisition by the four land management agencies, the Committee has included an additional \$700,000,000 for land acquisition pursuant to the provisions of the balanced budget agreement between the administration and the leadership of Congress. The Committee recognizes that Federal acquisition of certain lands is necessary and desirable for the protection of important biological, cultural, historical, recreational and scenic resources, and to eliminate inholdings and consolidate Federal ownership to allow for more efficient management of public lands. However, the \$700,000,000 provided under this heading represents \$700,000,000 that is not available for other programs, including the operating accounts of the agencies funded in this bill. Given the significant maintenance backlogs and operational shortfalls that exist within these agencies, the Committee questions whether the allocation of an additional \$700,000,000 for land acquisition at this time represents a proper setting of priorities.

The Committee notes that while the budget agreement provides for an additional \$700,000,000 for land acquisition, it does not make any specific provision for the future costs of habitat restoration, rehabilitation activities, or other general management of the lands to be acquired. Nor does the agreement provide for the cost of payments in lieu of taxes that must be paid on many of those lands. As such, the Committee strongly urges the administration to focus its specific acquisition proposals on purchases that will lessen the costs of public land management by consolidating Federal ownership and eliminating inholdings. The Committee believes there are many acquisition opportunities that will accomplish this goal while providing for the protection of important biological, cultural, historical, recreational, and scenic resources. Due to the availability of the funds provided under this heading, and the expectation that they will be used in part to acquire critical inholdings and respond to emergencies, the Committee has reduced the inholding and emergency accounts in the regular land acquisition accounts.

The Committee further believes that resource protection is not solely the responsibility nor domain of the Federal Government, and that States can in many cases extract greater value from monies appropriated from Land and Water Conservation Fund. For this reason the Committee has allocated \$100,000,000 of the funds provided for the stateside grant program established under section 6 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. Such funds are to be allocated over a 4-year period at a rate of \$25,000,000 per year, consistent with established grant procedures. A minimal portion of these funds may be used for administration of the grant program, but not for other acquisition management purposes. The Committee notes that these funds are provided on a one-time basis

to maintain the State grant program while a permanent funding source can be identified. The Committee will likely be unable to fund the stateside program in future years within the parameters of the regular land acquisition accounts and the anticipated constraints of the budget agreement.

The Committee has also included language in the bill that is necessary to facilitate the acquisition of the New World Mine site and the Headwaters Forest. However, expenditure of funds for these two acquisitions is made subject to enactment of specific legislation authorizing the purchases. The Committee feels strongly that such a provision is warranted by the magnitude of the proposed acquisitions, the complexity of the agreements that precipitated the acquisition proposals, and the almost complete failure of the administration to consult the appropriate committees prior to committing such a large amount of Federal resources. The Committee notes that these proposals follow several other large administration initiatives in the natural resource area that have expensive price tags, and for which additional funding has come at the expense of the core mission functions of the agencies. Examples include the Pacific Northwest forest plan, Everglades/south Florida ecosystem restoration, designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, the California Bay-Delta initiative, and other initiatives not yet known. If executed, the Headwaters and New World Mine purchases would consume \$315,000,000 of the \$700,000,000 appropriated under this heading for land acquisition. This amount is more than the total amount provided in this bill for land acquisition in the last 2 years combined.

The allocation of the remainder of the funds provided is to be determined through consultations between the administration and Congress, and confirmed through written approval by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees of a project list to be submitted by the administration for review. No funds may be expended until a final list is approved by the Committees. The Committee intends to work closely with the various agencies in developing a list of projects that reflects the general priorities described above.

Language is included in the bill allowing a portion of the funds provided to be used for acquisition of the Sterling Forest and the Elwha dams. Both of these acquisitions are ongoing and have previously been authorized, but are included under this account due to the expense of the projects.

TITLE VI—FOREST RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND SHORTAGE RELIEF

The Committee has included in title VI of this bill, timber processing provisions to modify the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 [FRCSRA] by: (1) making the Washington State log export ban a complete and permanent ban on log exports from Washington's public lands; (2) making it clear that FRCSRA does not restrict the domestic movement and processing of private timber, except in Idaho; (3) protecting the ability of Washington's private tree farmers to choose to market freely their private timber; (4) making some timber processing facilities located in western Washington more competitive for timber harvest from private and Federal lands; (5) providing the Secretaries concerned with discretion to impose reasonable timber marking, branding, and report requirements and to waive such requirements when appropriate; and (6) clarifying other enforcement and due proves provisions in the act.

The primary purpose of FRCSRA is to encourage domestic processing of timber. It is necessary to amend the act with the language in this title in order to clarify and preserve the intent of Congress to optimize the domestic processing of timber in Western States and to avoid the imposition of restrictions on the domestic transportation and processing of some timber harvested on western private property.

On September 8, 1995, USDA issued and made effective immediately the final rule to implement the act. Because of the unintended consequences and adverse impact this rule would have on the western forest products industry, particularly in Washington State where Federal timber harvests have fallen from 1.5 billion board feet prior to enactment of the act to less than 100 million board feet in 1996, Congress suspended the final rule and maintained the Washington State log export ban at 100 percent.

The timber processing provisions in this bill are the result of the efforts of many in Congress and the western forest products industry to resolve the problems caused by the September 8, 1995, rule and by changes in western timber markets since this act was enacted in 1990.

BUDGETARY IMPACT OF BILL

PREPARED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PURSUANT TO SEC.
308(a), PUBLIC LAW 93-344, AS AMENDED

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority		Outlays	
	Committee allocation	Amount of bill	Committee allocation	Amount of bill
Comparison of amounts in the bill with Committee allocations to its subcommittees of amounts in the First Concurrent Resolution for 1997: Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies:				
Defense discretionary				
Nondefense discretionary	13,000		13,472	¹
Violent crime reduction fund				
Mandatory	55		50	
Projections of outlays associated with the recommendation:				
1998				²
1999				
2000				
2001				
2002 and future year				
Financial assistance to State and local governments for 1998 in bill	NA		NA	

¹ Includes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

² Excludes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

NA: Not applicable.

LIMITATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7, RULE XVI OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Rule XVI, paragraph 7 requires that every report on a general appropriation bill filed by the Committee must identify each recommended amendment which proposes an item of appropriation which is not made to carry out the provisions of an existing law, a treaty stipulation, or an act or resolution previously passed by the Senate during that session.

Those items are as follows:

- \$578,151,000 for management of lands and resources, Bureau of Land Management;
- \$3,154,000 for construction and access, Bureau of Land Management;
- \$282,728,000 for wildland fire management, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management;
- \$9,113,000 for range improvements, Bureau of Land Management;
- Such amounts as may be collected in service charges, deposits, and forfeitures, Bureau of Land Management;
- Such amounts as may be contributed in miscellaneous trust funds, Bureau of Land Management;
- Unspecified amounts for the Bureau of Land Management to assist in the protection of lands in Alaska, on a reimbursable basis;
- \$93,181,000 for endangered species program functions, Fish and Wildlife Service;
- Such sums as become available in alternative fuels production, Department of Energy;
- \$2,725,000 for economic regulation, Department of Energy;
- \$62,800,000 for Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy;
- \$100,600,000 for the National Endowment for the Arts;
- \$110,700,000 for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7(C), RULE XXVI OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Pursuant to paragraph 7(c) of rule XXVI, the accompanying bill was ordered reported from the Committee, subject to amendment and subject to the subcommittee allocation, by recorded vote of 00-0.

Yeas

Nays

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 12, RULE XXVI OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Paragraph 12 of rule XXVI requires that Committee report on a bill or joint resolution repealing or amending any statute or part of any statute include "(a) the text of the statute or part thereof which is proposed to be repealed; and (b) a comparative print of that part of the bill or joint resolution making the amendment and of the statute or part thereof proposed to be amended, showing by stricken-through type and italics, parallel columns, or other appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions which would be made by the bill or joint resolution if enacted in the form recommended by the committee."

In compliance with this rule, the following changes in existing law proposed to be made by the bill are shown as follows: existing law to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets; new matter is printed in italic; and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman.

69 STAT. 694 IS AMENDED

JOINT RESOLUTION

To establish a commission to formulate plans for a memorial to Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Whereas the American people feel a deep debt of gratitude to Franklin Delano Roosevelt for his leadership in America's struggle for peace, well-being, and human dignity: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby established a commission, to be known as the "Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission" (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"), for the purpose of considering and formulating plans for the design, construction, and location of a permanent memorial to Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, or in its immediate environs. The Commission shall be composed of twelve Commissioners appointed as follows: Four persons to be appointed by the President of the United States, four Senators by the President of the Senate, and four Members of the House of Representatives by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Commissioners shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in carrying out the duties of the Commission. *The Commission shall submit a final report to the President and Congress prior to termination.* The Commission shall report such plans, together with its recommendations, to the President and Congress at the earliest practicable date, and in the interim shall make annual reports of its progress to the President and the Congress.

SEC. 2. The Commission is authorized to—

(a) make such expenditures for personal services and otherwise for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this joint resolution as it may deem advisable from funds appropriated or received as gifts for such purpose;

(b) accept gifts to be used in carrying out the provisions of this joint resolution or to be used in connection with the construction or other expenses of such Memorial;

(c) hold hearings, organize contests, enter into contracts for personal services and otherwise, and do such other things as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this joint resolution; and

(d) avail itself of the assistance and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the National Capital Regional Planning Council, and such Commissions and Council shall, upon request, render such assistance and advice.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized, upon the request of the Commission, to participate in the planning and design of the memorial.

SEC. 4. TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Commission shall terminate on the earlier of—*

(1) *December 31, 1997; or*

(2) *the date that the Commission reports to the President and the Congress that the Commission's work is complete.*

(b) *COMMISSION FUNDS.*—

(1) *DESIGNATION.*—*Before the termination of the Commission, the Commission shall designate a nonprofit organization to collect, manage, and expend Commission funds after its termination.*

(2) *TRANSFER OF FUNDS.*—*Before termination the Commission shall transfer all Commission funds to the entity designated under paragraph (1).*

(3) *AMOUNTS COLLECTED AFTER TERMINATION.*—*The entity designated under paragraph (1) shall have the right to collect any amounts accruing to the Commission after the Commission's termination, including amounts—*

(A) *given to the Commission as a gift or bequest; or*

(B) *raised from the sale of coins issued under the United States Commemorative Coin Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 4005; 31 U.S.C. 5112 note).*

(4) *USES OF FUNDS.*—*The Commission may specify uses for any funds made available under this section to the entity designated under paragraph (1), including—*

(A) *to provide for the support, maintenance, and repair of the Memorial; and*

(B) *to interpret and educate the public about the Memorial.*

(5) *NEGOTIATION AND CONTRACT.*—*The Commission may negotiate and contract with a nonprofit organization before designating the organization under paragraph (1).*

SEC. [4] 5. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this joint resolution.

RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY AND FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT ACT
OF 1980, AS AMENDED (PUBLIC LAW 96-451)

SEC. 303. REFORESTATION TRUST FUND.

* * * * *

(d) OBLIGATIONS FROM TRUST FUND.—The Secretary of Agriculture is hereafter authorized to obligate such sums as are available in the Trust Fund (including any amounts not obligated in previous fiscal years) for—

- (1) reforestation and timber stand improvement as specified in section 3(d) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(d)) *and other forest stand improvement activities to enhance forest health and reduce hazardous fuel loads of forest stands in the National Forest System*; and
- (2) properly allocable administrative costs of the Federal Government for the activities specified above.

* * * * *

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1989 (PUBLIC LAW 100-446)

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

* * * * *

TERRITORIAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

* * * * *

COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION

For economic assistance and necessary expenses for the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands as provided for in sections 122, 221, 223, 232, and 233 of the Compact of Free Association, \$32,360,000, including \$2,500,000 for the Enjebi Community Trust Fund, to remain available until expended, as authorized by Public Law 99-239: *Provided*, That notwithstanding the provisions of Public Laws 99-500 and 99-591, the effective date of the Palau Compact for purposes of economic assistance pursuant to the Palau Compact of Free Association, Public Law 99-658, shall be the effective date of the Palau Compact as determined pursuant to section 101(d) of Public Law 99-658: *Provided further*, That in full satisfaction of the obligation of the United States to provide funds to assist in the resettlement and rehabilitation of Bikini Atoll by the People of Bikini, to which the full faith and credit of the United States is pledged pursuant to section 103(l) of Public Law 99-239, the United States shall deposit \$90,000,000 into the Resettlement Trust Fund for the People of Bikini established pursuant to Public Law 97-257, and governed pursuant to the terms of such trust instrument, such deposit to be installments of \$5,000,000 on October 1, 1988; \$22,000,000 on October 1, 1989; \$21,000,000 on October 1, 1990; \$21,000,000 on October 1, 1991; and \$21,000,000 on October 1, 1992: *Provided further*, That the terms of such Resettlement Trust Fund are hereby modi-

fied to provide that corpus and income may be expended for rehabilitation and resettlement of Bikini Atoll, except that the Secretary may approve expenditures not to exceed ~~[\$2,000,000]~~ \$2,500,000 in any year from income for projects on Kili or Ejit, *and commencing on October 1, 1998 and every year thereafter, this dollar amount shall be changed to reflect any fluctuation occurring during the previous twelve (12) months in the Consumer Price Index, as determined by the Secretary of Labor: Provided further,* That one year prior to completion of the rehabilitation and resettlement program, the Secretary of the Interior shall report to Congress on future funding needs on Bikini Atoll. Unless otherwise determined by Congress, following completion of the rehabilitation and resettlement program, funds remaining in the Resettlement Trust Fund in excess of the amount identified by the Secretary as required for future funding needs shall be deposited in the United States Treasury as miscellaneous receipts. Upon completion of those needs, the Resettlement Trust Fund shall be extinguished and all remaining funds shall be deposited in the United States Treasury as miscellaneous receipts. The payment and use of funds in accordance herewith is for the sole purpose of implementing and fulfilling the terms of the Section 177 Agreement referred to in section 462(d) of the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, including Article VI, section 1, and Articles X and XII, thereof. Payments pursuant hereto shall be made only upon: One, voluntary dismissal with prejudice of *Juda et al. v. the United States*, No. 88-1206 (Fed. Cir.); and two, submission of written notice to the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, executed by duly authorized representatives acting on their behalf, that the People of Bikini accept the obligations and undertaking of the United States to make the payments prescribed by this Act, together with the other payments, rights, entitlements and benefits provided for under the Section 177 Agreement, as full satisfaction of all claims of the People of Bikini related in any way to the United States nuclear testing program in accordance with the terms of the Section 177 Agreement.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1994 (PUBLIC LAW 103-138)

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION FUND

To conduct natural resource damage assessments and restoration activities by the Department of the Interior necessary to carry out the provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq.), Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq.), the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-380),

and the Act of July 27, 1990 (Public Law 101-337); \$6,700,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts appropriated or credited in fiscal year 1992 and thereafter, may be transferred to any account, *including transfers to Federal trustees and payments to non-Federal trustees*, to carry out the provisions of negotiated legal settlements or other legal actions for restoration activities and to carry out the provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq.), Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq.), the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-380), and the Act of July 27, 1990 (Public Law 101-337) for damage assessment activities: *Provided further*, That sums provided by any party are not limited to monetary payments and may include stocks, bonds or other personal or real property, which may be retained, liquidated or otherwise disposed of by the Secretary and such sums or properties shall be utilized for the restoration of injured resources, and to conduct new damage assessment activities.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1995 (PUBLIC LAW 103-332)

GENERAL PROVISIONS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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SEC. 115. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in fiscal year 1995 and thereafter, appropriations made to the Department of the Interior in this title *or provided from other Federal agencies through reimbursable or other agreements pursuant to the Economy Act* may be used to fund incrementally research work orders for cooperative agreements with colleges and universities, State agencies, and nonprofit organizations that overlap fiscal years: *Provided*, That such cooperative agreements shall contain a statement that "the obligation of funds for future incremental payments shall be subject to the availability of funds."

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OMNIBUS CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997 (PUBLIC LAW
104-208)

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

For expenses necessary for scientific and economic studies, conservation, management, investigations, protection, and utilization of fishery and wildlife resources, except whales, seals, and sea lions, and for the performance of other authorized functions related

to such resources; for the general administration of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; for maintenance of the herd of long-horned cattle on the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge; and not less than \$1,000,000 for high priority projects within the scope of the approved budget which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps as authorized by the Act of August 13, 1970, as amended, \$523,947,000, to remain available until September 30, 1998, of which \$11,557,000 shall remain available until expended for operation and maintenance of fishery mitigation facilities constructed by the Corps of Engineers under the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan, authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1976, to compensate for loss of fishery resources from water development projects on the Lower Snake River, and of which \$2,000,000 shall be provided to local governments in southern California for planning associated with the Natural Communities Conservation Planning (NCCP) program and shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That hereafter, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9701, the Secretary shall charge reasonable fees for the full costs of providing training by the National [Education and] Conservation Training Center, to be credited to this account, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, for the [direct] full costs of providing such training, *to remain available until expended*.

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GENERAL PROVISIONS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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SEC. 116. The Congress of the United States hereby designates and ratifies the assignment to the University of Utah as successor to, and beneficiary of, all the existing assets, revenues, funds and rights granted to the State of Utah under the [Miners Hospital Grant] *Miners Hospital Grants* [(February 20, 1929, 45 Stat. 1252)] (*July 16, 1894, 28 Stat. 110 and February 20, 1929, 45 Stat. 1252*) and the School of Mines Grant [(July 26, 1894, 28 Stat. 110)] (*July 16, 1894, 28 Stat. 110*). Further, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to accept such relinquishment of all remaining and un conveyed entitlement for quantity grants owed the State of Utah for the [Miners Hospital Grant] *Miners Hospital Grants* [(February 20, 1929, 45 Stat. 1252)] (*July 16, 1894, 28 Stat. 110 and February 20, 1929, 45 Stat. 1252*) and any un conveyed entitlement that may remain for the University of Utah School of Mines Grant [(July 26, 1894, 28 Stat. 110)] (*July 16, 1894, 28 Stat. 110*).

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OMNIBUS PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1996 (PUBLIC LAW 104-333)

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SEC. 1034. EXTENSION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any of the Alaska Native Village Corporations of Tyonek Native Corporation, Ninilchik Native Association, Inc., Knikatnu Inc., Seldovia Native



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Association, Inc., Chikaloon Moose Creek Native Association, Inc., and the Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Cook Inlet Region, Inc. may commence litigation [at any time within 12 months of enactment of this Act] *on or before October 1, 1998* in Federal District Court for Alaska to challenge any determination by the Department of the Interior that such native corporations will not receive conveyance of lands described in "Appendix C" of the Deficiency Agreement dated August 31, 1976.

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