

And even where there weren't fires, we saw smoke from the tragic, destructive California fires that filled our skies in Montana.

As bad as the wildfires have been, I have seen the impact of properly managed forests. This year, when I was at the Glacier National Park fire, it was interesting to me, as the incident commanders explained what they were doing there. It turns out there were four fires being managed, all started by the same lightning storm, through lightning strikes.

Three of those fires started in national forests where there had been hazardous fuel reductions. The forest had been managed. One started in a national park, and it was such a stark example to me to see that the three fires that had been started by the same storm in the national forests where there had been hazardous fuel reduction, on the day I was there, had been constrained to two to 300 acres each. And yet, the one that started in a national park was burning over 10,000 acres.

Now I am not advocating to go log our national parks, just to be very clear. But it is a stark example of the impact.

I have been in eastern Montana, southeast of Miles City, and I have seen where the BLM has done forest management. I saw a situation where a fire had burned through a landscape and, in an area where there had been no forest management, no fuels reduction, no thinning of the forest, the fire burned so hot that, even years later, it still looked like a moonscape. Nothing was growing.

And yet, when it hit the managed forest, where the forest had been thinned, the fire quickly dropped into the underbrush, burned the grass and twigs, but not a single tree was lost. A year later, that forest was healthier than it was, and yet, the forest that had burned completely will not recover in our generation. This is a stark example.

In other areas, where forest management has been done, where trees have been thinned, the water comes back into the streams again, the surface water. These are healthier habitats.

So there are many benefits of a properly managed forest. We get more wildlife. There is more habitat. There is more opportunity for sportsmen and women. We have more recreational opportunities. You can gain access to the forests again. We have good-paying timber jobs. Wildfires are less severe, and the health of our communities are not threatened.

One of the biggest problems is litigation. We need more collaborative projects, but litigation is one of the greatest obstacles to managing our forests. A good example is the Stonewall Vegetation Project in Lincoln, Montana. I toured that site.

It took 8 years to get a permit to thin the forest, and then the lawyers swooped in, arguing the project would

disrupt lynx habitat. A judge overturned the permit, and that summer, that entire forest burned.

And, Mr. Speaker, there is no lynx habitat anymore. There is no habitat for any animal there because that forest is gone.

The House did take action this past year. We passed the Resilient Federal Forests Act that Congressman WESTERMAN of Arkansas authored and I cosponsored. It would get us back into our forests, managing them again. Unfortunately, the Senate, tied up with obstruction, didn't act on it.

But we have made progress. Back earlier this spring, we overturned the Cottonwood decision, which has been used as a tool to invalidate existing forest management permits. We have been cutting red tape to accelerate the removal of hazardous fuels.

The Forest Service estimates that 6.3 billion dead and dying trees are across 11 States. I know in my own home State, in our State capital, Helena, Montana, if you drive west into the Lewis and Clark Forest, you can look at a hillside and, in some cases, because the forests have not been managed and they have overgrown, nearly 90 percent of the trees are standing. It is a tinderbox waiting to go up in flames.

We have also reformed how we pay for catastrophic fires. This was fixed also earlier this year, through legislation in this House, and it was signed into law, that will allow us to treat large fires just like we do large hurricanes when they exceed budgets, because the cost of these fires has expanded so much, it is consuming the majority of the U.S. Forest Service budget.

Mr. Speaker, last year, forest fire-fighting costs consumed 55 percent of the Forest Service budget.

□ 2030

That takes away money for trail maintenance and recreational programs. It is consumed in fighting these fires.

We have also added some provisions to the farm bill which is now in conference, adding Good Neighbor Authorities, extending that capability for categorical exclusions down to county commissioners and local government so that they can be involved in making our forests healthier.

We have also provided for expedited salvage operations so we can cut dead and dying trees at landscape size without the frivolous litigation shutting down these projects.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to act. We can't control the weather, but we can control how we manage our forests. It is time to reform how we manage our forests by passing commonsense forest management reform. We need to reduce the severity of the wildfires. We need to get our forests healthy again.

This is good for wildlife. It is good for recreationists. It is good for hunting. It creates good-paying jobs in our mills.

Montana can't afford for Congress to continue kicking the can down the road and let important projects be tied up in unnecessary, frivolous litigation. This is an urgent issue, and we need to address it quickly.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues bringing to the attention of this Chamber the wildfires and the need for forest management reform. The House has offered commonsense solutions to get us back to managing our forests. The evidence shows that a properly managed forest is a healthier forest. We have less severe wildfires. I have seen this firsthand in the field.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the efforts of Mr. WESTERMAN, who has been a leader on the issue and a forester by training, and my colleagues who know the destruction of a catastrophic wildfire brings us to know how critical it is to deliver meaningful reforms.

Like my colleagues, I urge the Senate to act on commonsense measures this Chamber has sent so that Montanans can spend the summer in their forests enjoying them, not having to breathe them at home.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

REVISIONS TO THE STATEMENT OF COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS, AGGREGATES, AND OTHER BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit for printing in the Congressional Record a revision to the allocations set forth in the Statement of Committee Allocations, Aggregates, and Other Budgetary Levels for Fiscal Year 2019 published in the Congressional Record on May 10, 2018 pursuant to section 30104 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123). The revision is for new budget authority and outlays for provisions designated for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism and program integrity initiatives pursuant to section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (BBEDCA), contained in the conference report to accompany H.R. 6157, the Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019.

The Statement of Committee Allocations, Aggregates, and Other Budgetary Levels for Fiscal Year 2019 set the base discretionary 302(a) allocation to the Committee on Appropriations at \$1.244 trillion, which is the sum of the fiscal year 2019 discretionary spending limits under section 251(c) of BBEDCA. Section 251(b) of BBEDCA allows for adjustments to the discretionary spending limits for certain purposes including Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism, disaster relief, and program integrity initiatives.

The conference report to accompany H.R. 6157 contains \$67.9 billion in budget authority for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism and \$1.9 billion in budget authority for program integrity initiatives. Accordingly, I am revising the allocation of spending authority to the House Committee on Appropriations. After making this adjustment, the conference report to accompany H.R. 6157 is within the fiscal year

2019 discretionary spending limits under section 251(c) of BBEDCA, in addition to the aggregates and the 302(a) allocation to the Committee on Appropriations established by the Statement of Committee Allocations, Aggregates, and Other Budgetary Levels for Fiscal Year 2019 filed on May 10, 2018.

Budget enforcement provisions of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress) have been deemed to be in force by section 30104(f) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. This revision represents an adjustment for purposes of enforcing sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. For the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, these revised aggregates and allocations are to be considered as aggregates and allocations included in the budget resolution, pursuant to the Statement published in the Congressional Record on May 10, 2018, as adjusted.

Sincerely,

STEVE WOMACK,
Chairman.

TABLE 1—ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
(In millions of dollars)

	2019
Base Discretionary Action:	
BA	1,244,000
OT	1,296,937
Global War on Terrorism:	
BA	68,835
OT	37,071
Program Integrity:	
BA	1,897
OT	1,573
Current Law Mandatory:	
BA	955,283
OT	949,351

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 3139. An act to require State safety oversight agencies to conduct safety inspections of public transportation systems that provide rail fixed guideway public transportation and to direct the Secretary of Transportation to develop risk-based inspection guidance for such agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S. 3389. An act to redesignate a facility of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 6157. An act making consolidated appropriations for the Departments of Defense, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on September 25, 2018, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 698. To require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White

River National Forest in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 27, 2018, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6336. A letter from the Team Lead, Regulations Management Team, Rural Development Innovation Center, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Announcement Process for Rural Utilities Service Grant Programs (RIN: 0572-AC39) received September 18, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6337. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General Carlton D. Everhart II, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6338. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Kenneth R. Dahl, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6339. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral John N. Christenson, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6340. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General John W. Nicholson, Jr., United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6341. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Jack Weinstein, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6342. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, U.S. Army, Department of Defense, transmitting a notice to Congress of the anticipated use of Selected Reserve units that will be ordered to active duty, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 12304b(d); Public Law 112-81, Sec.

516(a)(1); (125 Stat. 1396); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6343. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a Declaration of a Public Health Emergency and Waiver and/or Modification of Certain HIPAA, and Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program Requirements (Hurricane Florence on the States North Carolina and South Carolina), pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 247d(a); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, Sec. 319(a) (as amended by Public Law 107-188, Sec. 144(a)); (116 Stat. 630); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6344. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Progress Report on the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and National Cord Blood Inventory Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 274k(a)(6); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, Sec. 379 (as amended by Public Law 109-129, Sec. 3(a)); (119 Stat. 2554); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6345. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2018-0567; FRL-9983-14] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received September 18, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6346. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to New Mexico [EPA-R06-OAR-2016-0091; FRL-9982-62-Region 6] received September 18, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6347. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pepino Mosaic Virus, strain CH2, isolate 1906; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0525; FRL-9983-31] received September 18, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6348. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of direct final rule — National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan National Priorities List: Partial Deletion of the Beloit Corporation Superfund Site [EPA-HQ-SFUND-1990-0011; FRL-9983-84-Region 5] received September 18, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6349. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the Old Southington Landfill Superfund Site [EPA-HQ-SFUND-2005-0011; FRL-9983-63-Region 1] received September 18, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6350. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the