



Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

July 28, 2023

THE HONORABLE JEFF MERKLEY
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Merkley:

This letter transmits the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service response to the Committee's request in House Report 117-400 for a strategy to ensure burned area recovery work is being adequately prioritized and the plan to establish a new budget line in FY 2024.

In compliance with Public Law 117-328 Section 7016, after 45 days, this report will be posted to the Forest Service website <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/budget-performance>.

If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter is being sent to Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary

Enclosure