USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

January 10, 2024

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

Dear Chairman Merkley:

This letter transmits the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's response to the Explanatory Statement accompanying Division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103) directing the Forest Service to maintain updated 5-year deferred maintenance plans that, to the extent practicable, include a list of all outstanding deferred maintenance needs, and to provide them to the Committees on a quarterly basis. Enclosed is the Forest Service's fiscal year 2023, quarter 4 summary report.

After 45 days from the date of the transmittal to Congress, this report will be posted to the Forest Service's website at: 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