

-FLAME ACT of 2009-

Fact Sheet FY 2010 Interior & Environment Appropriations Conference

The conference agreement includes the FLAME Act of 2009 as Title V.

- This Act is very similar to the FLAME Act included in sections 431 and 432 in the Senate passed bill and H.R. 1404, which passed the House of Representatives on March 26, 2009. This Act will help create a dedicated, steady and predictable funding stream for wildfire suppression activities.
- The conference agreement has strengthened the workability and usefulness of the previous FLAME Acts while retaining most major provisions.
- The FLAME Funds are available to cover the costs of large or complex wildfire events and as a reserve when amounts provided for wildfire suppression and Federal emergency response in the regular Wildland Fire Management appropriation accounts are exhausted.
- The conferees intend that amounts provided through the FLAME Funds, together with amounts provided through the regular wildland fire accounts, should fully fund anticipated wildland fire suppression requirements in advance of the fire season and prevent future borrowing from non-fire programs.
- The main change in the new Act is the creation of FLAME Wildland Fire Suppression Reserve Funds in both the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, and the appropriation of funds for these funds under normal appropriation accounts within title III and title I.
- A total of \$474 million is dedicated for the two funds: \$413 million for the Forest Service and \$61 million for the Interior Department. Additional funding in the Bill for the regular wildland fire suppression accounts brings the total for all wildfire suppression activities to \$1.855 billion, an increase of \$526 million over the fiscal year 2009 level and the largest non-emergency increase for wildfire suppression ever provided.
- The changes also make the FLAME Act consistent with other wildfire suppression reforms recommended in the Administration budget request. This includes risk informed wildfire suppression reforms discussed in the budget request, and expanded use of the Wildland Fire Decision Support System, which will result in strengthened oversight and accountability of suppression spending.