on the Okanogan NF and other eastern Washington national forests with no more than five percent of these funds to be assessed as indirect costs. The wildlife and fisheries habitat funding includes $200,000 proposed by the Senate for the Batten Kill River, VT, project; the Alaska State payment proposed by the Senate is not funded and the funding for the Little Applegate project, OR is included in the State and private forestry account. The recreation, heritage and wilderness activity includes: $700,000 for operations of the Continental Divide trail; $100,000 for the Monongahela Institute effort at Seneca Rocks, WV; $120,000 for the Monongahela NF, Cheat Mountain assessment, WV; $100,000 for cooperative recreational site planning on the Wayne NF, OH; $100,000 for cooperative efforts regarding radios for use at Tuckerman's Ravine on the White Mountain NF, NH; and $68,000 for the Talimena scenic byway which the Senate had included in the vegetation management activity. The managers direct the Forest Service to conduct a feasibility study on constructing a recreational lake on the Bienville NF in Smith County, MS. The managers agree to the House report direction concerning national scenic and historic trails and Region 5 grazing monitoring. The managers do not agree to the Senate report direction concerning allocation of funds for the Washington office and national commitments in the inventory and monitoring activity or the land management planning activity. The forest products activity includes $700,000 proposed by the Senate for the State of Alaska to monitor log transfer facilities as well as the $790,000 proposed by the Senate for forestry treatments on the Apache-Sitgreaves NF, AZ. The House proposal for $250,000 for a Pacific Crest trail lands team is funded. The managers have added $500,000 to the law enforcement activity for the special needs caused by methamphetamine dumps and $500,000 for special needs on the Pisgah and Nantahala NFs. The conference agreement also includes additional funds for Senate proposals of $2,000,000 for the Quincy Library Group project, CA, $5,000,000 for Tongass NF, AK, timber pipeline, and $990,000 for Valles Caldera, NM, management.

The managers have provided $255,844,000, an increase of $10,700,000 above the House and $10,000,000 above the Senate for the forest products activity. The total funds provided for the timber sales program in combination with the increase provided for engineering support within the capital improvement and maintenance appropriation should be more than sufficient to attain the 3.6 billion board foot offer level using the agency's own unit cost estimates. Accordingly, the managers urge the agency to offer no less than 3.6 billion board feet for sale in fiscal year 2001. The conference agreement does not include bill language proposed by the Senate concerning mandatory reprogramming of funds to attain the Congressionally directed sale offer level.

The managers have included an additional $500,000 in the minerals and geology management activity to support necessary administrative duties related to the Kensington Mine in southeast Alaska, including completion of a supplemental environmental impact statement.

The managers are generally pleased with the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area management transition from the Tennessee Valley Authority to the Forest Service. The managers direct the administration to use the environmental education trust fund established in the authorization of this area strictly for the authorized purposes and not for general operations of the NRA.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

The conference agreement provides $1,265,129,000 for wildland fire management instead of $618,343,000 as proposed by the House and $767,629,000 as proposed by the Senate. The managers note that this funding total includes $426,000,000 in contingent emergency appropriations which will repay previously advanced sums as well as establish an available contingency fund for future emergencies. This emergency contingency funding includes the $150,000,000 in the Senate passed bill as well as $276,000,000 recommended in the Administration's wildfire report. The managers have also addressed other priority wildfire needs in title IV where an additional $619,274,000 for the Forest Service is provided for a variety of emergency needs. The managers have not included additional funds above the request for acquisition of a high band radio system at the Monogahela NF, WV, as proposed by the Senate because funds for this project were included in the request.

The following discussion includes instructions pertaining both to the title II funds as well the Title IV funds provided for the Forest Service.

The managers recognize that the severity of the 2000 fire season is attributable to a combination of unusual weather conditions and accumulated wildland fuels that overwhelmed available Federal agency resources. To prepare better for fires in 2001 and beyond, the managers propose significant improvements to preparedness, fuels treatments, and other aspects of fire management. The managers expect the agencies to work closely with States and local communities to maximize benefits to the environment and to local communities.

The conference agreement has responded to special needs and the Administration's recent wildfire report with additional funding here and in title IV for additional emergency funds. The conference agreement includes funding for all of the Administration's supplemental request as well as strategic enhancements for certain priority activities. Overall, for the Forest Service, the managers provide $1,884,403,000 to fund: repayment of previously advanced funds, additional wildfire suppression activities; the agency's revised calculation for normal year readiness; certain one-time improvements to preparedness capability; an expanded fuels treatment program that places primary emphasis on community protection; stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration of burned areas; assistance to State and local governments for enhanced protection of communities; control and eradication of invasive species; development of new technologies and businesses to economically harvest small diameter forest products; and community assistance programs that may be used to develop local capability and homeowner education. The managers have funded $1,045,274,000 as "emergency", including $426,000,000 in title II to ensure that adequate funds are immediately available if needed to fund suppression activities in fiscal year 2001, and to repay funds borrowed from agency trust funds during the fiscal year 2000 season. The remaining $619,274,000 in emergency funding is included in title IV for a variety of items needed to protect lands and communities.

The managers strongly believe this FY 2001 funding will only be of value in increasing the Nation's firefighting capability and ability to protect communities if it is sustained in future years. Accordingly, the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations expect that the fiscal year 2002 budget request will continue initiatives begun under this appropriation that ensure a significant commitment to these programs. The managers also direct the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to continue to work together to formulate complementary budget requests that reflect the same principles and budget organization. In addition, the managers expect the agencies to seek the advice of governors, and local and tribal government representatives in setting priorities for fuels treatments, burned area rehabilitation, and public outreach and education.

FIRE PREPAREDNESS

For fire preparedness, the managers provide $612,490,000, $208,147,000 above the initial request and $204,147,000 above the House passed level. This funding includes $574,890,000 to enhance wildfire readiness by attaining a most efficient level of 100 percent, $4,000,000 for joint fire sciences, $12,000,000 for the development of new systems and technology, and $17,000,000 to restructure the agency workforce to respond better to future fire preparedness, operations, and suppression needs. In addition, $600,000 is provided for cooperative research and technology development between Federal fire research and fire management agencies and the University of Montana National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis. These activities should be funded through normal Joint Fire Science Program peer review procedures and focus on developing remote sensing and other landscape scale applications for fire management in areas of fuel mapping, fire and smoke monitoring, and fire modeling and prediction in order to support and enhance existing efforts in these areas by the Forest Service, Department of the Interior, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, universities, and other agency researchers and collaborators.

The managers understand that the increased scope and intensity of the 1999 and 2000 fire seasons, as well as the increased frequency and severity of fires over the preceding decade, have led Federal fire managers to reassess the assumptions underlying an average fire season. Variables, addressed in the Administration's Report on Managing Impacts of Wildfires on Communities and the Environment, including changing assumptions about fire personnel, deployment strategies, duration of the average fire season, needs for new technologies for rapid response, coordinated response needs with State and local agencies, and other factors, will require a major adjustment in funding strategies for the preparedness program. The managers expect future budget requests for this line item will reflect this new level of agency preparedness.

The managers concur that initial attack capability should be increased to address the number and severity of fires that have burned the landscape over the past few years and have included full funding for approximately: 2,800 additional firefighters, 412 engines, and other resources necessary to achieve a 100 percent most efficient level.

Within the funds provided is $17,000,000 to facilitate restructuring of the agency's firefighting workforce. The managers concur with recommendations for conversion of temporary seasonal employees to permanent seasonal status in order to encourage workforce retention. The managers expect the Departments to devote resources necessary to increase staffing for engines from the current level of five days a week to seven days a week to combat increasingly volatile fire seasons. Additionally the managers support agency plans to increase potentially permanent staffing by approximately 500 to respond to projected retirements and other changes in the workforce.

The managers support an acceleration of research activities and expanded emphasis for the Joint Fire Science Program and have provided an additional $4,000,000, respectively, to the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to support the recommendations regarding scientific support for fuels treatments and other programs contained in the report to the President. These funds are in addition to the $4,000,000 provided for each agency as part of the Administration's original budget request. The funds provided are to be used for such efforts as increased rapid response projects to assure necessary resources are available for testing and evaluation of post-fire rehabilitation, assessment of post-fire and fire behavior effects, use of aircraft-based remote sensing operations, implementation of protocols for evaluating post-fire stabilization and rehabilitation, and the development of effective means for collecting and disseminating information about treatment techniques. The managers expect the increased funds to be made available to the Joint Fire Science activities of the Departments for the direct benefit of fire management programs, including burned area rehabilitation.

The managers expect the Joint Fire Sciences Governing Board to make a significant portion of the increased funds directly available to the fire management programs of the Agriculture and Interior Departments to fund projects that directly address locally and regionally important science and technology needs associated with fire management and suppression, fuels management, and post-fire rehabilitation. The managers further expect the Departments to assure that these programs are implemented within existing structures with a minimum of new program management or other overhead activities that might reduce the direct benefit of funds provided. The January 1998 Joint Fire Science Plan developed by the two Departments and submitted to the Congress included provisions for a Stakeholder Advisory Group of technical experts from land management organizations, private industry, academia, other Federal agencies, and the public to formulate recommendations for program priorities and advise the Joint Fire Science Program Governing Board. This Group is to be established under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The managers are concerned that nearly three years have passed without establishment of this group. The managers direct the Secretaries to establish the group by December 31, 2000.

In addition to funds provided for the Joint Fire Sciences Program, $12,000,000 is provided for development of systems to support financial and logistic support to fire operations and technologies to support such activities as fire management planning, additional research for measurement, technology transfer, and remote sensing, and funds for improving and validating models for fire weather, fire hazard, behavior, emissions and smoke dispersion.

Fire operations

The conference agreement provides $226,639,000 for fire operations in the normal title II non-emergency program, which is $16,639,000 above the House passed level and $10,610,000 above the original Administration request. This funding includes $141,029,000 for wildfire suppression activities and $85,610,000 for the non-emergency hazardous fuels program. The conference agreement provides for the following Congressional priorities within the hazardous fuels program: $263,000 for Apache-Sitgreaves NF, AZ, urban interface; $1,000,000 for the Quincy Library Group project, CA; $6,947,000 for windstorm damage in Minnesota; $1,500,000 for the Lake Tahoe basin; and $2,400,000 for work on the Giant Sequoia National Monument and Sequoia National Forests. The managers have also provided $426,000,000 in title II as an emergency contingent appropriation for future emergency fire suppression needs and for repayment of funds borrowed from agency trust funds in fiscal year 2000.

The conference agreement also provides $619,274,000 in emergency funds for wildfire operations in title IV for a variety of needs including: $179,000,000 in additional funds to cover annual suppression costs based on the ten-year average; $120,000,000 in additional funds for hazardous fuels reduction; $142,000,000 for rehabilitation and restoration of burned areas; $16,000,000 to support wildfire related research and development; $44,000,000 for immediate reconstruction of severely deficient wildfire facilities; $50,494,000 for State fire assistance to support State and local fire readiness and fuel treatment activities; $8,280,000 in additional funds for priority volunteer fire assistance; $12,000,000 in additional funds for forest health treatments to help control and eradicate invasive species; $12,500,000 in additional funds for priority projects and incentives for economic use of small diameter forest products; and $35,000,000 for community and private land fire assistance.

The funding included in title IV, fire operations for hazardous fuels management activities is $25,000,000 above the level included in the Administration's wildfire report; the total includes $11,500,000 for analysis, monitoring and planning activities. The managers direct that the increased funding provided be dedicated to projects within the wildland-urban interface on Federal lands or adjacent non-Federal lands. These funds are to support activities necessary to reduce the risks and consequences of wildfire, both in and around communities and in wildland areas. Treatment methods include application of prescribed fire, mechanical removal, mulching, and application of chemicals. In many areas a combination of these methods will be necessary over a period of several years to reduce risks and to maintain healthy and viable forests and rangelands. The increased funding included in this appropriation will expand the existing fuels management program to reduce risks to communities and natural resources in high-risk areas. The managers understand that fuels treatment accomplishments have been constrained by lack of funding to conduct planning, assessments, clearances, consultation, and environmental analyses necessary for the land management and regulatory agencies to ensure that fuels treatments are accomplished quickly and in an environmentally sound manner. In conducting treatments, local contract personnel are to be used wherever possible. The managers expect the agency to show planned and actual funding and accomplishments for fuels management activities in future budget requests to Congress. The managers understand that actual amounts may differ from planned levels. The managers expect the agencies to work closely with States and local communities in implementing this program in an effective and efficient manner.

The managers intend that $15 million of the additional funding provided for fuels reduction in title IV be used to carry out and implement the Quincy Library Group plan. This will be in addition to other funding appropriated in title II.

The managers have included $142,000,000 within wildfire operations for rehabilitation and restoration; this is $97,000,000 above the total in the Administration's wildfire report. These funds are needed for priority burned area rehabilitation and restoration to address short term and longer term detrimental consequences of wildfires. The managers are disturbed that the Administration failed to propose sufficient funding for this activity in view of the catastrophic damage which occurred in burned areas. Accordingly, a total of $142,000,000 for restoration activities is provided. The managers note that wildland fires burning at the right times and places, and under the right burning conditions, are beneficial or even essential to the health of forests and rangelands. However, some severe wildfires can trigger a wide array of detrimental impacts, ranging from short-term floods, debris flow, and loss of water quality to longer-term invasion by non-native species and loss of productivity of the land. The increased funding for burned area rehabilitation and restoration is designed to prevent further degradation of resources following wildland fire through (1) short-term stabilization and rehabilitation activities to protect life and property, protect municipal watersheds, and prevent unacceptable degradation of critical natural and cultural resources, and (2) longer-term restoration activities to repair and improve lands unlikely to recover naturally from severe fire damage. The managers direct the agencies to develop a long-term program to manage and supply native plant materials for use in various Federal land management restoration and rehabilitation needs. The managers recommend that the interagency native plant conservation initiative lead this effort.

Long-term monitoring of treatment effectiveness and dissemination of results are essential components of successful restoration in order to develop better treatment plans for future fires. Longer-term projects may include replacement and repair of facilities or reforestation activities if such facilities or reforestation is part of a previously approved land management plan. The managers expect that funding for these activities will be available from this appropriation only concurrent with this emergency situation and in the future will be requested within the agency's existing budget structure. In conducting rehabilitation and restoration activities, local contract personnel should be used wherever possible. The managers expect the agency to show planned and actual funding and accomplishments for stabilization and rehabilitation activities in future budget requests to Congress. The managers understand that actual amounts may differ from planned levels, and agree that the agencies have the ability to fund additional projects and amounts based on actual needs. The managers direct the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to report to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, by December 1, 2000, on criteria for restoration projects to be funded from this appropriation.

The managers have provided funds for emergency reconstruction and maintenance of the agency's rapidly deteriorating fire facilities. The managers note that the Administration failed to request adequate funding to support these critical infrastructure needs. Accordingly, the managers have included on a one-time basis, $44,000,000 for this purpose. Included in the amount is $12,000,000 for reconstruction and repair of air tanker bases and $32,000,000 for reconstruction and repair of additional fire related facilities. The managers direct that the fiscal year 2002 budget justification contain an exhibit which shows project specific information on the accomplishments with these funds. The managers have provided funding for these activities from this appropriation only concurrent with this emergency situation. In the future the managers expect the agency to request such funds within the agency's existing budget structure.

Within the title IV funding for fire operations, the managers have included

$16,000,000 to support basic and applied wildfire related research and development. Funding is provided for such activities as developing new strategies to reduce fuels in wildland urban interface areas, improve capability to monitor, predict, prevent and decrease invasive species in burned areas, study impacts of alternative fire regimes and management activities, and study the interactions between fire, land management treatments and other disturbances. The managers have provided funding for these activities from this appropriation only concurrent with this emergency situation. In the future the managers expect the agency to request such funds within the agency's existing budget structure.

The managers have provided $118,274,000 within title IV for emergency activities consistent with the authorizations the agency has to support State and private forestry programs. The managers have provided funding for these activities from this appropriation only concurrent with this emergency situation and in the future expect the agency to request such funds within the agency's existing budget structure.

The managers concur that effective management of fire related issues in the wildland urban interface requires strong commitment and resources from State, tribal, and local governments. Fire readiness capability must be on an equal par between State, local and Federal organizations, including availability of resources, adequacy of planning, and commitment to training. Of the amount provided for State and private related activities, $50,494,000 is designated for State fire assistance, including support for the FIREWISE program and the use of cost share incentives. The managers expect cost sharing incentives to use one-to-one cost sharing, not three-to-one Federal to State as recommended by the Administration. Of the State fire assistance funding, $7,500,000 is a direct lump sum payment to the Kenai Peninsula Borough to complete the activities outlined in the spruce bark beetle task force action plan. Ten percent of these funds shall be made available to the Cook Inlet Tribal Council for reforestation on Native inholdings and Federal lands identified by the task force. In order to improve the ability of rural volunteer fire fighting departments to respond to wildfire, the managers have provided $8,280,000 within funds designated for State and private type activities to improve the capability and readiness of these critical front line firefighting resources. The managers note that this funding, coupled with the $5,000,000 provided for volunteer fire assistance in title II, equals the Administration's request for these activities.

The managers have included $59,500,000 in title IV within funds provided for other State and private type activities; this includes $12,000,000 for the management and control of invasive species in cooperation with State and tribal governments; $12,500,000 to provide technical and financial assistance through the development and expansion of markets for traditionally underutilized wood products to enhance utilization of materials removed during hazardous fuels management activities; and $35,000,000 for community and private land fire assistance.

The community and private land fire assistance funds are provided because the managers recognize the serious impacts of wildfires on State and private lands. These funds are additional funds beyond the Administration's request for programs which assist State and private groups in addressing damage caused by fire. This additional $35,000,000 for community and private land fire assistance should be allocated primarily to Western States such as Montana and Idaho which have had the most severe fire damage. The managers are particularly concerned that many miles of fencing in Montana were burned and the Departments of Agriculture and of the Interior have generally only reimbursed persons who have constructed these fences the depreciated value, even though authority exists to provide replacement value. The managers direct that up to $9,000,000 be made available to reimburse affected parties at replacement value. The managers expect that the allocation of some of these funds for longer term restoration of facilities such as roads and trails should take into account the severe impacts of fire in particular States such as Idaho and Montana which sustained serious damage to miles of roads and trails and other similar facilities.

Furthermore, the managers are especially concerned about the potential impacts of invasive species and insects on Federal, State, and private lands that have been severely burned. The managers understand that in some States suffering the most severe fire damage, such as Montana, that the spread of pine beetle infestations has increased as much as threefold. With the funds provided for cooperative forestry health management the managers encourage the agency to work through the use of cooperative agreements with State and private groups which can enhance accomplishments on the ground in the efforts to combat the spread of invasive species and insect and disease problems. In Western States severely impacted by fire such as Idaho and Montana, the managers are particularly concerned that highly rural, dispersed populations may lack adequately equipped volunteer fire departments and State firefighting resources which may have contributed to the severity of fires and resulting damage. Accordingly, the managers direct the agency to consider these factors in making allocations to the States for State fire assistance and for volunteer fire assistance.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The conference agreement provides $468,568,000 for capital improvement and maintenance instead of $434,466,000 as proposed by the House and $448,312,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement provides for the following distribution of funds:

Project	*Conference*
Facilities:	
Maintenance	$73,306,000
Capital Improvement requested program	74,535,000
Allegheny NF Marienville RS (PA)	1,000,000
Allegheny NF visitor services (PA)	500,000
Angeles NF water & sewer rehab (CA)	900,000
Big Bear Lake center, phase II (CA)	1,300,000
Cedar Lake rec area (OK)	740,000
Coweeta research rehab (NC)	110,000
Cradle of Forestry projects (NC)	380,000
Franklin County Lake project (MS)	2,000,000
Gladie Creek center (KY)	1,250,000
Grey Towers NHS site rehab (PA)	500,000
Hardwood research center plan (IN)	300,000
Hubbard Brook (NH)	600,000
Indian Boundary cmp rehab, (TN)	350,000
Inst. of Pacific Island Forestry (HI)	2,000,000
Lake Sherwood rec area (WV)	150,000
Mount Tabor Work Center (VT)	175,000
Mt Baker Snoqualmie NF cmpgrnd	2,000,000
Nantahala NF Fontana Lake (NC)	600,000
Ocoee River sites and cons. Center (TN)	800,000
Ouachita NF Albert rec area (AR)	600,000
Ouachita NF Camp Clearfolk (AR)	400,000
Uwharrie NF Badin Lake (NC)	400,000
Uwharrie NF Kings Mtn Pt (NC)	900,000
Waldo Lake rehab (OR)	500,000
Total facilities	$166,296,000
Roads:	
Maintenance	130,000,000
Lake Tahoe Basin (CA-NV)	1,500,000
Beartooth Highway snow removal	0
Capital improvement requested prog	103,447,000
Highland Scenic Hiway (WV)	600,000
Total roads	$235,547,000
Trails:	
Maintenance	31,000,000
Capital improvement requested prog	34,025,000
FL National scenic trail	500,000
Virginia Creeper Trail	200,000
Continental Divide Trail line	1,000,000
Total trails	$66,725,000
Total Cap Improvement and Maintenance	468,568,000

The conference agreement does not include funding proposed by the Senate for snow removal and repairs on the Beartooth Highway near Yellowstone National Park; existing funding is not rescinded as was proposed by the Senate. The managers expect the Forest Service to follow Senate directions concerning the roads program. The managers emphasize the need for a cost-share for the Grey Towers, PA, funding; the Forest Service is encouraged to work with Tulare County, CA, on plans for recreational facilities. The conference agreement includes $2,000,000 for the Forest Service to develop a campground in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, WA. The managers expect that the preliminary planning, environmental and ecological analysis necessary to design and locate the campground will occur in conjunction with the reconstruction of King County's Lake Dorothy Highway and Forest Service Road 56. The managers understand that the new road will terminate at mile post 12 at the Taylor River Bridge and an existing trailhead parking lot. The managers expect that the campground will be located adjacent to these existing facilities.

LAND ACQUISITION

The conference agreement provides $102,205,000 for land acquisition instead of $52,000,000 as proposed by the House and $76,320,000 as proposed by the Senate. Funds should be distributed as follows:

Area (State)	*Amount*
Angeles NF (CA)	$2,000,000
Arapaho NF (Beaver Brook Watershed) (CO)	2,000,000
Black Hills NF (Spearfish Canyon) (SD)	1,000,000
Bonneville Shoreline Trail (UT)	2,500,000

Area (State)	*Amount*
Chattooga WSR (GA/NC/SC)	2,000,000
Chugach NF (Seward multi-agency ctr.) (AK)	1,630,000
Coconino NF (Bar T Bar Ranch) (AZ)	3,200,000
Coconino NF (Sedona Red Rock) (AZ)	3,000,000
Daniel Boone NF (KY)	2,000,000
DeSoto NF (U. of Mississippi) (MS)	10,800,000
Dry Lake (AZ)	750,000
Florida National Scenic Trail (FL)	5,000,000
Francis Marion NF (Tibwin Forests & Waterways) (SC)	2,000,000
Green Mountain NF (VT)	2,000,000
Hoosier NF (Unique Areas) (IN)	1,000,000
I–90/Plum Creek escrow lands (WA)	8,600,000
Lake Tahoe Ecosystem (CA/NV)	4,000,000
Lewis and Clark Historic Trail (ID/MT)	2,000,000
Los Padres NF (Big Sur Ecosystem) (CA)	3,000,000
Mark Twain NF (Ozark Mt. Streams & Rivers) (MO)	1,500,000
Monongahela NF (WV)	925,000
Mountains to Sound (WA)	5,000,000
Pacific Crest Trail (CA/OR/WA)	3,000,000
Pacific Northwest Streams (OR/WA)	1,500,000
Pisgah NF (Lake James) (NC)	4,000,000
Rye Creek (MT)	2,800,000
San Bernardino NF (CA)	2,500,000
Sawtooth NF (Sawtooth NRA) (ID)	2,000,000
Wayne NF (Sunday Creek) (OH)	4,000,000
White Mountain NF (NH)	2,000,000
Wisconsin Wild Waterways (WI)	2,500,000
Subtotal	90,205,000
Forest Inholdings	1,500,000
Wilderness Protection	500,000
Cash Equalization	1,500,000
Acquisition Management	8,500,000
Total	$102,205,000

The managers have provided $2,000,000 to purchase non-development scenic easements in Pingree Forest, ME, in cooperation with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation under the resource management account in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The managers are concerned with the urban lot purchase program at the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. The role of the Forest Service in acquiring, administering and maintaining the urban lots appears inappropriate and often ineffective. Considering the mission of the Forest Service and limited operating funds, opportunities should be explored to transfer the urban lots currently administered by the Forest Service to State and local governments for their management and protection.

None of the funding provided for Federal land acquisition shall be used to acquire additional lots. Acquisition of larger resource lands adjacent to National Forest System land to protect watershed values and provide recreation opportunities should be the focus of the Forest Service land acquisition program at Lake Tahoe.

The managers direct the Forest Service to provide a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations by April 30, 2001. The report should provide a detailed view of past Federal and State acquisitions at the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, the costs and challenges of managing these fragmented properties, and legislative options for the Federal government to turn over this program to State and local authorities.

The managers note that the conference agreement has provided substantial resources in other activities to help protect Lake Tahoe. This funding includes $2,000,000 for cooperative erosion grants in State and private forestry, $1,250,000 for the NFS vegetation and watershed activity to enhance restoration of sensitive watersheds, $1,500,000 in capital improvement and maintenance to help fix the ailing road system, and $1,500,000 in wildfire management funding to enhance forest health by reducing hazardous fuel.

The Forest Service should acquire land in Spearfish Canyon, SD, but it should have flexibility and responsibility to make selections that would provide the highest and best beneficial public use for the expenditure.

The managers have not provided specific funding in land acquisition for the Craig, AK, and Kake, AK, projects as was proposed by the Senate. Funding for the Kake, AK, land transfer is included in State and private forestry, contingent upon authorization, and funding for Craig, AK, is provided in the southeast Alaska economic disaster fund. Bill language and funding for the Umpqua land exchange project is included in title III.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR NATIONAL FORESTS SPECIAL ACTS

The conference agreement provides $1,069,000 for the acquisition of lands for national forests special acts, an increase of $1,000 above the House and the Senate proposals.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS TO COMPLETE LAND EXCHANGES

The conference agreement provides an indefinite appropriation estimated to be $234,000 for the acquisition of lands to complete land exchanges as proposed by both the House and the Senate.

RANGE BETTERMENT FUND

The conference agreement provides an indefinite appropriation estimated to be $3,300,000 for the range betterment fund as proposed by both the House and the Senate.

GIFTS, DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS FOR FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

The conference agreement provides $92,000 for gifts, donations and bequests for forest and rangeland research as proposed by both the House and the Senate.

MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL FOREST LANDS FOR SUBSISTENCE USES

The conference agreement provides $5,500,000 for management of national forest system lands for subsistence uses in Alaska as proposed by the Senate. No funding was proposed by the House. The managers do not agree to the Senate proposal to transfer a portion of these funds to the State of Alaska for this program. Funds are provided in State and private forestry for educational efforts of the United Fishermen proposed by the Senate.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA ECONOMIC DISASTER FUND

The conference agreement provides $5,000,000 for the Southeast Alaska Economic Disaster fund; this was not included in the Senate or House proposals. These funds should be used for Craig, AK, to assist with economic development.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS, FOREST SERVICE

The managers have included bill language proposed by the Senate concerning the National Forest Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The conference agreement includes: the Senate proposal to increase the limit on funding advances for law enforcement emergencies; the House language providing certain contracting procedures during the transition phase at the Land Between the Lakes NRA; the Senate proposal to reimburse a former employee for certain expenses; the Senate proposal to allow certain activities on the Green Mountain National Forest, VT, concerning the sale of excess buildings; and technical changes to language concerning definitions of indirect costs. The Forest Service is encouraged to give priority to projects for the Alaska jobs-in-the-woods program that enhance the southeast Alaska economy, such as the Southeast Alaska Intertie.

The managers are concerned about reports that certain Forest Service officials have spent large sums when purchasing new vehicles to get them painted to the agency standard green color. The managers expect the agency to acquire its vehicles in the most cost effective manner possible. The managers direct the agency to change its policy to prevent such expensive purchases. The managers have not included section 501 of the House passed bill which legislatively required all vehicles purchased to be white. With the exception of specific vehicles, such as are used for law enforcement and fire prevention, where a specific color is an essential element of agency recognition and public safety, the managers expect vehicle paint standards to emphasize economical acquisitions.

The managers remain extremely concerned about the size of the headquarters office and emphasize the need to get funding to field units. The managers expect full adherence, as was directed by both the House and the Senate, to the National Academy of Public Administration report dealing with staffing size limits for the Chief Financial Officer. If the workload proves too pressing for the existing staff, the managers encourage the use of contractors to accomplish short term efforts. The Congress has provided substantial resources and many technical reforms, such as the major simplification of the budget structure in this Act, which aid the financial management reform effort. The managers expect to continue to receive regular updates on progress in agency accountability and financial management.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The managers encourage the Department to work with State and Federal environmental and energy organizations to integrate energy and environmental policies, programs and regulations. In particular strategies should be developed to reduce multiple pollutants, improve energy efficiency and enhance reliability. The Department should work with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Environmental Council of the States, The State and Territorial Air Pollution Prevention Administrators/Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials, The National Association of State Energy Officials and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. This effort should be directed at avoiding contradictory programs, duplicative activities and related problems.

CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY

(DEFERRAL)

The conference agreement provides for the deferral of $67,000,000 in previously appropriated funds for the clean coal technology program as proposed by the Senate instead of a deferral of $89,000,000 as proposed by the House. The managers also have agreed, under the fossil energy research and development account, to transfer $95,000,000 in previously appropriated clean coal technology funding to the fossil energy research and development account for a power plant improvement initiative. This initiative is particularly timely, given the current electricity shortages in certain parts of the country and the changing make-up of the industry as electric power deregulation is implemented.

The managers agree that a report required by the Senate dealing with a potential new round of clean coal technology projects is not necessary. This issue should be addressed in the context of the power plant improvement initiative funded under the fossil energy research and development account.

FOSSIL ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides a total of $540,653,000 for fossil energy research and development instead of $365,439,000 as proposed by the House and $401,338,000 as proposed by the Senate. Of the amount provided, $433,653,000 is new budget authority, $95,000,000 is derived by transfer from previously appropriated funds from the clean coal technology account for a power plant improvement initiative and $12,000,000 is derived by transfer from the SPR petroleum account in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The numerical changes described below are to the House recommended level.

In central, systems increases include $1,000,000 for the international clean energy initiative, $1,000,000 for a study of the use of clean coal alternatives for replacement of the Capitol power plant and $2,000,000 for electro-catalytic oxidation technology.

In the indirect fired cycle program there is a decrease of $1,000,000. In the turbine program there is an increase of $3,000,000 for ramgen technology. In the fuel cell program a one-time increase of $2,000,000 is provided for a demonstration of solid oxide technology in Nuiqsut, Alaska, and there is an increase of $8,000,000 for the solid state energy conversion alliance. In the innovative concepts program there is a decrease of $1,500,000, which leaves an increase above fiscal year 2000 of $2,000,000 for multi-layer ceramic technology. In the transportation fuels and chemicals program there is an increase of $500,000 for the international clean energy initiative.

In advanced fuels research there are increases of $839,000 for hydrogen enabling science, $1,000,000 for advanced concepts/Vision 21 and $1,000,000 for advanced separation technology and decreases of $650,000 for molecular modeling and catalyst development and $489,000 for C–1 chemistry. In the technology crosscut program there is an increase of $30,000 for the National Energy Technology Laboratory center of excellence for computational energy science.

In natural gas programs there is an increase of $7,000,000 for the methane hydrates program.

For oil exploration and production research there is an increase of $1,000,000 for sonication technology for oil recovery and a decrease of $500,000 for analysis and planning. For emerging processing technology applications there is an increase of $2,600,000 for biodesulfurization of diesel fuel. There is also a decrease of $12,000,000, which reflects the use of previously appropriated Strategic Petroleum Reserve funds from the SPR petroleum account.

In other programs there is an increase of $700,000 for cooperative research and development; $951,000 for headquarters program direction fixed costs; $3,833,000 for fixed costs at energy technology centers, including $1,933,000 for salaries and benefits and $1,900,000 for contractor services; $1,900,000 for general plant projects, of which $1,300,000 is for National Energy Technology Center renovation projects; and $45,000,000, which reverses a general reduction adopted in House floor action.

The managers agree to the following:

1. The materials research program under the central systems activity should focus on hazardous air pollutants in general and mercury in particular.

2. Future funding for the Capitol power plant is the responsibility of the Architect of the Capitol and the $1,000,000 provided for a study of clean coal alternatives completes the funding commitment through Interior and Related Agencies appropriations.

3. Emphasis in the indirect fired cycle program should be placed on co-production, novel hybrid cycles and systems integration to complement the Vision 21 program. In fiscal year 2001 the program should move towards hybrid gasification/combustion technology.

4. The Department should continue and expand the advanced separation technology initiative in its fiscal year 2002 and later budget requests.

5. Within the methane hydrates program, the Department is strongly encouraged to consider the expertise of the Gulf of Mexico Hydrate Research Consortium, as well as the expertise of the Center for Marine Resources and Environmental Technology in gas hydrate research related to geohazard and sea floor stability in the Gulf of Mexico.

6. The ultra clean fuels initiative should not exclude coal-based fuels.

7. The report required by the House dealing with financial incentives for reducing emissions from existing coal-fired plants is not necessary. This issue should be addressed in the context of the power plant improvement initiative.

8. Research on the biodesulfurization of gasoline should be continued within this account and coordinated with programs in this area in the petroleum industries of the future program in the energy conservation account.

Power plant improvement initiative.—In the coming years, the surge in U.S. demand for electric power shows no signs of abating. Yet, in many regions, our expanding 21st century economy is being powered by an out-of-date and undersized electric power system. The result has been an increasing frequency of power supply disruptions and sharp increases in the electric bills of many Americans. For the sick and the elderly, access to reliable electricity can be a matter of life and death. Without reliable and affordable electric power, commercial and industrial businesses can grind to a halt. We risk short-circuiting the continued expansion of digital commerce and e-business that are integral to economic prosperity.

More than half of our nation's electricity is currently supplied by coal, and for decades into the future, plentiful American coal will continue to provide low cost and reliable electricity. Coal-fired electric power is fundamental to the U.S. economy and domestic energy security. As the U.S. electric industry transitions to a new and competitive business structure, the demands on the existing fleet of coal-based electric generating facilities are changing. Power plants must operate in a fashion that reduces environmental impacts, achieves greater efficiency in operation, reduces carbon dioxide and other emissions, remains cost-competitive, and responds quickly to changing customer demand. By achieving greater efficiency, these generating plants will be capable of supplying more electricity, which is needed in today's economy and for the future.

The managers have agreed to fund a power plant improvement initiative that will demonstrate advanced coal-based technologies applicable to existing and new power plants including co-production plants, for example, plants that produce heat, electric power and liquid fuels, and new technologies such as the introduction of coal fines into fuel streams at power plants. The managers expect that there will be at least a 50 percent industry cost share for each of these projects and that the program will focus on technology that can be commercialized over the next few years. Such demonstrations must advance the efficiency, environmental controls and cost-competitiveness of coal-fired capacity well beyond that which is in operation now or has been demonstrated to date.

The managers have included bill language that provides for a request for proposals 120 days after enactment of this Act. The Department should circulate a draft for comment and receive input from outside groups and industry before issuing the final request for proposals. The language provides for obligation of funds after September 30, 2001, and incorporates the governing provisions of previous demonstration programs for the expenditure of funds, including repayment of government contributions that are to be retained for future demonstration projects.

The managers expect the Department of Energy to use the draft solicitation and public review process to specify the criteria for the technical and financial evaluation of projects. The criteria should include as a minimum: (1) the approximate size of a commercial scale project to ensure a commercially viable demonstration and, if intended for existing facilities, applicability to a large portion of existing capacity and (2) the increase in performance factors, such as efficiency, cost-competitiveness, and/or emissions removal required for both existing and new facilities.

Bill Language.—The conference agreement includes language, as proposed by the Senate, transferring $12,000,000 from the SPR petroleum account to offset partially fossil energy research and development funding requirements for fiscal year 2001. Language also is included transferring $95,000,000 from the clean coal technology account for a power plant improvement initiative. The conference agreement also includes Senate proposed language permitting the use of up to 4 percent of National Energy Technology Center program direction funds to support other Department of Energy activities. Language also is included under title III—General Provisions requiring the National Energy Technology Laboratory to establish an advisory group under the same terms and conditions as such groups at other National Laboratories.

ALTERNATIVE FUELS PRODUCTION

(RESCISSION)

The conference agreement provides for the rescission of $1,000,000 in unobligated balances from the alternative fuels production account as proposed by both the House and the Senate.

NAVAL PETROLEUM AND OIL SHALE RESERVES

The conference agreement provides $1,600,000 in new funding for the Naval petroleum and oil shale reserves for an advanced oil recovery program at Naval Petroleum Reserve Number 3. No funds are provided, as proposed by both the House and the Senate, for ongoing operations at the Reserves because unobligated balances from previous fiscal years should be sufficient to continue necessary operations in fiscal year 2001. The $7,000,000 rescission proposed by the Senate is not agreed to. The $1,600,000 is for engineering studies to determine project scope, cost, revenue projections and a timetable for demonstration of technology that has the potential to increase significantly oil production at NPR–3, extend the life of the field and increase revenues to the Federal government. If the results of the engineering studies are acceptable to the Department, it may enter into an agreement with a non-Federal entity to develop a cost shared demonstration project for below-the-reservoir production at NPR–3.

ELK HILLS SCHOOL LANDS FUND

The conference agreement provides $36,000,000 for the third payment from the Elk Hills school lands fund as proposed by both the House and the Senate. The managers have agreed to delay this payment until October 1, 2001, and expect the payment to be made on that date or as soon thereafter as possible.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement includes $816,940,000 for energy conservation instead of $649,672,000 as proposed by the House and $763,937,000 as proposed by the Senate, including $2,000,000 to be derived by transfer from the biomass energy development account. The numerical changes described below are to the House recommended level.

In technology roadmaps and competitive research and development for buildings there is an increase of $762,000 for roadmaps and a decrease of $500,000 for competitive R&D. Increases in residential buildings integration include $750,000 for Building America and $100,000 for residential building codes. In commercial buildings integration there are increases of $600,000 for research and development and $100,000 for commercial building energy codes.

In equipment, materials and tools there are increases of $300,000 for lighting research and development to increase the base budget for the hybrid lighting partnership, $1,645,000 for residential absorption heat pumps, $3,000,000 for desiccants and chillers, $1,000,000 for refrigeration, $1,950,000 for cogeneration/fuel cells, $500,000 for appliances and emerging technology research and development, $500,000 for windows research and $1,000,000 for lighting and appliance standards.

There are also increases of $13,000,000 for the weatherization assistance program and $1,000,000 for the State energy conservation program.

In the Federal energy management program increases include $1,000,000 for program activities and $300,000 for program direction. The managers expect the Department to incorporate the use of distributed generation into the Federal energy management program. Onsite power options should be considered for all Federal facility power needs based on a balance between economic and environmental considerations. Distributed generation technologies can provide improved reliability, quality of power, total cost of ownership, environmental benefits and remote power needed to achieve Federal missions. The Department of Energy should set the example immediately in its own facilities and report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 90 days of enactment of this Act with a plan for doing so at DOE sites in fiscal year 2001 and throughout the Federal government in fiscal year 2001 and beyond.

For industries of the future (specific) programs increases include $178,000 for aluminum, $30,000 for glass, $250,000 for mining, $2,000,000 for agriculture and $1,800,000 for supporting industries. In industries of the future (crosscutting) there are increases of $450,000 for inventions and innovations and $3,000,000 for distributed generation and a decrease of $450,000 for the National Competitiveness through Energy, Environment and Economics grants program. In management and planning for industry sector programs there is an increase of $590,000 for fixed costs in program direction and a decrease of $390,000 in evaluation and planning.

In transportation hybrid systems increases include $4,000,000 for high power energy storage and $4,000,000 for heavy vehicle propulsion. For fuel cell programs there are increases of $1,600,000 for systems work and $4,500,000 for fuel processor/storage work. In the advanced combustion engine program increases include $3,000,000 for combustion and after treatment, $1,000,000 for heavy truck engine research, and $1,000,000 for health impacts of fuels. Other vehicle technology research and development increases include $1,500,000 for cooperative automotive research for advanced technologies, $500,000 for heavy vehicles/truck safety and $1,000,000 for a cost shared program on engine boosting technology for light trucks and sport utility vehicles.

In fuels utilization there are increases of $500,000 for petroleum based fuels and, in the alternative fuels program, $500,000 for medium trucks, $500,000 for heavy trucks and $500,000 for environmental impacts. There is also a decrease of $1,000,000 for health impacts of fuels because this program has been funded in the vehicle technology/advanced combustion engine activity.

Other changes in transportation programs include increases of $2,900,000 in materials technology for heavy vehicle high strength weight reduction, $2,300,000 for the clean cities program in technology deployment and $126,500,000, which reverses the House floor action that eliminated funding for the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles program.

There is also a decrease of $21,500,000, which reverses a general increase adopted in House floor action. That increase has been spread across various programs.

Finally, in policy and management there are increases of $225,000 for the working capital fund and $278,000 for the Golden, CO, field office and a decrease of $1,000,000 for the one-time cost associated with the National Academy of Sciences study funded in last year's Act.

The managers agree to the following:

1. The recently approved reorganization to separate distributed generation functions into a new office should be appropriately shown in future budget requests as should the realignment of management support services.

2. The Department should evaluate ambient temperature cure glass technology for air conditioning, which has the potential to reduce energy use for air conditioning, and incorporate that technology, as appropriate, in the Federal Energy Management Program.

3. Given the increases provided in the conference agreement, projects at the Northwest Alliance for Transportation Technologies should be funded at substantially higher levels than previous years.

4. Work with and at the National Transportation Research Center should also be continued and expanded.

5. The report required by the House dealing with engine boosting technology is not necessary. This issue should be addressed in the new program on this subject which is funded in the vehicle technology research and development activity.

6. With respect to the House direction on Postal Service vehicles, no funds should be used for electric vehicle purchases. Such purchases are the responsibility of the Postal Service and the cooperating States.

7. The managers are aware of recent technological advances that may increase opportunities for the application of homogenous charge combustion ignition technologies in mobile systems. This technology has the potential to reduce dramatically NO_X and particulate emissions. The managers direct the Office of Energy Efficiency to submit a report that outlines recent developments in this technology, describes related research being performed with Federal support, and discusses potential future directions for research and development. This report should be submitted by April 1, 2001. The managers further urge the Department to work with the National Research Council to address the potential of homogenous charge combustion ignition technology in its next annual review of the PNGV program.

8. Research on the biodesulfurization of gasoline should be continued in the petroleum industries of the future program and coordinated with programs in this area in Fossil Energy.

Bill Language.—The conference agreement earmarks a total of $191,000,000 for energy conservation programs of which $153,000,000 is earmarked for weatherization assistance grants and $38,000,000 is earmarked for State energy conservation grants. The conference agreement modifies language proposed by the Senate permitting the waiver of cost sharing for weatherization assistance grants. Such waivers can be granted no more than twice. The modification specifies that such waivers can be granted for no more than 50 percent of the required cost share. In addition, the cost-sharing requirement for direct grants for weatherization assistance to Indian tribes is permanently waived.

ECONOMIC REGULATION

The conference agreement provides $2,000,000 for economic regulation as proposed by the Senate instead of $1,992,000 as proposed by the House.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides a total of $165,000,000 for the strategic petroleum reserve, including the transfer of $4,000,000 from the SPR petroleum account. The increase above the House is $8,000,000 for the maintenance of a Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve. The House did not include the transfer from the SPR petroleum account. The Senate proposed a transfer of $3,000,000 from the SPR petroleum account and a $1,000,000 transfer from the Naval petroleum and oil shale reserves account to pay for the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve.

ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

The conference agreement provides $75,675,000 for the Energy Information Administration instead of $70,368,000 as proposed by the House and $74,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The increase above the House level includes $4,632,000 to continue core programs and $675,000 for petroleum data improvements, of which $150,000 is for an outlet level sampling frame for gasoline and diesel fuels, $125,000 is to expand the current gasoline sample to allow the weekly publication of gasoline prices for key States and cities, $100,000 is to upgrade the weekly petroleum information system to improve the reliability and accuracy of the data and $300,000 is to institute a biweekly survey of companies during the heating season to monitor interruptible natural gas contracts.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES

The conference agreement provides $2,240,658,000 for Indian health services instead of $2,106,178,000 as proposed by the House and $2,184,421,000 as proposed by the Senate. The numerical changes described below are to the House recommended level.

In hospital and clinic programs there are increases of $32,106,000 for pay costs, $8,100,000 for staffing of new facilities, $30,000,000 for the Indian health care improvement fund, $225,000 for the Shoalwater