

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1770

To provide for the establishment of emergency wildland fire suppression funds.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 11, 2007

Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of emergency wildland fire suppression funds.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Stable Fire Funding
5 Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY**
7 **FIREFIGHTING FUND.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
9 Treasury of the United States a fund to be used to pay
10 80 percent of the cost to the United States for Bureau

1 of Land Management emergency wildland fire suppression
2 activities that exceed amounts annually appropriated for
3 wildland fire suppression activities (referred to in this sec-
4 tion as the “Fund”), consisting of—

5 (1) such amounts as are appropriated to the
6 Fund under subsection (e);

7 (2) such amounts as are appropriated but not
8 expended for fire suppression activities, to be trans-
9 ferred to the Fund by the Secretary of the Interior;
10 and

11 (3) any interest earned on investment of
12 amounts in the Fund under subsection (e).

13 (b) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—Subject to para-
14 graph (2), upon request by the Secretary of the Interior,
15 the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the
16 Fund to the Secretary of the Interior such amounts as
17 the Secretary of the Interior determines is necessary for
18 wildland fire suppression activities under subsection (a).

19 (c) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treas-
21 ury shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not,
22 in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury,
23 required to meet current withdrawals. Investments
24 may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of
25 the United States.

1 (2) ACQUISITION OF OBLIGATIONS.—For the
2 purpose of investments under paragraph (1), obliga-
3 tions may be acquired—

4 (A) on original issue at the issue price; or
5 (B) by purchase of outstanding obligations
6 at the market price.

7 (3) SALE OF OBLIGATIONS.—Any obligation ac-
8 quired by the Fund may be sold by the Secretary of
9 the Treasury at the market price.

10 (4) CREDITS TO FUND.—The interest on, and
11 the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any ob-
12 ligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and
13 form a part of the Fund.

14 (d) ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING SYSTEM.—The
15 Secretary of the Interior shall establish an accounting and
16 reporting system for the Fund in accordance with Na-
17 tional Fire Plan reporting procedures.

18 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund—

20 (1) for fiscal year 2008, \$200,000,000 for
21 emergency wildland fire suppression activities car-
22 ried out by the Bureau of Land Management that
23 exceed amounts annually appropriated for wildland
24 fire suppression activities; and

1 (2) for each subsequent fiscal year, such
2 amount as is necessary to maintain in the Fund the
3 amount that is equal to 80 percent of the greatest
4 of the amounts incurred by the Secretary of the In-
5 terior for emergency fire suppression during any of
6 the 5 preceding fiscal years that exceed amounts an-
7 nually appropriated for wildland fire suppression ac-
8 tivities.

9 **SEC. 3. FOREST SERVICE EMERGENCY FIREFIGHTING**
10 **FUND.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
12 Treasury of the United States a fund to be used to pay
13 80 percent of the cost to the United States for Forest
14 Service emergency wildland fire suppression activities that
15 exceed amounts annually appropriated for wildland fire
16 suppression activities (referred to in this section as the
17 “Fund”), consisting of—

18 (1) such amounts as are appropriated to the
19 Fund under subsection (e);

20 (2) such amounts as are appropriated but not
21 expended for fire suppression activities, to be trans-
22 ferred to the Fund by the Secretary of Agriculture;
23 and

24 (3) any interest earned on investment of
25 amounts in the Fund under subsection (c).

1 (b) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—Subject to para-
2 graph (2), upon request by the Secretary of Agriculture,
3 the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the
4 Fund to the Secretary of Agriculture such amounts as the
5 Secretary of Agriculture determines is necessary for
6 wildland fire suppression activities under subsection (a).

7 (c) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treas-
9 ury shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not,
10 in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury,
11 required to meet current withdrawals. Investments
12 may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of
13 the United States.

14 (2) ACQUISITION OF OBLIGATIONS.—For the
15 purpose of investments under paragraph (1), obliga-
16 tions may be acquired—

17 (A) on original issue at the issue price; or

18 (B) by purchase of outstanding obligations
19 at the market price.

20 (3) SALE OF OBLIGATIONS.—Any obligation ac-
21 quired by the Fund may be sold by the Secretary of
22 the Treasury at the market price.

23 (4) CREDITS TO FUND.—The interest on, and
24 the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any ob-

1 ligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and
2 form a part of the Fund.

3 (d) ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING SYSTEM.—The
4 Secretary of Agriculture shall establish an accounting and
5 reporting system for the Fund in accordance with Na-
6 tional Fire Plan reporting procedures.

7 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
8 are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund—

9 (1) for fiscal year 2008, \$600,000,000 for
10 emergency wildland fire suppression activities car-
11 ried out by the Forest Service that exceed amounts
12 annually appropriated for wildland fire suppression
13 activities; and

14 (2) for each subsequent fiscal year, such
15 amount as is necessary to maintain in the Fund the
16 amount that is equal to 80 percent of the greatest
17 of the amounts incurred by the Secretary of Agri-
18 culture for emergency fire suppression during any of
19 the 5 preceding fiscal years that exceed amounts an-
20 nually appropriated for wildland fire suppression ac-
21 tivities.

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