

Calendar No. 440

105TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
105-227

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1999

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JUNE 26, 1998.—Ordered to be printed
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Mr. GORTON, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2237]

The Committee on Appropriations reports the bill (S. 2237) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

Amounts in new budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1999

Estimates considered by Senate	\$14,268,257,000
Below the budget estimate, 1999	610,551,000
Below appropriations, 1998 (including emergencies)	451,787,000

Survey to provide the State of Idaho with data on elk migration patterns gathered through individual identification, GPS, or other available methods.

Under current public laws, including the Federal Land Management Policy Act of 1976, Federal land management agencies are given the authority and the mandate to protect public resources, including those of scientific value. These resources include fossilized paleontological specimens, which provide valuable clues to the Earth's history. The Committee is aware that no unified Federal policy exists regarding the treatment of these fossils by the affected Federal agencies, and is concerned that the lack of appropriate standards may lead to the deterioration or loss of these fossils and the permanent loss of a valuable scientific resource.

Therefore, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with appropriate scientific, educational and commercial entities, should develop a report assessing the need for a unified Federal policy on the collection, storage, and preservation of these fossils. Agencies to be consulted in the development of this policy should include, but not be limited to, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Forest Service, and the Smithsonian Institution. The Committee encourages the Secretary to assess the need for standards that would maximize the availability of fossils for scientific study. The Committee expects the Secretary to submit the report to Congress for review no later than February 1, 1999. In addition, the report should evaluate the effectiveness of current methods for storing and preserving fossils collected from public lands.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 1998	\$35,443,000
Budget estimate, 1999	37,304,000
Committee recommendation	36,464,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$36,464,000 for fiscal year 1999, a reduction of \$840,000 from the budget estimate and an increase of \$1,021,000 above the fiscal year 1998 level.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 1998	\$24,500,000
Budget estimate, 1999	25,684,000
Committee recommendation	25,486,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$25,486,000 for fiscal year 1999, a reduction of \$198,000 from the budget estimate and an increase of \$986,000 above the fiscal year 1998 level.

NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 1998	\$1,000,000
Budget estimate, 1999	
Committee recommendation	