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CONTACT: Lindsay VanLaningham
lindsayv@calforests.org

Federal Budget Approval Represents Breakthrough in Forest Management, Wildfire Funding

The California Forest Watershed Alliance (CAFWA) released the following statement regarding President Donald Trump's signing the omnibus appropriations bill on Friday, March 23, 2018:

"The omnibus budget bill signed into law today takes a significant step forward in how we manage our forests, one of California's greatest resources. A new funding mechanism finally eliminates the disastrous practice of fighting catastrophic wildfires with funds originally intended to better manage our forests and reduce the risk of megafires. Now, we can correctly focus on long-term forest management that will benefit our state and nation in multiple ways.

"The enactment of this omnibus appropriations bill breaks years of stalled progress toward a healthier environment. Healthy forests provide all Californians with an abundant source of clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat and unsurpassed recreational opportunities. With a much stronger and smarter financial foundation, federal agencies and their partners at the state level can turn concepts on paper into achievements on the ground."

The California Forest Watershed Alliance (CAFWA) is an urban-rural coalition representing water interests, local governments, the conservation community, agriculture, and the forestry sector, created to promote the restoration and improvement of California's forested watersheds. For more information, visit caforestsandwatersheds.org.

