

An hourglass-shaped graphic with a globe inside. The top bulb is dark blue, and the bottom bulb is light blue. The globe is a darker shade of blue. The hourglass is centered on the page.

WikiLeaks Document Release

<http://wikileaks.org/wiki/CRS-RL31999>

February 2, 2009

Congressional Research Service

Report RL31999

*Disaster Relief and Response: FY2003 Supplemental
Appropriations*

Keith Bea, Government and Finance Division

Updated October 1, 2003

Abstract. On July 7, 2002, President Bush submitted a second supplemental appropriations request for FY2003. It seeks \$1.889 billion for three disaster relief activities: \$289 million for wildfire suppression and rehabilitation carried out by the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, \$1.550 billion for disaster relief administered by the Department of Homeland Security, and \$50 million for the investigation and recovery associated with the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster.

WikiLeaks

CRS Report for Congress

Received through the CRS Web

Disaster Relief and Response: FY2003 Supplemental Appropriations

Updated October 1, 2003

Keith Bea
Specialist, American National Government
Government and Finance Division

<http://wikileaks.org/wiki/CRS-RL31999>

Disaster Relief and Response: FY2003 Supplemental Appropriations

Summary

Federal departments and agencies are authorized to undertake a range of emergency management activities, including disaster relief and response efforts. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has primary responsibility, but other departments and agencies provide grants and loans to disaster victims and reimburse state and local governments overwhelmed by costs associated with clearing debris and rebuilding facilities, among other forms of assistance. FY2003 supplemental funding for these activities has been the issue of debate.

On September 30, 2003, President Bush signed into law H.R. 2657 (P.L. 108-83), the appropriations measure for the legislative branch for FY2004. Title III of the statute, titled the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003, appropriates \$938 million for four departments, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the federal judiciary for FY2003. Roughly half of the funding is appropriated to DHS for disaster relief; the majority of the other funding would be appropriated for costs associated with wildfires, flood control, and other emergencies.

P.L. 108-83 constitutes the third FY2003 supplemental; the others are P.L. 108-11 and P.L. 108-69. The first, P.L. 108-11 (H.R. 1559), signed by the President on April 18, 2003, appropriated \$78.5 billion for the war in Iraq, homeland security grants, and other purposes. (See CRS Report RL31829, *Supplemental Appropriations FY2003: Iraq Conflict, Afghanistan, Global War on Terrorism, and Homeland Security*, by Amy Belasco and Larry Nowels, for more information on P.L. 108-11.) The second, P.L. 108-69 (H.R. 2859), signed on August 8, 2003, appropriated \$984 million for the disaster relief fund administered by DHS. This report provides information on both P.L. 108-69 and P.L. 108-83. It will not be updated.

Contents

Overview	1
Request Components and Congressional Action	2
Issues of Debate	4
Disaster Relief Fund	5
Wildfire Management	10
Space Shuttle <i>Columbia</i> Disaster	11

List of Tables

Table 1. FY2003 Supplemental for Disaster Response and Relief, Administration Request and Congressional Action	3
Table 2. Disaster Relief Fund, FY1974-FY2004	8
Table 3. Wildfire Management Appropriations, FY1999-FY2004	11

Disaster Relief and Response: FY2003 Supplemental Appropriations

Overview

On September 30, 2003, President Bush signed into law the appropriations measure for the legislative branch for FY2004 (P.L. 108-83, H.R. 2657). Title III of the measure, called the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003, appropriates \$938 million for the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Homeland Security, and the Interior, in addition to the federal judiciary and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The funds are intended to meet expenses associated with the recovery of wreckage from the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, provide reimbursement for wildfire costs, and assist communities stricken by natural disasters.

To a limited extent, emergency disaster relief needs for the current fiscal year were previously addressed by Congress and President Bush. On August 8, 2003, the President signed the Emergency Supplemental Appropriation for Disaster Relief Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-69, H.R. 2859), approved by the House and Senate in the closing days of July 2003. P.L. 108-69 provides \$983.6 million for the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The DRF is the source of funding for grants and loans to communities devastated by natural disasters, explosions or fires, or emergencies that, in the President's determination, require federal resources.

Legislative action began after President Bush submitted a second FY2003 supplemental request to Congress on July 7, 2003 for \$1.9 billion.¹ On July 9 the Senate Appropriations Committee reported its version of the legislative branch appropriations measure for FY2004 (S. 1383) with the FY2003 supplemental funding provisions incorporated in Title III. The Senate passed the measure on July 11 and inserted the text of S. 1383 into the House-passed version of the legislative branch appropriations measure, H.R. 2657. In addition to the funds requested by the President, Senators added \$100 million for the Corporation for National and Community Service for operating expenses for AmeriCorps grants and for educational awards funded from the National Service Trust, \$25 million more for wildfire response and prevention, and \$10 million for flood prevention for the Corps of Engineers. The Senate-approved bill totaled \$2.044 billion, 8.2% more than

¹ The text of the Administration's request is available at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/amendments/supplemental_7_7_03.pdf], visited Sept. 22, 2003. The first FY2003 supplemental request, submitted on March 25, 2003, for the war in Iraq, homeland security grants, and other needs, resulted in enactment of P.L. 108-11, the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003.

requested. The House subsequently considered separate legislation on the President's July 7 request.²

In light of warnings that the DRF would be depleted in mid-August when Congress would be on recess, Members expedited action and initiated a second legislative track.³ H.R. 2859, introduced in the House on July 24 and passed by that chamber the next day, consisted solely of a \$983.6 million supplemental appropriation for the DRF. The only amendment that could be considered on the floor of the House pursuant to the rule (H.Res. 339) would have required a rescission from discretionary accounts to compensate for the supplemental; the House rejected that amendment. The Senate approved the House-passed version of H.R. 2859 without amendment on July 31, and the President signed the measure into law (P.L. 108-69) on August 8.

While enactment of P.L. 108-69 resolved the immediate problem regarding the DRF, other urgent funding needs remained. These needs were addressed through enactment of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003, Title III of P.L. 108-83.

Request Components and Congressional Action. The July 7, 2003 request by President Bush sought additional funding for three departments and one independent agency as follows:

- \$1.55 billion for the Department of Homeland Security;
- \$253 million for the Department of Agriculture;
- \$36 million for the Department of the Interior; and
- \$50 million for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The \$1.55 billion request for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which represented 82% of the total request, was sought for the DRF. Grants from the DRF aid state and local governments, certain nonprofit organizations, and individuals and families victimized by catastrophes that overwhelm state and local resources. DRF allocations are used to provide temporary housing to families, urgent personal needs of disaster victims such as funeral expenses, medical payments, and clothing, and the reconstruction of public and certain nonprofit facilities. Aid provided from the DRF cannot duplicate that which is available from insurance policies, charities, or other government accounts.

The combined budget authority requested for the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior — \$289 million (15% of the total request) — was for federal wildfire suppression activities and the rehabilitation of burned areas, especially in the western states. The requested \$50 million (3% of the total) for the National Aeronautics and

² The House Appropriations Committee reported a measure on July 21 to fund the President's July 7 request, with an additional \$136 million added for wildfire costs, the federal judiciary, flood control projects, and needs in Michigan and the Midway Atoll. See: Rep. Harold Rogers, "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2003," *Congressional Record*, vol. 149, July 24, 2003, p. H7648.

³ Ibid.

Space Administration (NASA) was for additional and unanticipated costs associated with the recovery, investigation, and analysis of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* accident.

Table 1 provides summary information on the request and subsequent action by Congress. The supplemental funding provided for the DRF in P.L. 108-69 is noted separately from that included in P.L. 108-83. The sum of the two amounts yields a total appropriation for the DRF of \$1.4 billion, slightly less than \$1.550 billion requested by the President on July 7, 2003. The two FY2003 supplemental measures (P.L. 108-69 and P.L. 108-83) taken together equal \$1.992 billion, an amount 1.7% higher than the \$1.889 billion requested by the President.

Table 1. FY2003 Supplemental for Disaster Response and Relief, Administration Request and Congressional Action
(\$ in millions)

Federal Agency/Purpose	Request	House ^A	Senate ^B	P.L. 108-69	P.L. 108-83	Total enacted
Departments						
Dept. of Homeland Security/Disaster Relief Fund (DRF)	1,550	1,550	1,550	984	442	1,426
Dept. of Agriculture/fire suppression, rehabilitation of burned areas, pest control	253	293 ^C	273 ^C	0	313 ^C	313
Dept. of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers/flood control	0	60	10	0	60	60
Dept. of the Interior/fire suppression, resource management	36	41	61	0	41	41
Other agencies						
Corporation for National and Community Service/AmeriCorps Grants	0	0	100	0	0	0
Judiciary/salaries, defender services	0	32	0	0	32	32

Federal Agency/Purpose	Request	House ^A	Senate ^B	P.L. 108-69	P.L. 108-83	Total enacted
National Aeronautics and Space Administration/ Shuttle <i>Columbia</i>	50	50	50	0	50	50
Total	1,889	2,026	2,044	984	938	1,922

Source: Administration request: U.S. Office of Management and Budget, “Estimate #12, FY2003 Emergency Supplemental: Departments of Agriculture, Homeland Security, Interior, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration — 7/7/03,” available on the OMB website at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/amendments/supplemental_7_7_03.pdf], visited July 9, 2003. Congressional action: House unnumbered measure available from the author, H.R. 2657 (H.Rept. 108-279), P.L. 108-69.

A. Reflects provisions of unnumbered bill reported by the House Appropriations Committee on July 21, 2003.

B. Reflects provisions of Title III of S. 1383 inserted into H.R. 2657, as passed by the Senate on July 10, 2003.

C. The Senate-passed version of H.R. 2657 and the conference report added authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to use \$20 million from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to suppress and control a cricket infestation in Nevada, Utah, and Idaho. Also, the House-reported measure and the conference report directed the Secretary to use \$9.7 million in CCC funds to compensate Michigan tree orchardists. P.L. 108-83 includes these provisions.

Issues of Debate

Historically, little debate has occurred on federal disaster assistance funding measures. Questions may be asked, however, on the types of activities to be funded through this request, the addition of funding measures by Members of Congress for activities not requested by the Administration, and the appropriations history of the accounts included in the supplemental measure. For example, in addition to meeting the Administration’s request for funding in these three areas, the Senate voted to add \$100 million to the Corporation for National and Community Service for AmeriCorps grants, in addition to funds for other emergency activities. An amendment to provide similar funding was rejected by the House Appropriations Committee on July 21, 2003.⁴ The remainder of this report provides background information on the activities funded under the President’s request of July 7, 2003, and enacted into law through P.L. 108-69 and P.L. 108-83.

⁴ For background on the AmeriCorps grants, see CRS Report RS20420, *AmeriCorps and Other Service Programs: Description and Funding Levels*, by Ann Lordeman.

Disaster Relief Fund

The Department of Homeland Security uses funds appropriated to the disaster relief fund (DRF) to provide assistance authorized by the Stafford Act.⁵ Stafford Act aid is available after the President issues a declaration that federal assistance is needed to supplement the resources of overwhelmed states and localities.⁶ Federal assistance supported by DRF money is used by states, localities, and certain non-profit organizations to restore damaged or destroyed facilities, clear debris, and aid individuals and families with uninsured needs, among other activities.

Few disagree about the disaster relief needs facing the nation at present. In calendar year 2002, President Bush issued 49 major disaster declarations; thus far in calendar year 2003, 49 such declarations have been issued, including eight for severe weather associated with Hurricane Isabel.⁷

Five types of declarations may be issued by the President or the Secretary of DHS, summarized as follows:⁸

- **Major disaster.** The President can declare a major disaster upon the request of the governor of the affected state.⁹ A declaration authorizes DHS to administer various federal disaster assistance programs for victims of declared disasters. Each declaration specifies the type of incident covered, the time period covered, the types of disaster assistance available, the counties affected by the declaration, and also identifies the Federal Coordinating Officer.
- **Emergency.** The declaration process for emergencies is the same as for major disasters; however, an emergency declaration authorizes only emergency response activities, debris removal, and disaster housing programs. DRF expenditures for an emergency are limited to \$5 million per declaration, unless Congress is notified otherwise.

⁵ The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.

⁶ For more information on the Stafford Act and the DRF see CRS Report RL31791, *Emergency Management Funding for the Department of Homeland Security: Information and Issues for FY2004*, by Keith Bea, Rob Buschmann, Ben Canada, Wayne Morrissey, C. Stephen Redhead, and Shawn Reese.

⁷ For a list of major disaster declarations, see U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, "Federally Declared Disasters by Calendar Year," at [<http://www.fema.gov/library/drcys.shtml>], visited Oct. 1, 2003.

⁸ Summaries adapted from testimony by FEMA in U.S. Congress, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies, *Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations for 2001*, hearing, 106th Cong., 2nd sess., Feb. 29, 2000 (Washington: GPO, 2000), p. 702.

⁹ For criteria considered in the declaration of a major disaster, see 44 CFR 206.48.

- **Fire suppression.** The Secretary of DHS is authorized to provide fire suppression assistance to supplement the resources of communities when fires threaten such destruction as would warrant a major disaster declaration.
- **Defense emergency.** Upon request from the governor of an affected state, the President may authorize the Department of Defense (DoD) to carry out emergency work for a period not to exceed 10 days. DoD emergency work is limited to work essential for the preservation of life and property.
- **Pre-declaration activities.** When a situation threatens human health and safety, and a disaster is imminent but not yet declared, the Secretary of DHS may place agency employees on alert. DHS monitors the status of the situation, communicates with state emergency officials on potential assistance requirements, and deploys teams and resources to maximize the speed and effectiveness of the anticipated federal response and, when necessary, performs preparedness and preliminary damage assessment activities.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-296) transferred the authorities and functions previously carried out by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to DHS and charged the Secretary of Homeland Security with responsibility for administering these activities. Some of that authority apparently has been delegated to the Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response within DHS.

A major disaster declaration, which may be issued only by the President, makes available the full range of federal disaster relief assistance to stricken counties and cities. Some types of assistance available under a major disaster declaration include the repair, replacement, or reconstruction of public and nonprofit facilities, cash grants for personal needs of victims, temporary housing vouchers or replacement accommodations, and unemployment assistance related to the disaster.¹⁰ By comparison, an emergency declaration authorizes less assistance.¹¹ The costs of major disasters exceed those associated with the other four declarations.

Table 2 of this report lists appropriations made to the DRF since 1974, the first year in which the current span of federal assistance was provided by the federal government. Prior to FY1989, supplemental appropriations made to the DRF were approved infrequently and generally exceeded the amount originally appropriated in

¹⁰ For statutory provisions that authorize the assistance to be provided under the Stafford Act see Title IV of the Act at [<http://www.fema.gov/library/stafact.shtm>], visited July 11, 2003.

¹¹ For a comparison of the types of assistance authorized for major disasters, see Title IV of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 401-422, and for emergencies, see Title V of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5191-5193.

each fiscal year by roughly \$100 to \$200 million.¹² By comparison, since FY1989, appropriations have exceeded \$1 billion in each fiscal year and supplemental appropriations have been approved in all but FY1991 and FY2000. Note that this table also includes the FY2004 appropriation for the DRF included in the measure approved by Congress and currently awaiting the President's signature (H.R. 2555).

The last two columns of **Table 2** show that a similar growth pattern has developed for outlays from the DRF. Prior to FY1989, outlays from the DRF averaged \$568 million, and on only two occasions (Hurricane Frederic in FY1978 and the eruption of Mt. St. Helens in FY1980) exceeded \$1 billion. Since 1989, however, average annual outlays have exceeded \$2 billion, due to significant hurricanes (Hugo in FY1989, Andrew in FY1992, Floyd in FY1999), earthquakes (Loma Prieta in FY1990, Northridge in FY1994), floods (Midwest floods of 1993, Red River floods of 1995), and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. During FY2002, FEMA distributed almost \$4 billion in disaster relief to 32 states (and territories) in response to 42 major disaster declarations.¹³ Since 1989, roughly \$37 billion in constant dollars has been provided for disaster relief, more than three-quarters of the \$47 billion provided since 1974.

¹² An exception occurred in FY1980 after the eruption of Mt. St. Helens.

¹³ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Emergency Preparedness and Response Justification of Estimates Fiscal Year 2004*, (Washington: 2003), p. S-1.

Table 2. Disaster Relief Fund, FY1974-FY2004
(millions of dollars, 2002 constant dollars)

FY	^A Req.	Appropriations				Outlays	
		Orig.	Supp.	Total appropriations		Nominal	Constant
				Nominal	Constant		
1974	100	200	232	433	1,483	250	857
1975	100	150	50	200	624	206	643
1976	187	187	0	187	552	362	1,067
1977	100	100	200	300	830	294	813
1978	150	115	300	415	1,077	461	1,196
1979	200	200	194	394	938	277	660
1980	194	194	870	1,064	2,278	574	1,229
1981	375	358	0	358	698	401	780
1982	400	302	0	302	552	115	211
1983	325	130	0	130	228	202	354
1984	0	0	0	0	0	243	408
1985	100	100	0	100	161	192	309
1986	194	100	250	350	549	335	527
1987	100	120	^B 0	120	181	219	330
1988	125	120	0	^C 120	175	187	273
1989	200	100	^D 1,108	1,208	1,705	140	198
1990	270	98	^E 1,150	1,248	1,686	1,333	1,800
1991	270	0	0	0	0	552	724
1992	^F 184	185	4,136	^G 4,321	5,568	902	1,162
1993	292	292	2,000	^H 2,292	2,880	2,276	2,860
1994	^I 1,154	292	^J 4,709	5,001	6,121	3,743	4,582
1995	320	320	^K 3,275	3,595	4,277	2,116	2,518
1996	320	222	^K 2,275	2,497	2,905	2,232	2,596
1997	320	^L 1,320	^L 3,300	4,620	5,239	2,551	2,893
1998	^M 2,708	320	^N 1,600	1,920	2,141	3,252	3,626
1999	^O 2,566	^P 1,214	^Q 1,130	2,344	2,541	3,746	4,060
2000	2,780	^R 2,780	0	2,780	2,888	2,628	2,730
2001	2,909	300	^{S,T} 4,383	4,677	4,730	3,220	3,257
2002	1,366	2,164	^U 7,008	9,172	9,172	3,947	3,947
2003	1,843	800	^V 1,426	2,226	2,196	^W 5,094	—
2004	1,956	1,800	—	—	—	^W 3,518	—
Total	22,089	13,764	35,106	48,870	59,979	43,080	43,822

Sources: U.S. President annual budget documents; appropriations legislation; U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency budget justifications. Constant dollar calculations: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, State and local government chain-type price index, Table 7.11, found at [<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/dn/nipaweb/SelectTable.asp?Selected=N#S7>], visited Feb. 25, 2003.

^A Data in the request column generally represent the first budget request submitted by the Administration each year and do not include amended or supplemental requests. However, note additional detail in this column.

^B In February 1987, a total of \$57,475,000 was rescinded and transferred from the DRF to the Emergency Food and Shelter Program account (P.L. 100-6). That amount was returned to the fund the same year in supplemental appropriations legislation enacted in July 1987 (P.L. 100-71).

^C P.L. 100-202, the Continuing Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1988, appropriated \$120 million for disaster relief. According to FEMA, the original appropriation for that fiscal year was \$125 million, but \$5 million was transferred to the Department of Labor for “low income agriculture workers.”

^D Supplemental funds were included in P.L. 101-100, continuing appropriations legislation enacted after Hurricane Hugo struck in September 1989. According to FEMA, this amount was “referred to as a supplemental but was an increase in the original appropriation during a continuing resolution.”

^E P.L. 101-130, enacted after the Loma Prieta earthquake, appropriated \$1.1 billion in supplemental funding for FY1990. In addition, \$50 million was appropriated in P.L. 101-302, dire emergency supplemental appropriations legislation. Table 2 does not reflect a \$2.5 million transfer from the President’s unanticipated needs fund.

^F FY1992 request does not include the budget amendment of \$90 million submitted by the Administration.

^G Appropriations for FY1992 included a \$943 million dire emergency supplemental in P.L. 102-229, enacted in the fall of 1991 after Hurricane Bob; \$300 million after the Los Angeles riots and flooding in Chicago (spring of 1992) in P.L. 102-302; and \$2.893 billion in P.L. 102-368 after Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki, Typhoon Omar, and other disasters.

^H Total for FY1993 includes the \$2 billion supplemental approved after the Midwest floods of 1993 (P.L. 103-75).

^I The original FY1994 budget request was \$292 million. On July 29, 1993, a supplemental request of \$862 million was sent by President Clinton to Congress.

^J Supplemental appropriations for FY1994 enacted after the Northridge earthquake struck Los Angeles (P.L. 103-211).

^K Additional supplemental appropriation approved for Northridge earthquake costs (P.L. 104-19) for FY1995, with the same amount (\$3.275 billion) reserved for a contingency fund for FY1996. However, \$1 billion of the contingency fund was rescinded in FY1996 omnibus appropriations, P.L. 104-134. In the same legislation, another \$7 million was also appropriated to other FEMA accounts for costs associated with the aftermath of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City.

^L The FY1998 budget appendix (p. 1047) noted a transfer of \$104 million from the disaster relief fund in FY1996. In the FY1997 appropriations act (P.L. 104-204), \$1 billion that had been rescinded in FY1996 (P.L. 104-134) was restored, and \$320 million in new funds were appropriated. Supplemental appropriations of \$3.3 billion were approved in P.L. 105-18 after flooding in the Dakotas and Minnesota, and after storms in other states were declared major disasters. The legislation specified, however, that of the total, \$2.3 billion was to be available in FY1998 only when FEMA submitted a cost control report to Congress. This requirement was met, and the funding was made available in FY1998.

^M The FY1998 request consisted of a \$320 million base amount plus \$2.388 billion “to address actual and projected requirements from 1997 and prior year declarations.” (*Budget Appendix FY1998*, p. 1047).

^N Supplemental appropriations legislation (P.L. 105-174) for FY1998 approved for flooding associated with El Niño and other disasters.

^o The FY1999 request consisted of \$307,745,000 for the DRF and an additional \$2,258,485,000 in contingency funding to be available when designated as an emergency requirement under the Balanced Budget Act of 1985, as amended.

^p The FY1999 omnibus appropriations act (P.L. 105-277) included funds for costs associated with Hurricane Georges, flooding associated with El Niño, and other disasters.

^q Emergency supplemental appropriations for FY1999 (P.L. 106-31) included \$900 million for tornado damages as well as \$230 million for unmet needs, subject to allocation directions in the conference report (H.Rept. 106-143).

^r FY2000 appropriations act (P.L. 106-74) included disaster relief funding as follows: \$300 million in regular appropriations and \$2.5 billion designated as emergency spending for costs associated with Hurricane Floyd and other disasters. In addition, the Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 106-113) authorized the Director of FEMA to use up to \$215 million in disaster relief funds appropriated in P.L. 106-74 for the purchase of residences flooded by Hurricane Floyd, under specified conditions.

^s Supplemental appropriations legislation (P.L. 106-246) authorized that \$77 million from the DRF to be used for buyout and relocation assistance for victims of Hurricane Floyd. The Act also appropriated \$500 million in a separate account for claim compensation and administrative costs associated with the Cerro Grande fire that destroyed much of Los Alamos, New Mexico.

^t P.L. 107-38 appropriated \$40 billion in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Pursuant to the statute, these funds for FY2001 were allocated by the Office of Management Budget from the Emergency Response Fund (ERF). Of the total appropriated in P.L. 107-38 after the September 11 attacks, \$4.4 billion were allocated for FY2001 through P.L. 107-117 (115 Stat. 2338).

^u Congress appropriated \$2.651 billion for FY2002 in P.L. 107-206 to meet additional needs associated with the terrorist attacks. Funds for FY2002 also include \$4.4 billion provided from the ERF, largely for recovery costs in New York City.

^v Includes \$442 million in P.L. 108-69 and \$938 million in P.L. 108-83, to meet needs associated with tornadoes, winter storms, the recovery of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, and other disasters. Funds appropriated in these measures and in the FY2004 appropriations act for DHS (H.R. 2555) will likely be used for costs associated with Hurricane Isabel.

^w Outlay data based on current estimates.

Wildfire Management

The 2000 and 2002 fire seasons were, by most standards, among the worst in the past 50 years. Many argue that the threat of severe wildfires has grown because many forests have unnaturally high fuel loads (e.g., dead trees and dense undergrowth) and an historically unnatural mix of plant species (e.g., selectively logged or containing exotic invaders). Fuel treatments have been proposed to reduce the threats from wildfires, including prescribed burning, commercial logging, and other treatments (e.g., pre-commercial thinning). Proponents of fuel reduction argue that needed treatments often are delayed by environmental studies, administrative appeals, and litigation. However, many project opponents fear that simplifying fuel reduction projects could enable timber companies to increase logging on federal lands and that such projects might not receive proper environmental review.¹⁴

¹⁴ For more information see CRS Issue Brief IB10076, *Public (BLM) Lands and National Forests*, Ross W. Gorte and Carol Hardy Vincent, coordinators and CRS Report RS21544, *Wildfire Protection Funding*, by Ross W. Gorte.

In response to the succession of wildfires, Congress has appropriated more funds for wildfire management in each successive fiscal year since FY1999, as shown below in **Table 3**.

Table 3. Wildfire Management Appropriations, FY1999-FY2004
(\$ in millions)

Agency	FY1999	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004 Request
Forest Service	722.4	1,008.0	1,882.8	1,560.3	2,007.0	1,541.8
Bureau of Land Mgt.	336.9	591.0	977.1	678.4	839.2	698.7
Total Wildfire	1,059.3	1,598.9	2,859.9	2,238.8	2,846.1	2,240.5

Source: CRS Report RS21544, *Wildfire Protection Funding* by Ross W. Gorte.

Space Shuttle *Columbia* Disaster

On February 1, 2003, NASA's Space Shuttle *Columbia* broke apart while returning to Earth from a 16-day science mission in orbit. All seven astronauts — six Americans and one Israeli — were killed. An investigation began immediately after the disaster occurred and continues. Many hearings have been held on the *Columbia* disaster and the future of NASA, and Congress will likely take further action to address the issue. The Consolidated Appropriations Resolution for FY2003 (P.L. 108-7) included \$50 million for the recovery and investigation of the disaster. The President's request and H.R. 2657 includes an additional \$50 million for those costs.¹⁵

¹⁵ For more information see CRS Report RS21408, *NASA's Space Shuttle Columbia: Quick Facts and Issues for Congress*, by Marcia S. Smith. CRS Report RL31821, *The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's FY2004 Budget Request: Description, Analysis, and Issues for Congress*, by Marcia S. Smith, Daniel Morgan, and Wendy Schacht.