Resolution 2017-2
ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND U.S. FOREST SERVICE
APPROPRIATIONS BUDGET

WHEREAS; The Western States Sheriffs’ Association represents Sheriffs from 16 Western States; and

WHEREAS; The Western States Sheriffs’ Association is concerned with the level of appropriated funds for the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service’s management of our public lands under the purview of the Department of Interior and Agriculture; and

WHEREAS; There is a disparity between the amount of funds allocated for fire management and suppression as compared to resource management; and

WHEREAS; Proper resource management has the greatest potential of reducing future catastrophic wildfires thereby reducing the need for future suppression resources; and

WHEREAS; Proper resource management has the greatest potential of providing improved economic impact in the Western United States; and

WHEREAS; Appropriate resource management is severely impacted due to the lack of road maintenance on our public lands:

THEREFORE: The Western States Sheriffs’ Association calls on Congress to increase resource management annual allocations to the Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service;

FURTHERMORE; Fire management funding should be capped at 40% of the total Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service budget; and

FURTHERMORE; A separate fire suppression fund must be established to combat wildfires annually for both the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture; and

FURTHERMORE; Funds from the fire management and resource management cannot be used to supplement the fire suppression fund;

FURTHERMORE; Additional funds must be included for repair and maintenance of roads on public lands.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Western States Sheriffs’ Association believes that these measures will provide the best opportunity for sustainable forest health and the most positive economic impact in our member states.

Hereby resolved this 8th day of March, 2017 at the annual conference of the Western States Sheriffs’ Association.