

# County of Monterey

*Saffron Room  
1441 Schilling Place  
Salinas, CA 93901*



## Meeting Agenda

Friday, February 7, 2025

10:00 AM

Saffron Room 1441 Schilling Place Salinas, CA 93901

**Water Resources Agency Personnel and  
Administration Committee**

To participate in this Personnel And Administration Committee meeting through the following methods:

1. You may attend in person,
2. For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at:  
<https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/91370408511>  
OR to participate by phone call any of these numbers below:  
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+1 253 215 8782 US  
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Enter this Meeting ID number: 913 7040 8511 PASSWORD: 420486 when prompted. Please note there is no Participant Code, you will just hit # again after the recording prompts you. You will be placed in the meeting as an attendee; when you are ready to make a public comment, if joined by computer audio, please Raise your Hand; and by phone, please push \*9 on your keypad.

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4. If you wish to comment on a particular agenda item, please submit your comments in writing via email to Monterey County Water Resources Agency at [WRAPubliccomment@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:WRAPubliccomment@co.monterey.ca.us) by 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the Committee meeting. To assist Agency staff in identifying the agenda item to which the comment relates please indicate the Personnel and Administration Committee meeting date and agenda number in the subject line. Comments received by the 5:00 p.m. Thursday deadline will be distributed to the Committee and will be placed in the record.

5. If you wish to make either a general public comment for items not on the day's agenda or to comment on a specific agenda item as it is being heard, please submit your comment, limited to 250

words or less, to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency at [WRAPubliccomment@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:WRAPubliccomment@co.monterey.ca.us). In an effort to assist Agency staff in identifying the agenda item relating to your public comment please indicate in the subject line, the meeting body (i.e. Finance Committee) and item number (i.e. Item No. 10). Every effort will be made to read your comment into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received prior to the end of the meeting.

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9. The Chair and/or Secretary may set reasonable rules as needed to conduct the meeting in an orderly manner.

Participar en esta reunión del Comité de Personal y Administración a través de los siguientes métodos:

1. Poder asistir personalmente a la reunion; o,

2. El público puede observar la reunión ZOOM a través de computadora haciendo clic en el siguiente enlace: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/91370408511>

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4. Si un miembro del público desea comentar sobre un artículo de la agenda en particular, se le es sumamente recomendable que envíe sus comentarios por escrito por correo electrónico a la Agencia de Administración de Recursos del Agua (Agencia) a [WRAPubliccomment@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:WRAPubliccomment@co.monterey.ca.us) antes de las 5:00 P. M. el Jueves antes de la reunión del Comité. Para ayudar al personal de la Agencia a identificar el número del artículo de la agenda con el cual se relaciona el comentario, se solicita al público que indique la fecha de la reunión del Comité y el número del artículo de la agenda en la línea de asunto. Comentarios recibidos en la fecha límite del Jueves a las 5 P.M, serán distribuidos al Comité y serán colocados en el registro.

5. Los miembros del público que deseen hacer un comentario público general para temas que no están en la agenda del día o que deseen comentar en un artículo específico mientras se escucha la presentación, lo pueden hacer enviando un comentario por correo electrónico, preferiblemente limitado a 250 palabras o menos, a [WRAPubliccomment@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:WRAPubliccomment@co.monterey.ca.us). Para ayudar al personal de la Agencia a identificar el artículo de la agenda con el cual se relaciona el comentario, se solicita al público que indique el nombre del Comité (por ejemplo: Comité de Personal y Administración) y el número del artículo de la agenda (por ejemplo: Artículo # 10). Se hará todo lo posible para leer el comentario en el registro, pero algunos comentarios pueden no leerse en voz alta debido a limitaciones de tiempo. Los comentarios recibidos después del cierre del período de comentarios públicos sobre un artículo de la agenda serán parte del registro si se reciben antes que termine la reunión del Comité.

6. Si los oradores u otros miembros del público tienen documentos que desean distribuir al Comité para un artículo de la agenda, se les recomienda enviar dichos documentos antes de las 5:00 P.M. el Jueves antes de la reunión a: [WRAPublicComment@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:WRAPublicComment@co.monterey.ca.us). Para ayudar al personal de la Agencia a identificar el número del artículo de la agenda con el cual se relaciona el comentario, se solicita al público que indique la fecha de la reunion del Comité y el número de agenda en la línea de asunto.

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9. El Presidente y / o Secretario pueden establecer reglas razonables según sea necesario para llevar a cabo la reunión de manera ordenada.

### Call to Order

### Roll Call

### Public Comment

### Committee Member Comments

### Consent Calendar

1. Approve the Minutes of the Personnel and Administration Committee meeting held on November 8, 2024.

Attachments: [draft P&A Minutes November 8, 2024](#)

### Status Reports

2. The Personnel and Administration Committee to make position recommendation to the Water Resources Agency Board of Directors on HR 471, Fix our Forests Act. (Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian)

**Attachments:** [2025.02.07 WRA GM Memo](#)  
[ACWA FAC Memo](#)  
[HR 471](#)

3. The Personnel and Administration Committee to make position recommendation to the Water Resources Agency Board of Directors on HR338, the Every Drop Counts Act. (Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian)

**Attachments:** [2025.02.07 WRA GM Memo](#)  
[ACWA Memorandum](#)  
[Draft HR 338](#)

4. Personnel Update. (Staff Presenting: Jessell Fenley)

**Attachments:** [WRA Org Chart](#)

5. Grazing Lease Update. (Staff Presenting: Jessell Fenley)

### **Calendar**

6. Set next meeting date and discuss future agenda items.

### **Adjournment**



# County of Monterey

## Item No.1

### Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAPA 25-001

February 07, 2025

**Introduced:** 1/31/2025

**Current Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Matter Type:** WRA P&A Item

Approve the Minutes of the Personnel and Administration Committee meeting held on November 8, 2024.

# County of Monterey

*Saffron Room  
1441 Schilling Place  
Salinas, CA 93901*



## Meeting Minutes

**Friday, November 8, 2024**

**8:30 AM**

**Saffron Room 1441 Schilling Place Salinas, CA 93901**

## **Water Resources Agency Personnel and Administration Committee**

*Mark Gonzalez, Chair  
Mike LeBarre  
John Baillie  
Matthew Simis*



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9. El Presidente y / o Secretario pueden establecer reglas razonables según sea necesario para llevar a cabo la reunión de manera ordenada.

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m.

#### Roll Call

Present: Mark Gonzalez, John Baillie, Matthew Simis.  
Absent: Mike LeBarre

**Public Comment**

None

**Committee Member Comments**

Staff Comments: Ara Azhderian

**Consent Calendar**

Upon Motion by John Baillie, Second Matt Simis the Committee approved the Consent Calendar for the Personnel and Administration Committee.

Ayes: Mark Gonzalez, Matthew Simis, John Baillie

Noes: None

Absent: Mike LeBarre

1. Approve the Minutes of the Personnel and Administration Committee meeting held on June 7, 2024.

**Attachments:** [Draft P&A Minutes June 7, 2024](#)

**Scheduled Items**

Upon Motion by John Baillie, Second Matt Simis the Committee appointed an authorized Agency representative to vote at the Association of California Water Agencies December 4th Membership Meeting, and designate the Agency's position on the proposed amendments to the Association's Bylaws.

Ayes: Mark Gonzales, Matthew Simis, John Baillie

Noes: None

Absent: Mike LeBarre

Appointees: Ara Azhderian, John Baillie

2. Consider appointing an authorized Agency representative to vote at the Association of California Water Agencies December 4th Membership Meeting, and designate the Agency's position on the proposed amendments to the Association's Bylaws. (Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian)

**Attachments:** [ACWA MM Notification Memo Fall 2024](#)  
[ACWA Authorized Voting Rep Form](#)  
[Proposed Amendments to Bylaws](#)  
[20221130 ACWA Bylaws GSMM 20240920\\_clean](#)  
[20221130 ACWA Bylaws GSMM 20240920\\_redline](#)

**Status Reports**

3. Personnel Update. (Staff Presenting; Jessell Fenley)

**Committee Member Comments: John Baillie, Matt Simis**  
**Public Comments: None**

4. Land Use Update. (Staff Presenting: Jessell Fenley)

**Committee Member Comments: John Baillie, Mark Gonzalez**  
**Public Comment: None**

**Calendar**

5. Set next meeting date and discuss future agenda items.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.



# County of Monterey

## Item No.2

### Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAPA 25-003

February 07, 2025

**Introduced:** 1/31/2025

**Current Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Matter Type:** WRA P&A Item

The Personnel and Administration Committee to make position recommendation to the Water Resources Agency Board of Directors on HR 471, Fix our Forests Act. (Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian)



WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

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Monterey County

DATE: February 7, 2025

**TO:** Personnel & Administration Committee

**FROM:** Ara Azhderian

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation regarding HR 471 Fix Our Forests Act

On January 16, 2025, a bipartisan group of representatives, including Congressman Panetta, reintroduced HR 471, which passed the House during the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress but failed to garner Senate attention. The bill encourages more active management of federal forest lands, improves the regulatory process for forest health projects on federal lands, promotes federal, state, and local government collaboration, coordinates federal grant programs to better serve communities in high fire risk areas, and expands the use of technologies to address wildfire threats. The bill was again passed by the House on January 23, 2025, and is currently looking for a Senate sponsor.

While the bill focuses largely on federal lands, it provides opportunities for expanded federal, state, and local collaboration, including sharing of tools and information, to improve fire and watershed management, water source and “at risk community” protection, and potential grant funding to minimize the risks of wildfire exposure, including loss of life and structures. Fire and watershed management areas may include non-federal land and rangelands. The proposed Water Source Protection Program aims to protect and restore watershed health, water supply and quality, municipal or agricultural water supply systems, and water-related infrastructure. The bill also aims to establish a Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program to, in part, support interagency coordination in reducing wildfire risk, advance research, including support for non-federal research partners, encourage public-private partnerships to perform fuel management activities, and provide technical and financial assistance. The bill also provides the potential for post-fire restoration support.

HR 471 is a sweeping proposal. The ACWA FAC is maintaining its “support” position. The Agency has an interest in the success of this bill to potentially support watershed management and protection efforts on our ~24,000 acres of wildfire prone rangeland around Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs.

ATCH: ACWA memorandum  
HR 471



### **Fix Our Forests Act ([H.R.471](#))**

On January 16, 2025, House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR-4) and Congressman Scott Peters (D-CA-50) reintroduced the [Fix Our Forests Act \(H.R. 471\)](#). The bill is also supported by Congressional Western Caucus Chair Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-1). It is cosponsored by 20 members of the California delegation (including Congressman Peters and Congressman LaMalfa). The bipartisan legislation encourages more active management of federal forest lands, improves the regulatory process for forest health projects on federal lands, promotes federal, state and local government collaboration, coordinates federal grant programs to better serve communities in high fire risk areas, and expands the use of technologies to address wildfire threats. The bill will be brought to the House floor on January 23, 2025.

ACWA supported this legislation in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and, as the bill is substantially the same, is continuing its support in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Last year, during the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, the House of Representatives passed the Fix Our Forests Act 268-151. Unfortunately, the bill did not see action in the U.S. Senate. ACWA supported this bill in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and is continuing to press for its passage in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Specifically, the legislation would:

- Improve federal agency collaboration by establishing an interagency Fireshed Center Office housed within the U.S. Forest Service that includes representatives from: USFS, DOI, DOE, DHS, DOD, FEMA, NOAA and NASA. The Fireshed Center would work to streamline decision making, procurement, data sharing, and other measures. The bill would also codify cross-boundary stewardship between federal, state, and tribal lands. Cross boundary stewardship would only be provided if requested by a state or tribe.
- Authorize targeted environmental streamlining by expanding the use of Categorical Exclusions (CE) including under power lines, codifies emergency NEPA, NHPA, and ESA regulations in certain high-risk areas. Clarifies that USFS/BLM are not required to reinitiate consultation on an approved land management plan if a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated. Permanently codifies 20 year stewardship contracts.
- Address litigation challenges by expanding litigation reforms found in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Healthy Forest Restoration Act (no injunction if plaintiff is unlikely to succeed, and balance of harms when considering an injunction). Limits claims on fireshed management projects to 120 days after the agency announces a proposed action.
- Expand good neighbor authorities allowing revenue from timber sales to be retained by counties and tribes. Establishes a joint DOI/USDA Community Wildfire Defense Research Program.

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 471

To expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on Tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mrs. KIM, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BERA, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. MALOY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CRANK, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. EZELL, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. GRAY, Mr. BARR, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. ISSA, Mr. FONG, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. FRY, and Mr. AMODEI of Nevada) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management,

and on Tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
 5 “Fix Our Forests Act”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for  
 7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.  
 Sec. 2. Definitions.

**TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE RESTORATION**

Subtitle A—Addressing Emergency Wildfire Risks in High Priority Firesheds

Sec. 101. Designation of fireshed management areas.  
 Sec. 102. Fireshed center.  
 Sec. 103. Fireshed registry.  
 Sec. 104. Shared stewardship.  
 Sec. 105. Fireshed assessments.  
 Sec. 106. Emergency fireshed management.  
 Sec. 107. Sunset.

Subtitle B—Expanding Collaborative Tools to Reduce Wildfire Risk and  
 Improve Forest Health

Sec. 111. Modification of the treatment of certain revenue and payments under  
 good neighbor agreements.  
 Sec. 112. Fixing stewardship end result contracting.  
 Sec. 113. Intra-agency strike teams.  
 Sec. 114. Locally-led restoration.  
 Sec. 115. Joint Chiefs landscape restoration partnership program.  
 Sec. 116. Collaborative forest landscape restoration program.  
 Sec. 117. Utilizing grazing for wildfire risk reduction.  
 Sec. 118. Water source protection program.  
 Sec. 119. Watershed condition framework technical corrections.

Subtitle C—Litigation Reform

Sec. 121. Commonsense litigation reform.  
 Sec. 122. Consultation on forest plans.

**TITLE II—PROTECTING COMMUNITIES IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN  
 INTERFACE**

Sec. 201. Community wildfire risk reduction program.

- Sec. 202. Community wildfire defense research program.
- Sec. 203. Vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance relating to electric transmission and distribution facility rights-of-way.
- Sec. 204. Categorical exclusion for electric utility lines rights-of-way.
- Sec. 205. Seeds of success.
- Sec. 206. Program to support priority reforestation and restoration projects of Department of the Interior.
- Sec. 207. Fire department repayment.

### TITLE III—TRANSPARENCY, TECHNOLOGY, AND PARTNERSHIPS

#### Subtitle A—Transparency and Technology

- Sec. 301. Biochar innovations and opportunities for conservation, health, and advancements in research.
- Sec. 302. Accurate hazardous fuels reduction reports.
- Sec. 303. Public-private wildfire technology deployment and demonstration partnership.
- Sec. 304. GAO study on Forest Service policies.
- Sec. 305. Forest Service Western headquarters study.
- Sec. 306. Keeping forest plans current and monitored.
- Sec. 307. Container Aerial Firefighting System (CAFFS).
- Sec. 308. Study on pine beetle infestation.

#### Subtitle B—White Oak Resilience

- Sec. 311. White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition.
- Sec. 312. Forest Service pilot program.
- Sec. 313. Department of the Interior white oak review and restoration.
- Sec. 314. White oak regeneration and upland oak habitat.
- Sec. 315. Tree nursery shortages.
- Sec. 316. White oak research.
- Sec. 317. USDA formal initiative.
- Sec. 318. Authorities.

### TITLE IV—ENSURING CASUALTY ASSISTANCE FOR OUR FIREFIGHTERS

- Sec. 401. Wildland Fire Management Casualty Assistance Program.

## 1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means  
4 the Director of the Fireshed Center appointed under  
5 section 102.

6 (2) **FIRESHED.**—The term “fireshed” means a  
7 landscape-scale area that faces similar wildfire

1 threat where a response strategy could influence the  
2 wildfire outcome.

3 (3) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT.—The  
4 term “fireshed management project” means a  
5 project under section 106.

6 (4) FIRESHED REGISTRY.—The term “Fireshed  
7 Registry” means the fireshed registry established  
8 under section 103.

9 (5) FOREST PLAN.—The term “forest plan”  
10 means—

11 (A) a land use plan prepared by the Bu-  
12 reau of Land Management for public lands pur-  
13 suant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy  
14 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.  
15 1712);

16 (B) a land and resource management plan  
17 prepared by the Forest Service for a unit of the  
18 National Forest System pursuant to section 6  
19 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-  
20 sources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.  
21 1604); or

22 (C) a forest management plan (as defined  
23 in section 304 of the National Indian Forests  
24 Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3104))  
25 with respect to Indian forest land or rangeland.

1           (6) GOVERNOR.—The term “Governor” means  
2 the Governor or any other appropriate executive offi-  
3 cial of an affected State or Indian Tribe or the Com-  
4 monwealth of Puerto Rico.

5           (7) HAZARDOUS FUELS MANAGEMENT ACTIVI-  
6 TIES.—The term “hazardous fuels management ac-  
7 tivities” means any vegetation management activities  
8 (or combination thereof) that reduce the risk of  
9 wildfire, including mechanical thinning, mastication,  
10 prescribed burning, cultural burning (as determined  
11 by the applicable Indian Tribe), timber harvest, and  
12 grazing.

13           (8) HFRA TERMS.—The terms “at-risk com-  
14 munity”, “community wildfire protection plan”, and  
15 “wildland-urban interface” have the meanings given  
16 such terms, respectively, in section 101 of the  
17 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.  
18 6511).

19           (9) INDIAN FOREST LAND OR RANGELAND.—  
20 The term “Indian forest land or rangeland” means  
21 land that—

22                   (A) is held in trust by, or with a restriction  
23 against alienation by, the United States for an  
24 Indian Tribe or a member of an Indian Tribe;  
25 and

1 (B)(i)(I) is Indian forest land (as defined  
2 in section 304 of the National Indian Forest  
3 Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103));  
4 or

5 (II) has a cover of grasses,  
6 brush, or any similar vegetation; or

7 (ii) formerly had a forest cover or veg-  
8 etative cover that is capable of restoration.

9 (10) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”  
10 has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the  
11 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
12 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

13 (11) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.—The  
14 term “National Forest System lands” has the mean-  
15 ing given the term in section 11(a) of the Forest  
16 and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act  
17 of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609).

18 (12) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”  
19 has the meaning given that term in section 103 of  
20 the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of  
21 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702), except that the term in-  
22 cludes Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands and Or-  
23 egon and California Railroad Grant lands.

1           (13) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
2           TEES.—The term “relevant Congressional Commit-  
3           tees” means—

4                   (A) the Committees on Natural Resources  
5                   and Agriculture of the House of Representa-  
6                   tives; and

7                   (B) the Committees on Energy and Nat-  
8                   ural Resources and Agriculture, Nutrition, and  
9                   Forestry of the Senate.

10          (14) RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.—The term “re-  
11          sponsible official” means an employee of the Depart-  
12          ment of the Interior or Forest Service who has the  
13          authority to make and implement a decision on a  
14          proposed action.

15          (15) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”  
16          means each of—

17                   (A) the Secretary of the Interior; and

18                   (B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

19          (16) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
20          means the Secretary of Agriculture.

21          (17) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term  
22          “Secretary concerned” means—

23                   (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-  
24                   spect to National Forest System lands; and



1 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-  
2 spect to public lands.

3 (18) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term “special  
4 district” means a political subdivision of a State  
5 that—

6 (A) has significant budgetary autonomy or  
7 control;

8 (B) was created by or pursuant to the laws  
9 of the State for the purpose of performing a  
10 limited and specific governmental or proprietary  
11 function; and

12 (C) is distinct from any other local govern-  
13 ment unit within the State.

14 (19) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
15 the several States, the District of Columbia, and  
16 each territory of the United States.

17 **TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE**  
18 **RESTORATION**

19 **Subtitle A—Addressing Emergency**  
20 **Wildfire Risks in High Priority**  
21 **Fresheds**

22 **SEC. 101. DESIGNATION OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT**  
23 **AREAS.**

24 (a) DESIGNATION OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT  
25 AREAS.—

1           (1) INITIAL DESIGNATIONS.—For the period be-  
2           ginning on the date of enactment of this Act and  
3           ending on the date that is 5 years after the date of  
4           enactment of this Act, there are designated fireshed  
5           management areas, which—

6                   (A) shall be comprised of individual land-  
7                   scape-scale firesheds identified as being a high  
8                   risk fireshed in the “Wildfire Crisis Strategy”  
9                   published by the Forest Service in January  
10                  2022;

11                  (B) shall be comprised of individual land-  
12                  scape-scale firesheds identified by the Secretary,  
13                  in consultation with the Secretary of the Inte-  
14                  rior, as being in the top 20 percent of the 7,688  
15                  firesheds published by the Rocky Mountain Re-  
16                  search Station of the Forest Service in 2019 for  
17                  wildfire exposure based on the following cri-  
18                  teria—

19                          (i) wildfire exposure and cor-  
20                          responding risk to communities, including  
21                          risk to life and structures;

22                          (ii) wildfire exposure and cor-  
23                          responding risk to municipal watersheds,  
24                          including tribal water supplies and sys-  
25                          tems; and

1 (iii) risk of forest conversion due to  
2 wildfire;

3 (C) shall not overlap with any other  
4 fireshed management areas;

5 (D) may contain Federal and non-Federal  
6 land, including Indian forest lands or range-  
7 lands; and

8 (E) where the Secretary concerned shall  
9 carry out fireshed management projects.

10 (2) FURTHER FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREA  
11 DESIGNATIONS.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—On the date that is 5  
13 years after the date of the enactment of this  
14 Act and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary,  
15 in consultation with the Secretary of the Inte-  
16 rior, shall submit to the relevant Congressional  
17 Committees an updated map of firesheds based  
18 on the Fireshed Registry maintained under sec-  
19 tion 103.

20 (B) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 60  
21 days after submitting an updated fireshed map  
22 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall,  
23 based on such map, designate additional  
24 fireshed management areas that are identified  
25 as being in the top 20 percent of firesheds at

1 risk of wildfire exposure based on the criteria  
2 specified in subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and  
3 (E) of paragraph (1).

4 (b) **APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.**—The designation of  
5 fireshed management areas under this section shall not  
6 be subject to the requirements of the National Environ-  
7 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

8 **SEC. 102. FIRESHED CENTER.**

9 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

10 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, acting  
11 through the Chief of the Forest Service, and the  
12 Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Direc-  
13 tor of the U.S. Geological Survey, shall jointly estab-  
14 lish an interagency center, to be known as the  
15 Fireshed Center (hereinafter referred to as the  
16 “Center”) to carry out the purposes in subsection  
17 (b).

18 (2) **COMPOSITION.**—

19 (A) **DIVISIONS.**—The Center shall be com-  
20 prised of the following divisions:

21 (i) Technology and Engineering.

22 (ii) Data Services.

23 (iii) Analysis and Prediction.

24 (iv) Education and Consultation.

- 1 (B) REPRESENTATIVES.—The Center shall  
2 be comprised of at least one career representa-  
3 tive from each of the following:
- 4 (i) The Forest Service.
  - 5 (ii) The Bureau of Land Manage-  
6 ment.
  - 7 (iii) The National Park Service.
  - 8 (iv) The Bureau of Indian Affairs.
  - 9 (v) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv-  
10 ice.
  - 11 (vi) The U.S. Geological Survey.
  - 12 (vii) The Department of Defense.
  - 13 (viii) The Department of Homeland  
14 Security.
  - 15 (ix) The Department of Energy.
  - 16 (x) The Federal Emergency Manage-  
17 ment Agency.
  - 18 (xi) The National Science Foundation.
  - 19 (xii) The National Oceanic and At-  
20 mospheric Administration.
  - 21 (xiii) The National Aeronautics and  
22 Space Administration.
  - 23 (xiv) The National Institute of Stand-  
24 ards and Technology.

1 (xv) The United States Fire Adminis-  
2 tration.

3 (C) APPOINTMENTS.—Each representative  
4 of a Department, Agency, or other entity speci-  
5 fied in subparagraph (B) shall be appointed by  
6 the head of that Department, Agency, or other  
7 entity, as applicable.

8 (3) DIRECTOR.—The representatives appointed  
9 under paragraph (2) shall, by majority vote, appoint  
10 a Director of the Center, who—

11 (A) shall be an employee of the U.S. Geo-  
12 logical Survey or the Forest Service;

13 (B) shall serve an initial term of not more  
14 than 7 years;

15 (C) may serve one additional term of not  
16 more than 7 years after the initial term de-  
17 scribed in subparagraph (B); and

18 (D) shall be responsible for the manage-  
19 ment and operation of the Center.

20 (4) ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS.—In consultation  
21 with the representatives appointed under paragraph  
22 (2), the Director may appoint such Associate Direc-  
23 tors as the Director determines necessary.

24 (5) ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATION.—The Sec-  
25 retary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-

1 ice, and the Secretary of the Interior, acting through  
2 the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, may  
3 jointly appoint additional representatives of Federal  
4 agencies, States, Indian Tribes, or local governments  
5 to the Center, as the Secretaries determine nec-  
6 essary.

7 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Center are to—

8 (1) comprehensively assess and predict, using  
9 data tools (including artificial intelligence) and other  
10 decision support products, fire and smoke in the  
11 wildland and built environment interface across ju-  
12 risdictions to inform—

13 (A) land and fuels management;

14 (B) community (including at-risk commu-  
15 nities identified in firehazard assessments con-  
16 ducted under section 105) and built environ-  
17 ment risk reduction, including the support and  
18 development of community wildfire protection  
19 plans and evacuation decisions; and

20 (C) public health risk reduction related to  
21 wildland fire and smoke, including air quality  
22 monitoring and forecasting and smoke pre-  
23 diction models;

24 (D) fire response and management, includ-  
25 ing the pre-positioning of wildfire suppression

1 personnel and assets based on real-time risk;  
2 and

3 (E) post-fire recovery activities, including  
4 activities related to vegetation recovery, debris  
5 flows and flooding, watershed recovery and pro-  
6 tection, and ecosystem health;

7 (2) provide data aggregation, real-time land  
8 and fuels management services, and science-based  
9 decision support services to inform the purposes  
10 specified in subparagraph (A) through (E) of para-  
11 graph (1);

12 (3) reduce fragmentation and duplication across  
13 Federal land management agencies with respect to  
14 predictive service and decision support functions re-  
15 lated to wildland fire and smoke, including through  
16 the provision of data aggregation described in para-  
17 graph (2);

18 (4) promote coordination and sharing of data  
19 regarding wildland fire and smoke decision making  
20 (including through the provision of data aggregation  
21 described in paragraph (2)) to each of the entities  
22 specified in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of para-  
23 graph (8);

24 (5) streamline procurement processes for tech-  
25 nologies (including technologies identified under the



1 pilot program established under section 303) and cy-  
2 bersecurity systems related to addressing wildland  
3 fire and smoke for the purposes of scaling such tech-  
4 nologies and systems across Federal agencies;

5 (6) amplify and distribute existing, and develop  
6 as necessary, publicly accessible data, models, tech-  
7 nologies (including mapping technologies), assess-  
8 ments, and National Weather Service fire weather  
9 forecasts to support short- and long-term planning  
10 regarding wildland fire and smoke risk reduction  
11 and post-fire recovery while avoiding duplicative ef-  
12 forts, as determined by the Director;

13 (7) maintain the Fireshed Registry established  
14 under section 103; and

15 (8) disseminate data tools (including artificial  
16 intelligence) and other decision support products, for  
17 use in manners consistent with the purposes de-  
18 scribed paragraphs (1) through (7), to the following:

19 (A) Federal agencies.

20 (B) Indian Tribes.

21 (C) State and local governments.

22 (D) Academic or research institutions.

23 (E) Wildland firefighting entities, includ-  
24 ing applicable incident management teams and  
25 geographic coordination centers.

1           (F) Other entities, including public, pri-  
2           vate, and nonprofit entities, with expertise in  
3           land management, air quality, water manage-  
4           ment, or public health, as determined appro-  
5           priate by the Director.

6           (c) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Center  
7           may enter into memoranda of understanding, contracts,  
8           or other agreements with State governments, Indian  
9           Tribes, local governments, academic or research institu-  
10          tions, and private entities to improve the information and  
11          operations of the Center.

12          (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-  
13          ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—

14           (1) USGS SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the In-  
15          terior shall make personnel of the U.S. Geological  
16          Survey available to the Center for such administra-  
17          tive support, technical services, and development and  
18          dissemination of data as the Secretary determines  
19          necessary to carry out this section.

20           (2) USFS SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall  
21          make personnel of the Forest Service available to  
22          the Center for such administrative support, technical  
23          services, and the development and dissemination of  
24          information related to fire management and the

1       Fireshed Registry as the Secretary determines nec-  
2       essary to carry out this section.

3           (3) FUNDING.—Notwithstanding section 708 of  
4       title VII of division E of the Consolidated Appro-  
5       priations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328), the Sec-  
6       retary of the Interior and Secretary may enter into  
7       agreements to share the management and oper-  
8       ational costs of the Center.

9           (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
10      tion shall be construed to affect the ownership of any data  
11      sources.

12      **SEC. 103. FIRESHED REGISTRY.**

13           (a) FIRESHED REGISTRY.—The Secretary, acting  
14      through the Director of the Fireshed Center appointed  
15      under section 102, shall maintain a Fireshed Registry on  
16      a publicly accessible website that provides interactive  
17      geospatial data on individual firesheds, including informa-  
18      tion on—

19           (1) wildfire exposure delineated by ownership,  
20      including rights-of-way for utilities and other public  
21      or private purposes;

22           (2) any hazardous fuels management activities  
23      that have occurred within an individual fireshed in  
24      the past 10 years;

1           (3) wildfire exposure with respect to such  
2       fireshed delineated by—

3           (A) wildfire exposure and corresponding  
4       risk to communities, including risk to life and  
5       structures;

6           (B) wildfire exposure and corresponding  
7       risk to municipal watersheds, including tribal  
8       water supplies and systems; and

9           (C) risk of forest conversion due to wild-  
10      fire;

11          (4) the percentage of the fireshed that has  
12      burned in wildfires in the past 10 years, including,  
13      to the extent practicable, delineations of acres that  
14      have burned at a high severity;

15          (5) spatial patterns of wildfire exposure, includ-  
16      ing plausible extreme fire events; and

17          (6) any hazardous fuels management activities  
18      planned for the fireshed, including fireshed manage-  
19      ment projects.

20      (b) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS.—

21      The Director shall make data from the Fireshed Registry  
22      available to local communities developing or updating com-  
23      munity wildfire protection plans.

1 (c) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN.—As part of the  
2 website containing the Fireshed Registry, the Director  
3 shall—

4 (1) publish fireshed assessments created under  
5 section 105; and

6 (2) maintain a searchable database to track—

7 (A) the status of Federal environmental re-  
8 views, permits, and authorizations for fireshed  
9 management projects, including—

10 (i) a comprehensive permitting time-  
11 table;

12 (ii) the status of the compliance of  
13 each lead agency, cooperating agency, and  
14 participating agency with the permitting  
15 timetable with respect to such fireshed  
16 management projects;

17 (iii) any modifications of the permit-  
18 ting timetable required under clause (i), in-  
19 cluding an explanation as to why the per-  
20 mitting timetable was modified; and

21 (iv) information about project-related  
22 public meetings, public hearings, and pub-  
23 lic comment periods, which shall be pre-  
24 sented in English and the predominant  
25 language of the community or communities

1 most affected by the project, as that infor-  
2 mation becomes available;

3 (B) the projected cost of such fireshed  
4 management projects; and

5 (C) in the case of completed fireshed man-  
6 agement projects, the effectiveness of such  
7 projects in reducing the wildfire exposure within  
8 an applicable fireshed, including wildfire expo-  
9 sure described in subparagraphs (A) through  
10 (C) of subsection (a)(3).

11 (d) RELIANCE ON EXISTING ASSESSMENTS.—In car-  
12 rying out this section, the Director may rely on assess-  
13 ments completed or data gather through existing partner-  
14 ships, to the extent practicable.

15 **SEC. 104. SHARED STEWARDSHIP.**

16 (a) JOINT AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 90 days  
17 after receiving a written request from a Governor of a  
18 State or an Indian Tribe, the Secretary concerned shall  
19 enter into a shared stewardship agreement (or similar  
20 agreement) with such Governor or Indian Tribe to joint-  
21 ly—

22 (1) promote the reduction of wildfire exposure,  
23 based on the criteria in section 101(a)(1)(B), in  
24 fireshed management areas across jurisdictional  
25 boundaries; and

1           (2) conduct fireshed assessments under section  
2       105.

3       (b) **ADDITIONAL FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREAS.**—

4       With respect to a shared stewardship agreement (or simi-  
5       lar agreement) with a Governor of a State or an Indian  
6       Tribe entered into under subsection (a), the Secretary con-  
7       cerned, if requested by such Governor or Indian Tribe,  
8       may—

9           (1) designate additional fireshed management  
10       areas under such agreement; and

11          (2) update such agreement to address new wild-  
12       fire threats.

13       **SEC. 105. FIRESHED ASSESSMENTS.**

14       (a) **FIRESHED ASSESSMENTS.**—

15          (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after  
16       the date on which the Secretary concerned enters  
17       into an agreement with a Governor of a State or an  
18       Indian Tribe under section 104, the Secretary con-  
19       cerned and such Governor or Indian Tribe shall,  
20       with respect to the fireshed management areas des-  
21       ignated in such State, jointly conduct a fireshed as-  
22       sessment that—

23           (A) identifies—

24               (i) using the best available science,  
25               wildfire exposure risks within each such

- 1           fired management area, including sce-  
2           nario planning and wildfire hazard map-  
3           ping and models; and
- 4           (ii) each at-risk community within  
5           each fired management area;
- 6           (B) identifies potential fired manage-  
7           ment projects to be carried out in such fired  
8           management areas, giving priority—
- 9           (i) primarily, to projects with the pur-  
10          pose of reducing—
- 11           (I) wildfire exposure and cor-  
12           responding risk to communities, in-  
13           cluding risk to life and structures;
- 14           (II) wildfire exposure and cor-  
15           responding risk to municipal water-  
16           sheds, including tribal water supplies  
17           and systems;
- 18           (III) risk of forest conversion due  
19           to wildfire; or
- 20           (IV) any combination of purposes  
21           described in subclauses (I) through  
22           (III); and
- 23           (ii) secondarily, to projects with the  
24           purpose of protecting—



1 (I) critical infrastructure, includ-  
2 ing utility infrastructure;

3 (II) wildlife habitats, including  
4 habitat for species listed under the  
5 Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C.  
6 1531 et seq.);

7 (III) the built environment, in-  
8 cluding residential and commercial  
9 buildings;

10 (IV) resources of an Indian  
11 Tribe, as defined by the Indian Tribe;  
12 or

13 (V) any combination of purposes  
14 described in subclauses (I) through  
15 (IV);

16 (C) includes—

17 (i) a strategy for reducing the threat  
18 of wildfire to at-risk communities in the  
19 wildland-urban interface on both Federal  
20 and non-Federal land;

21 (ii) a timeline for the implementation  
22 of fireshed management projects;

23 (iii) long-term benchmark goals for  
24 the completion of fireshed management  
25 projects in the highest wildfire exposure

1 areas so that such projects contribute to  
2 the development and maintenance of  
3 healthy and resilient landscapes;

4 (iv) policies to ensure fireshed man-  
5 agement projects comply with applicable  
6 forest plans and incorporate the best avail-  
7 able science; and

8 (v) a strategy for reducing the threat  
9 of wildfire to improve the effectiveness of  
10 wildland firefighting, particularly the effec-  
11 tiveness of fuels treatments that would im-  
12 prove wildland firefighter safety during  
13 wildfires;

14 (D) shall be regularly updated based on  
15 the best available science, as determined by the  
16 Secretary concerned; and

17 (E) shall be publicly available on a website  
18 maintained by the Secretary concerned.

19 (2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION.—

20 Upon the written request of a local government, the  
21 Secretary concerned and the Governor of the State  
22 in which the local government is located may allow  
23 such local government to participate in producing  
24 the fireshed assessment under paragraph (1) for  
25 such State.

1 (3) INFORMATION IMPROVEMENT.—

2 (A) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—

3 In carrying out a fireshed assessment under  
4 this subsection, the Secretary concerned may  
5 enter into memoranda of understanding with  
6 other Federal agencies or departments (includ-  
7 ing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
8 ministration), States, Indian Tribes, private en-  
9 tities, or research or educational institutions to  
10 improve, with respect to such assessment, the  
11 use and integration of—

12 (i) advanced remote sensing and  
13 geospatial technologies;

14 (ii) statistical modeling and analysis;

15 or

16 (iii) any other technology or combina-  
17 tion of technologies and analyses that the  
18 Secretary concerned determines will benefit  
19 the quality of information of such an as-  
20 sessment.

21 (B) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In using  
22 the best available science for the fireshed as-  
23 sements completed under subsection (a)(1),  
24 the Secretary concerned and Governor shall, to  
25 the maximum extent practicable, incorporate—

- 1 (i) traditional ecological knowledge  
2 from Indian Tribes;
- 3 (ii) data from State forest action  
4 plans and State wildfire risk assessments;
- 5 (iii) data from the Fireshed Registry  
6 maintained under section 103; and
- 7 (iv) data from other Federal, State,  
8 Tribal, and local governments or agencies.

9 (b) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.—Fireshed assess-  
10 ments conducted under this section shall not be subject  
11 to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy  
12 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

13 **SEC. 106. EMERGENCY FIRESHED MANAGEMENT.**

14 (a) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned,  
16 acting through a responsible official, shall carry out  
17 fireshed management projects in fireshed manage-  
18 ment areas designated under section 101 in accord-  
19 ance with this section.

20 (2) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—The  
21 responsible official shall carry out the following for-  
22 est and vegetation management activities as fireshed  
23 management projects under this section:

24 (A) Conducting hazardous fuels manage-  
25 ment activities.

1 (B) Creating fuel breaks and fire breaks.

2 (C) Removing hazard trees, dead trees,  
3 dying trees, or trees at risk of dying, as deter-  
4 mined by the responsible official.

5 (D) Developing, approving, or conducting  
6 routine maintenance under a vegetation man-  
7 agement, facility inspection, and operation and  
8 maintenance plan submitted under section  
9 512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Man-  
10 agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(1)).

11 (E) Removing trees to address over-  
12 stocking or crowding in a forest stand, con-  
13 sistent with the appropriate basal area of the  
14 forest stand as determined by the responsible  
15 official.

16 (F) Using chemical or re-seeding and  
17 planting treatments to address insects and dis-  
18 ease and control vegetation competition or  
19 invasive species.

20 (G) Any activities recommended by an ap-  
21 plicable firehazard assessment carried out under  
22 section 105.

23 (H) Any activities recommended by an ap-  
24 plicable community wildfire protection plan.

1 (I) Any combination of activities described  
2 in this paragraph.

3 (3) EMERGENCY FIRESHED MANAGEMENT.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—For any fireshed man-  
5 agement area designated under section 101, the  
6 following shall have the force and effect of law:

7 (i) Section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code  
8 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
9 date of enactment of this Act), with re-  
10 spect to lands under the jurisdiction of the  
11 Secretary.

12 (ii) Section 46.150 of title 43, Code of  
13 Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
14 date of enactment of this Act), with re-  
15 spect to lands under the jurisdiction of the  
16 Secretary of the Interior.

17 (iii) Section 402.05 of title 50, Code  
18 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
19 date of enactment of this Act).

20 (iv) Section 800.12 of title 36, Code  
21 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
22 date of enactment of this Act).

23 (B) UTILIZATION OF EXISTING STREAM-  
24 LINED AUTHORITIES IN FIRESHED MANAGE-  
25 MENT AREAS.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—Fireshed manage-  
2 ment projects carried out under this sec-  
3 tion shall be considered authorized projects  
4 under the following categorical exclusions:

5 (I) Section 603(a) of the Healthy  
6 Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16  
7 U.S.C. 6591b(a)).

8 (II) Section 605(a) of the  
9 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
10 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(a)).

11 (III) Section 606(b) of the  
12 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
13 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e(b)).

14 (IV) Section 40806(b) of the In-  
15 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act  
16 (16 U.S.C. 6592b(b)).

17 (V) Section 4(c)(4) of the Lake  
18 Tahoe Restoration Act (Public Law  
19 106–506; 114 Stat. 2353).

20 (ii) ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY AC-  
21 TIONS.—Subsection (d) of section 40807 of  
22 the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs  
23 Act (16 U.S.C. 6592c) shall apply to  
24 fireshed management projects under this  
25 section in the same manner as such sub-

1 section applies to authorized emergency ac-  
2 tions (as defined in subsection (a) of such  
3 section 40807) under such section 40807.

4 (iii) USE OF EXPEDITED AUTHORI-  
5 TIES.—In carrying out a firehshed manage-  
6 ment project, the Secretary shall apply a  
7 categorical exclusion under clause (i)—

8 (I) in a manner consistent with  
9 the statute establishing such categor-  
10 ical exclusion; and

11 (II) in any area—

12 (aa) designated as suitable  
13 for timber production within the  
14 applicable forest plan; or

15 (bb) where timber harvest  
16 activities are not prohibited.

17 (iv) FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT RE-  
18 QUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this sec-  
19 tion, the Secretary concerned shall ensure  
20 compliance with the amendments made to  
21 the National Environmental Policy Act (42  
22 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) by the Fiscal Respon-  
23 sibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5).

24 (v) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—  
25 To the maximum extent practicable, the



1 Secretary concerned shall use the authori-  
2 ties provided under this section in com-  
3 bination with other authorities to carry out  
4 fireshed management projects, including—

5 (I) good neighbor agreements en-  
6 tered into under section 8206 of the  
7 Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C.  
8 2113a) (as amended by this Act);

9 (II) stewardship contracting  
10 projects entered into under section  
11 604 of the Healthy Forests Restora-  
12 tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c)  
13 (as amended by this Act);

14 (III) self-determination contracts  
15 and self-governance compact agree-  
16 ments entered into under the Indian  
17 Self-Determination and Education As-  
18 sistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);  
19 and

20 (IV) agreements entered into  
21 under the Tribal Forest Protection  
22 Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a et  
23 seq.).

24 (b) EXPANSION.—

1           (1) HFRA AMENDMENTS.—The Healthy For-  
2       ests Restoration Act of 2003 is amended—

3           (A) in section 3 (16 U.S.C. 6502), by in-  
4       serting at the end the following:

5           “(3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘local  
6       government’ means a county, municipality, or special  
7       district.

8           “(4) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term ‘special dis-  
9       trict’ means a political subdivision of a State that—

10          “(A) has significant budgetary autonomy  
11       or control;

12          “(B) was created by or pursuant to the  
13       laws of the State for the purpose of performing  
14       a limited and specific governmental or propri-  
15       etary function; and

16          “(C) is distinct from any other local gov-  
17       ernment unit within the State.”.

18          (B) in section 603(c)(1) (16 U.S.C.  
19       6591b(c)(1)), by striking “3000 acres” and in-  
20       serting “10,000 acres”;

21          (C) in section 603(c)(2)(B) (16 U.S.C.  
22       6591b(c)(2)(B)), by striking “Fire Regime  
23       Groups I, II, or III” and inserting “Fire Re-  
24       gime I, Fire Regime II, Fire Regime III, Fire  
25       Regime IV, or Fire Regime V”;

1 (D) in section 605(c)(1) (16 U.S.C.  
2 6591d(e)(1)), by striking “3000 acres” and in-  
3 serting “10,000 acres”; and

4 (E) in section 606(g) (16 U.S.C.  
5 6591e(g)), by striking “4,500 acres” and in-  
6 serting “10,000 acres”.

7 (2) INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS  
8 ACT AMENDMENT.—Section 40806(d)(1) of the In-  
9 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C.  
10 6592b(d)(1)), by striking “3,000 acres” and insert-  
11 ing “10,000 acres”.

12 (3) LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION ACT AMEND-  
13 MENTS.—Section 4(c)(4)(C) of the Lake Tahoe Res-  
14 toration Act (Public Law 106–506; 114 Stat. 2353)  
15 is amended—

16 (A) by striking “Lake Tahoe Basin Man-  
17 agement Unit”; and

18 (B) by inserting “applicable to the area”  
19 before the period at the end.

20 **SEC. 107. SUNSET.**

21 The authority under this subtitle shall terminate on  
22 the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of  
23 this Act.

1 **Subtitle B—Expanding Collaborative Tools to Reduce Wildfire**  
2 **Risk and Improve Forest Health**

4 **SEC. 111. MODIFICATION OF THE TREATMENT OF CERTAIN**  
5 **REVENUE AND PAYMENTS UNDER GOOD**  
6 **NEIGHBOR AGREEMENTS.**

7 (a) GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.—Section 8206 of  
8 the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) is amend-  
9 ed—

10 (1) in subsection (a)(6), by striking “or Indian  
11 tribe”;

12 (2) in subsection (a), by inserting the following:

13 “(11) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term ‘special  
14 district’ means a political subdivision of a State  
15 that—

16 “(A) has significant budgetary autonomy  
17 or control;

18 “(B) was created by or pursuant to the  
19 laws of the State for the purpose of performing  
20 a limited and specific governmental or propri-  
21 etary function; and

22 “(C) is distinct from any other local gov-  
23 ernment unit within the State.”.

24 (3) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “,  
2 Indian Tribe, special district,” after “Gov-  
3 ernor”;

4 (B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

5 (i) in clause (i)—

6 (I) by inserting “special district,”  
7 after “Indian Tribe,” each place it ap-  
8 pears;

9 (II) in subclause (I)—

10 (aa) by striking “on”; and

11 (bb) by striking “; and” and  
12 inserting a semicolon;

13 (III) in subclause (II)(bb), by  
14 striking the period at the end and in-  
15 serting a semicolon; and

16 (IV) by adding at the end the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(III) to construct new perma-  
19 nent roads on Federal lands that  
20 are—

21 “(aa) necessary to imple-  
22 ment authorized restoration ac-  
23 tivities; and

24 “(bb) approved by the Fed-  
25 eral agency through an environ-

1                   mental analysis or categorical ex-  
2                   clusion decision;

3                   “(IV) to complete new permanent  
4                   road construction to replace and de-  
5                   commission an existing permanent  
6                   road that is adversely impacting for-  
7                   est, rangeland, or watershed health;  
8                   and

9                   “(V) if there are funds remaining  
10                  after carrying out subclauses (I)  
11                  through (IV), to carry out authorized  
12                  restoration services under other good  
13                  neighbor agreements and for the ad-  
14                  ministration of a good neighbor au-  
15                  thority program by a Governor, In-  
16                  dian tribe, special district, or coun-  
17                  ty.”; and

18                  (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “2028”  
19                  and inserting “2030”; and

20                  (C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, In-  
21                  dian Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”;  
22                  and

23                  (D) by striking paragraph (4).

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 8206(a)  
2 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)) is  
3 amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “, Indian  
5 Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”; and

6 (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, Indian  
7 Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”.

8 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
9 this section apply to any project initiated pursuant to a  
10 good neighbor agreement (as defined in section 8206(a)  
11 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)))—

12 (1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if  
13 the project was initiated after the date of enactment  
14 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public  
15 Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or

16 (2) on or after the date of enactment of this  
17 Act.

18 **SEC. 112. FIXING STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CON-**  
19 **TRACTING.**

20 Section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act  
21 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (b), by inserting “, including  
23 retaining and expanding existing forest products in-  
24 frastructure” before the period at the end;

1           (2) in subsection (d)(3)(B), by striking “10  
2           years” and inserting “20 years”; and

3           (3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the  
4           following:

5           “(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARD-  
6           SHIP CONTRACTS.—

7           “(A) IN GENERAL.—A long-term agree-  
8           ment or contract entered into with an entity  
9           under subsection (b) by the Chief or the Direc-  
10          tor shall provide that in the case of the can-  
11          cellation or termination by the Chief or the Di-  
12          rector of such long-term agreement or contract,  
13          the Chief or the Director, as applicable, shall  
14          provide 10 percent of the agreement or contract  
15          amount to such entity as cancellation or termi-  
16          nation costs.

17          “(B) DEFINITION OF LONG-TERM AGREE-  
18          MENT OR CONTRACT.—In this paragraph, the  
19          term ‘long-term agreement or contract’ means  
20          an agreement or contract under subsection  
21          (b)—

22                  “(i) with a term of more than 5 years;

23                  and

24                  “(ii) entered into on or after the date  
25                  of the enactment of this paragraph.”.



1 **SEC. 113. INTRA-AGENCY STRIKE TEAMS.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary concerned  
3 shall establish intra-agency strike teams to assist the Sec-  
4 retary concerned with—

5 (1) any reviews, including analysis under the  
6 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
7 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under the Na-  
8 tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C.  
9 470 et seq.), and consultations under the Endan-  
10 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.),  
11 with the intent to accelerate and streamline inter-  
12 agency consultation processes;

13 (2) the implementation of any necessary site  
14 preparation work in advance of or as part of a  
15 fireshed management project;

16 (3) the implementation of fireshed management  
17 projects under such section; and

18 (4) any combination of purposes under para-  
19 graphs (1) through (3).

20 (b) MEMBERS.—The Secretary concerned may ap-  
21 point not more than 10 individuals to serve on an intra-  
22 agency strike team comprised of—

23 (1) employees of the Department under the ju-  
24 risdiction of the Secretary concerned;

25 (2) employees of a different Federal agency,  
26 with the consent of that agency's Secretary;

1           (3) private contractors from any nonprofit orga-  
2           nization, State government, Indian Tribe, local gov-  
3           ernment, quasi-governmental agency, academic insti-  
4           tution, or private organization; and

5           (4) volunteers from any nonprofit organization,  
6           State government, Indian Tribe, local government,  
7           quasi-governmental agency, academic institution, or  
8           private organization.

9           (c) SUNSET.—The authority provided under this sec-  
10          tion shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the  
11          date of enactment of this Act.

12          **SEC. 114. LOCALLY-LED RESTORATION.**

13          (a) THRESHOLD ADJUSTMENT.—Section 14(d) of the  
14          National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C.  
15          472a(d)) is amended by—

16               (1) striking “\$10,000” and inserting  
17               “\$55,000”; and

18               (2) by adding at the end the following: “Begin-  
19               ning on January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter,  
20               the amount in the first sentence of this subsection  
21               shall be adjusted by the Secretary for changes in the  
22               Consumer Price Index of All Urban Consumers pub-  
23               lished by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the De-  
24               partment of Labor.”.

1           (b) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—Begin-  
 2 ning on the date that is 30 days after the date of enact-  
 3 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall solicit bids under sec-  
 4 tion 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976  
 5 (16 U.S.C. 472a(d)) for fireshed management projects  
 6 under section 106.

7 **SEC. 115. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PART-**  
 8 **NERSHIP PROGRAM.**

9           Section 40808 of the Infrastructure Investment and  
 10 Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592d) is amended—

11           (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

12                   (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or”  
 13 at the end;

14                   (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the  
 15 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;  
 16 and

17                   (C) by adding at the end the following:

18                           “(D) to recover from wildfires; or

19                           “(E) to enhance soil, water, and related  
 20 natural resources.”;

21           (2) in subsection (d)(1)—

22                   (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
 23 “and post-wildfire impacts” after “wildfire  
 24 risk”; and

1 (B) in subparagraph (F), by inserting “,  
2 as identified in the corresponding State forest  
3 action plan or similar priority plan (such as a  
4 State wildlife or water plan)” before the semi-  
5 colon;

6 (3) in subsection (g)(2), by inserting “and at  
7 least once every 2 fiscal years thereafter” after “and  
8 2023”; and

9 (4) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “and  
10 2023” and inserting “through 2030”.

11 **SEC. 116. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORA-**  
12 **TION PROGRAM.**

13 Section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Manage-  
14 ment Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b)(3)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “spe-  
17 cies;” and inserting “species or pathogens;”;

18 (B) in subparagraph (G), by striking  
19 “and” at the end;

20 (C) in subparagraph (H), by adding “and”  
21 after the semicolon at the end; and

22 (D) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(I) address standardized monitoring ques-  
24 tions and indicators;”;

25 (2) in subsection (c)(3)(A)—

1 (A) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the  
2 end;

3 (B) in clause (ii), by adding “and” at the  
4 end; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(iii) include a plan to provide sup-  
7 port to collaborative processes established  
8 pursuant to subsection (b)(2);”;

9 (3) in subsection (d)—

10 (A) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
12 “and” at the end;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
14 the period at the end and inserting “;  
15 and”; and

16 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(G) proposals that seek to use innovative  
19 implementation mechanisms, including good  
20 neighbor agreements entered into under section  
21 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16  
22 U.S.C. 2113a);

23 “(H) proposals that seek to remove or  
24 treat insects or diseases, including the removal  
25 of trees killed by, or infested with, bark beetles

1 in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Mon-  
2 tana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon,  
3 South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyo-  
4 ming;

5 “(I) proposals that seek to facilitate the  
6 sale of firewood and Christmas trees on lands  
7 under the jurisdiction of the Secretary or the  
8 Secretary of the Interior;

9 “(J) proposals that seek to reduce the risk  
10 of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase ecologi-  
11 cal restoration activities—

12 “(i) within areas across land owner-  
13 ships, including State, Tribal, and private  
14 land; and

15 “(ii) within the wildland-urban inter-  
16 face (as defined in section 101 of the  
17 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003  
18 (16 U.S.C. 6511)); and

19 “(K) proposals that seek to enhance water-  
20 shed health and drinking water sources.”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (3)—

22 (i) by amending subparagraph (A) to  
23 read as follows:

1           “(A) 4 proposals in any 1 region of the  
2           National Forest System to be funded during  
3           any fiscal year; and”;

4                       (ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

5                       (iii) by redesignating subparagraph  
6                       (C) as subparagraph (B); and

7           (4) in subsection (f)(6), by striking “2019  
8           through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2030”.

9   **SEC. 117. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK REDUC-**  
10                       **TION.**

11           The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest  
12           Service, in coordination with holders of permits to graze  
13           livestock on Federal land, shall develop a strategy to in-  
14           crease opportunities to utilize livestock grazing as a wild-  
15           fire risk reduction strategy, including—

16                       (1) completion of reviews (as required under the  
17           National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (U.S.C.  
18           4321 et seq.)) to allow permitted grazing on vacant  
19           grazing allotments during instances of drought, wild-  
20           fire, or other natural disasters that disrupt grazing  
21           on allotments already permitted;

22                       (2) use of targeted grazing;

23                       (3) increased use of temporary permits to pro-  
24           mote targeted fuels reduction and reduction of  
25           invasive annual grasses;

- 1           (4) increased use of grazing as a postfire recovery and restoration strategy, where appropriate; and
- 2
- 3           (5) use of all applicable authorities under the
- 4 law.

5 **SEC. 118. WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

6           Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act

7 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542(g)(4)(B)) is amended—

8           (1) in subsection (a)—

9                   (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)

10 through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), respectively;

11

12                   (B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as

13 so redesignated, the following:

14                   “(1) ADJACENT LAND.—The term ‘adjacent

15 land’ means non-Federal land, including State, local,

16 and private land, that is adjacent to, and within the

17 same watershed as, National Forest System land on

18 which a watershed protection and restoration project

19 is carried out under this section.”; and

20                   (C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

21                           (i) by redesignating subparagraphs

22 (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (K) and

23 (L), respectively; and

24                           (ii) by inserting after subparagraph

25 (F) the following:



1           “(G) an acequia association;

2           “(H) a local, regional, or other public enti-  
3           ty that manages stormwater or wastewater re-  
4           sources or other related water infrastructure;

5           “(I) a land-grant mercedes;

6           “(J) a local, regional, or other private enti-  
7           ty that has water delivery authority;”;

8           (2) in subsection (b)—

9           (A) by striking “The Secretary shall” and  
10          inserting the following:

11          “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall”; and

12          (B) by adding at the end the following:

13          “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A watershed protection  
14          and restoration project under the Program shall be  
15          designed to—

16                 “(A) protect and restore watershed health,  
17                 water supply and quality, a municipal or agri-  
18                 cultural water supply system, and water-related  
19                 infrastructure;

20                 “(B) protect and restore forest health from  
21                 insect infestation and disease or wildfire; or

22                 “(C) advance any combination of the pur-  
23                 poses described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

24          “(3) PRIORITIES.—In selecting watershed pro-  
25          tection and restoration projects under the Program,

1 the Secretary shall give priority to projects that  
2 would—

3 “(A) provide risk management benefits as-  
4 sociated with: drought; wildfire; post-wildfire  
5 conditions; extreme weather; flooding; resilience  
6 to climate change; and watershed and fire resil-  
7 ience, including minimizing risks to watershed  
8 health, water supply and quality, and water-re-  
9 lated infrastructure, including municipal and  
10 agricultural water supply systems;

11 “(B) support aquatic restoration and con-  
12 servation efforts that complement existing or  
13 planned forest restoration or wildfire risk re-  
14 duction efforts; or

15 “(C) provide quantifiable benefits to water  
16 supply or quality and include the use of nature-  
17 based solutions, such as restoring wetland and  
18 riparian ecosystems.

19 “(4) CONDITIONS FOR PROJECTS ON ADJACENT  
20 LAND.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—No project or activity  
22 may be carried out under this section on adja-  
23 cent land unless the owner of the adjacent land  
24 agrees in writing that the owner is a willing and

1 engaged partner in carrying out that project or  
2 activity.

3 “(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section  
4 shall be construed to authorize any change in—

5 “(i) the ownership of adjacent land on  
6 which a project or activity is carried out  
7 under this section; or

8 “(ii) the management of adjacent land  
9 on which a project or activity is carried out  
10 under this section, except during the car-  
11 rying out of that project or activity.”;

12 (3) in subsection (c)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “with  
14 end water users” and inserting “with end water  
15 users to protect and restore the condition of  
16 National Forest watersheds and adjacent land  
17 that provide water—

18 “(A) to the end water users subject to the  
19 agreement; or

20 “(B) for the benefit of another end water  
21 user.”;

22 (B) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
24 “or” at the end;

1 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph  
2 (D) as subparagraph (E); and

3 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph  
4 (C) the following:

5 “(D) a good neighbor agreement entered  
6 into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act  
7 of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); or”; and

8 (C) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(3) COOPERATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PART-  
10 NERS.—The Secretary shall cooperate with non-Fed-  
11 eral partners in carrying out assessments, planning,  
12 project design, and project implementation under  
13 this section.”;

14 (4) in subsection (d)—

15 (A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as  
16 follows:

17 “(2) REQUIREMENT.—A water source manage-  
18 ment plan shall be—

19 “(A) designed to protect and restore eco-  
20 logical integrity (as defined in section 219.19 of  
21 title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in ef-  
22 fect on the date of enactment of this subpara-  
23 graph));

24 “(B) based on the best available scientific  
25 information; and

1           “(C) conducted in a manner consistent  
2           with the forest plan applicable to the National  
3           Forest System land on which the watershed  
4           protection and restoration project is carried  
5           out.”; and

6           (B) by adding at the end the following:

7           “(4) REDUCING REDUNDANCY.—An existing  
8           watershed plan, such as a watershed protection and  
9           restoration action plan developed under section  
10          304(a)(3), or other applicable watershed planning  
11          documents as approved by the Secretary may be  
12          used as the basis for a water source management  
13          plan under this subsection.”; and

14          (5) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “primary  
15          purpose of” and all that follows through the period  
16          at the end and inserting “primary purpose of ad-  
17          vancing any of the purposes described in subsection  
18          (b)(2).”.

19 **SEC. 119. WATERSHED CONDITION FRAMEWORK TECH-**  
20 **NICAL CORRECTIONS.**

21          Section 304(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration  
22          Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6543(a)) is amended in para-  
23          graphs (3) and (5) by striking “protection and”.

## 1           **Subtitle C—Litigation Reform**

### 2   **SEC. 121. COMMONSENSE LITIGATION REFORM.**

3           (a) IN GENERAL.—A court shall not enjoin a covered  
4 agency action if the court determines that the plaintiff is  
5 unable to demonstrate that the claim of the plaintiff is  
6 likely to succeed on the merits.

7           (b) BALANCING SHORT- AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS  
8 OF COVERED AGENCY ACTION IN CONSIDERING INJUNC-  
9 TIVE RELIEF.—As part of its weighing the equities while  
10 considering any request for an injunction that applies to  
11 a covered agency action, the court reviewing such action  
12 shall balance the impact to the ecosystem likely affected  
13 by such action of—

14           (1) the short- and long-term effects of under-  
15 taking such action; against

16           (2) the short- and long-term effects of not un-  
17 dertaking such action.

18           (c) LIMITATIONS ON JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

19           (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
20 provision of law (except this section), in the case of  
21 a claim arising under Federal law seeking judicial  
22 review of a covered agency action—

23           (A) a court shall not hold unlawful, set  
24 aside, or otherwise limit, delay, stay, vacate, or

1           enjoin such agency action unless the court de-  
2           termines that—

3                   (i) such action poses or will pose a  
4                   risk of a proximate and substantial envi-  
5                   ronmental harm; and

6                   (ii) there is no other equitable remedy  
7                   available as a matter of law; and

8                   (B) if a court determines that subpara-  
9                   graph (A) does not apply to the covered agency  
10                  action the only remedy the court may order  
11                  with regard to such agency action is to remand  
12                  the matter to the agency with instructions to,  
13                  during the 180-day period beginning on the  
14                  date of the order, take such additional actions  
15                  as may be necessary to redress any legal wrong  
16                  suffered by, or adverse effect on, the plaintiff,  
17                  except such additional actions may not include  
18                  the preparation of a new agency document un-  
19                  less the court finds the agency was required  
20                  and failed to prepare such agency document.

21                  (2) EFFECT OF REMAND.—In the case of a cov-  
22                  ered agency action to which paragraph (1)(B) ap-  
23                  plies, the agency may—

24                   (A) continue to carry out such agency ac-  
25                   tion to the extent the action does not impact

1 the additional actions required pursuant to such  
2 paragraph; and

3 (B) if the agency action relates to an agen-  
4 cy document, use any format to correct such  
5 document (including a supplemental environ-  
6 mental document, memorandum, or errata  
7 sheet).

8 (d) LIMITATIONS ON CLAIMS.—Notwithstanding any  
9 other provision of law (except this section), a claim arising  
10 under Federal law seeking judicial review of a covered  
11 agency action shall be barred unless—

12 (1) with respect to an agency document or the  
13 application of a categorical exclusion noticed in the  
14 Federal Register, such claim is filed not later than  
15 120 days after the date of publication of a notice in  
16 the Federal Register of agency intent to carry out  
17 the finished management project relating to such  
18 agency document or application, unless a shorter pe-  
19 riod is specified in such Federal law;

20 (2) in the case of an agency document or the  
21 application of a categorical exclusion not described  
22 in paragraph (1), such claim is filed not later than  
23 120 days after the date that is the earlier of—

24 (A) the date on which such agency docu-  
25 ment or application is published; and



1 (B) the date on which such agency docu-  
2 ment or application is noticed; and

3 (3) in the case of a covered agency action for  
4 which there was a public comment period, such  
5 claim—

6 (A) is filed by a party that—

7 (i) participated in the administrative  
8 proceedings regarding the fireshed man-  
9 agement project relating to such action;  
10 and

11 (ii) submitted a comment during such  
12 public comment period and such comment  
13 was sufficiently detailed to put the applica-  
14 ble agency on notice of the issue upon  
15 which the party seeks judicial review; and

16 (B) is related to such comment.

17 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) AGENCY DOCUMENT.—The term “agency  
19 document” means, with respect to a fireshed man-  
20 agement project, a record of decision, environmental  
21 document, or programmatic environmental docu-  
22 ment.

23 (2) COVERED AGENCY ACTION.—The term  
24 “covered agency action” means—

1 (A) the establishment of a fireshed man-  
2 agement project by an agency;

3 (B) the application of a categorical exclu-  
4 sion to a fireshed management project;

5 (C) the preparation of any agency docu-  
6 ment for a fireshed management project; or

7 (D) any other agency action as part of a  
8 fireshed management project.

9 (3) NEPA TERMS.—The terms “categorical ex-  
10 clusion”, “environmental document”, and “pro-  
11 grammatic environmental document” have the mean-  
12 ings given such terms, respectively, in section 111 of  
13 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
14 U.S.C. 4336e).

15 **SEC. 122. CONSULTATION ON FOREST PLANS.**

16 (a) FOREST SERVICE PLANS.—Section 6(d)(2) of the  
17 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act  
18 of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(d)(2)) is amended to read as  
19 follows:

20 “(2) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION RE-  
21 QUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Not-  
22 withstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-  
23 retary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation  
24 under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act  
25 of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of

1 title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor  
2 regulation), on a land management plan approved,  
3 amended, or revised under this section when—

4 “(A) a new species is listed or critical habi-  
5 tat is designated under the Endangered Species  
6 Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

7 “(B) new information reveals effects of the  
8 land management plan that may affect a spe-  
9 cies listed or critical habitat designated under  
10 that Act in a manner or to an extent not pre-  
11 viously considered.”.

12 (b) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Sec-  
13 tion 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act  
14 of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended by adding at the  
15 end the following:

16 “(g) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED  
17 UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding  
18 any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be re-  
19 quired to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of  
20 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
21 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal  
22 Regulations (or a successor regulation), on a land use plan  
23 approved, amended, or revised under this section when—

1           “(1) a new species is listed or critical habitat  
2 is designated under the Endangered Species Act of  
3 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

4           “(2) new information reveals effects of the land  
5 use plan that may affect a species listed or critical  
6 habitat designated under that Act in a manner or to  
7 an extent not previously considered.”.

8 **TITLE II—PROTECTING COMMU-**  
9 **NITIES IN THE WILDLAND-**  
10 **URBAN INTERFACE**

11 **SEC. 201. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PRO-**  
12 **GRAM.**

13           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after  
14 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall  
15 jointly establish an interagency program to be known as  
16 the “Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program” that  
17 shall consist of at least one representative from each of  
18 the following:

19           (1) The Office of Wildland Fire of the Depart-  
20 ment of the Interior.

21           (2) The National Park Service.

22           (3) The Bureau of Land Management.

23           (4) The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-  
24 ice.

25           (5) The Bureau of Indian Affairs.

1 (6) The Forest Service.

2 (7) The Federal Emergency Management Agen-  
3 cy.

4 (8) The United States Fire Administration.

5 (9) The National Institute of Standards and  
6 Technology.

7 (10) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
8 Administration.

9 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program estab-  
10 lished under subsection (a) is to support interagency co-  
11 ordination in reducing the risk of, and the damages result-  
12 ing from, wildfires in communities (including tribal com-  
13 munities) in the wildland-urban interface through—

14 (1) advancing research and science in wildfire  
15 resilience and land management, including support  
16 for non-Federal research partnerships;

17 (2) supporting adoption by Indian Tribes and  
18 local governmental entities of fire-resistant building  
19 methods, codes, and standards;

20 (3) supporting efforts by Indian Tribes or local  
21 governmental entities to address the effects of  
22 wildland fire on such communities, including prop-  
23 erty damages, air quality, and water quality;

1           (4) encouraging public-private partnerships to  
2           conduct hazardous fuels management activities in  
3           the wildland-urban interface;

4           (5) providing technical and financial assistance  
5           targeted towards communities, including tribal com-  
6           munities, through streamlined and unified technical  
7           assistance and grant management mechanisms, in-  
8           cluding the portal and grant application established  
9           under subsection (c), to—

10                   (A) encourage critical risk reduction meas-  
11                   ures on private property with high wildfire risk  
12                   exposure in such communities; and

13                   (B) mitigate costs for and improve capac-  
14                   ity among such communities.

15           (c) PORTAL AND UNIFORM GRANT APPLICATION.—

16                   (1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program es-  
17                   tablished under subsection (a), the Secretaries and  
18                   the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-  
19                   agement Agency shall establish a portal through  
20                   which a person may submit a single, uniform appli-  
21                   cation for any of the following:

22                           (A) A community wildfire defense grant  
23                           under section 40803(f) of the Infrastructure In-  
24                           vestment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(f)).

1           (B) An emergency management perform-  
2           ance grant under section 662 of the Post-  
3           Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of  
4           2006 (6 U.S.C. 761).

5           (C) A grant under section 33 of the Fed-  
6           eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
7           (15 U.S.C. 2229).

8           (D) A grant under section 34 of the Fed-  
9           eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
10          (15 U.S.C. 2229a).

11          (E) Financial or technical assistance or a  
12          grant under sections 203, 205, 404, 406, or  
13          420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
14          and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
15          5133, 5135, 5170c, 5172, 5187).

16          (2) SIMPLIFICATION OF APPLICATION.—In es-  
17          tablishing the portal and application under para-  
18          graph (1), the Secretaries and the Administrator  
19          shall seek to reduce the complexity and length of the  
20          application process for the grants described in para-  
21          graph (1).

22          (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretaries  
23          shall provide technical assistance to communities or  
24          persons seeking to apply for financial assistance

1 through the portal using the application established  
2 under paragraph (1).

3 (d) SUNSET.—The program established under this  
4 section shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after  
5 the date of enactment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 202. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE RESEARCH PRO-**  
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall, acting  
9 jointly, expand the Joint Fire Science Program to include  
10 a performance-driven research and development program  
11 known as the “Community Wildfire Defense Research  
12 Program” for the purpose of testing and advancing inno-  
13 vative designs to create or improve the wildfire-resistance  
14 of structures and communities.

15 (b) PROGRAM PRIORITIES.—In carrying out the pro-  
16 gram established under subsection (a), the Secretaries  
17 shall evaluate opportunities to create wildfire-resistant  
18 structures and communities through—

19 (1) different affordable building materials, in-  
20 cluding mass timber;

21 (2) home hardening, including policies to  
22 incentivize and incorporate defensible space;

23 (3) subdivision design and other land use plan-  
24 ning and design;

25 (4) landscape architecture; and



1 (5) other wildfire-resistant designs, as deter-  
2 mined by the Secretary.

3 (c) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE INNOVATION  
4 PRIZE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program  
6 established under subsection (a), the Secretaries  
7 shall carry out a competition through which a person  
8 may submit to the Secretaries innovative designs for  
9 the creation or improvement of an ignition-resistant  
10 structure or fire-adapted communities.

11 (2) PRIZE.—Subject to the availability of ap-  
12 propriations made in advance for such purpose, the  
13 Secretaries may award a prize under the competition  
14 described in paragraph (1), based on criteria estab-  
15 lished by the Secretaries and in accordance with  
16 paragraph (3).

17 (3) SCALE.—In awarding a prize under para-  
18 graph (2), the Secretaries shall prioritize for an  
19 award designs with the most potential to scale to ex-  
20 isting infrastructure.

21 (d) COLLABORATION AND NONDUPLICATION.—In  
22 carrying out the program established under subsection (a),  
23 the Secretaries shall ensure collaboration and nonduplica-  
24 tion of activities with the Building Technologies Office of  
25 the Department of Energy.

1 (e) SUNSET.—The program established under sub-  
 2 section (a) shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after  
 3 the date of enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 203. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, FACILITY INSPEC-**  
 5 **TION, AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**  
 6 **RELATING TO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND**  
 7 **DISTRIBUTION FACILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**

8 (a) HAZARD TREES WITHIN 150 FEET OF ELECTRIC  
 9 POWER LINE.—Section 512(a)(1)(B)(ii) of the Federal  
 10 Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.  
 11 1772(a)(1)(B)(ii)) is amended by striking “10” and in-  
 12 serting “150”.

13 (b) CONSULTATION WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS.—  
 14 Section 512(e)(3)(E) of such Act (43 U.S.C.  
 15 1772(e)(3)(E)) is amended—

16 (1) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

17 (2) in clause (ii), by striking the period and in-  
 18 serting “; and”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(iii) consulting with a private land-  
 21 owner with respect to any hazard trees  
 22 identified for removal from land owned by  
 23 the private landowner.”.

1 (c) REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—Section  
2 512(c)(4)(A)(iv) of such Act (43 U.S.C.  
3 1772(c)(4)(A)(iv)) is amended to read as follows:

4 “(iv) ensures that—

5 “(I) a plan submitted without a  
6 modification under clause (iii) shall be  
7 automatically approved 120 days after  
8 being submitted; and

9 “(II) with respect to a plan sub-  
10 mitted with a modification under  
11 clause (iii), if not approved within 120  
12 days after being submitted, the Sec-  
13 retary concerned shall develop and  
14 submit a letter to the owner and oper-  
15 ator describing—

16 “(aa) a detailed timeline (to  
17 conclude within 165 days after  
18 the submission of the plan) for  
19 completing review of the plan;

20 “(bb) any identified defi-  
21 ciencies with the plan and spe-  
22 cific opportunities for the owner  
23 and operator to address such de-  
24 ficiencies; and

1                                   “(cc) any other relevant in-  
2                                   formation, as determined by the  
3                                   Secretary concerned.”.

4 **SEC. 204. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR ELECTRIC UTIL-**  
5 **ITY LINES RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**

6           (a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ESTABLISHED.—For-  
7 est management activities described in subsection (b) are  
8 a category of activities hereby designated as being cat-  
9 egorically excluded from the preparation of an environ-  
10 mental assessment or an environmental impact statement  
11 under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy  
12 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

13           (b) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DESIGNATED  
14 FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—The forest management  
15 activities designated under subsection (a) for a categorical  
16 exclusion are—

17                   (1) the development and approval of a vegeta-  
18 tion management, facility inspection, and operation  
19 and maintenance plan submitted under section  
20 512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-  
21 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(1)) by the  
22 Secretary concerned; and

23                   (2) the implementation of routine activities con-  
24 ducted under the plan referred to in paragraph (1).

1           (c) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—  
2 On and after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
3 retary concerned may use the categorical exclusion estab-  
4 lished under subsection (a) in accordance with this section.

5           (d) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN AREAS FROM CATEGOR-  
6 ICAL EXCLUSION.—The categorical exclusion established  
7 under subsection (a) shall not apply to any forest manage-  
8 ment activity conducted—

9                 (1) in a component of the National Wilderness  
10            Preservation System; or

11                (2) on National Forest System lands on which  
12            the removal of vegetation is restricted or prohibited  
13            by an Act of Congress.

14           (e) PERMANENT ROADS.—

15                (1) PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHMENT.—A for-  
16            est management activity designated under subsection  
17            (b) shall not include the establishment of a perma-  
18            nent road.

19                (2) EXISTING ROADS.—The Secretary con-  
20            cerned may carry out necessary maintenance and re-  
21            pair on an existing permanent road for the purposes  
22            of conducting a forest management activity des-  
23            ignated under subsection (b).

24                (3) TEMPORARY ROADS.—The Secretary con-  
25            cerned shall decommission any temporary road con-

1       structured for carrying out a forest management activ-  
2       ity designated under subsection (b) not later than  
3       the date that is 3 years after the date on which the  
4       forest management activity is completed.

5       (f) APPLICABLE LAWS.—Clauses (iii) and (iv) of sec-  
6       tion 106(a)(3) shall apply to forest management activities  
7       designated under subsection (b).

8       **SEC. 205. SEEDS OF SUCCESS.**

9       (a) STRATEGY ESTABLISHED.—Not later than 2  
10      years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secre-  
11      taries and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly develop  
12      and implement a strategy, to be known as the “Seeds of  
13      Success strategy”, to enhance the domestic supply chain  
14      of seeds.

15      (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-  
16      section (a) shall include a plan for each of the following:

17           (1) Facilitating sustained interagency coordina-  
18           tion in, and a comprehensive approach to, native  
19           plant materials development and restoration.

20           (2) Promoting the re-seeding of native or fire-  
21           resistant vegetation post-wildfire, particularly in the  
22           wildland-urban interface.

23           (3) Creating and consolidating information on  
24           native or fire-resistant vegetation and sharing such

1 information with State governments, Indian Tribes,  
2 and local governments.

3 (4) Building regional programs and partner-  
4 ships to promote the development of materials made  
5 from plants native to the United States and restore  
6 such plants to their respective, native habitats within  
7 the United States, giving priority to the building of  
8 such programs and partnerships in regions of the  
9 Bureau of Land Management where such partner-  
10 ships and programs do not already exist as of the  
11 date of enactment of this Act.

12 (5) Expanding seed storage and seed-cleaning  
13 infrastructure.

14 (6) Expanding the Warehouse System of the  
15 Bureau of Land Management, particularly the cold  
16 storage capacity of the Warehouse System.

17 (7) Shortening the timeline for the approval of  
18 permits to collect seeds on public lands managed by  
19 the Bureau of Land Management.

20 (c) REPORT.—The Secretaries and the Secretary of  
21 Defense shall submit to the relevant Congressional Com-  
22 mittees the strategy developed under paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 206. PROGRAM TO SUPPORT PRIORITY REFOREST-**  
2 **ATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS OF DE-**  
3 **PARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the  
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Inte-  
6 rior, in coordination with the heads of covered Federal  
7 agencies, shall establish a program to provide support for  
8 priority projects identified under subsection (c)(2), in ac-  
9 cordance with this section.

10 (b) **SUPPORT.**—In carrying out the program under  
11 subsection (a), the Secretary may provide support  
12 through—

13 (1) cooperative agreements entered into in ac-  
14 cordance with processes established by the Sec-  
15 retary; and

16 (2) contracts, including contracts established  
17 pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-  
18 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

19 (c) **ANNUAL IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY**  
20 **PROJECTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-  
21 ment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary  
22 of the Interior, in consultation with the heads of covered  
23 Federal agencies, shall—

24 (1) identify lands of the United States adminis-  
25 tered by, or under the jurisdiction of, the Secretary  
26 of the Interior that require reforestation and res-



1       toration due to unplanned disturbances and that are  
2       unlikely to experience natural regeneration without  
3       assistance; and

4             (2) establish a list of priority projects for refor-  
5       estation and restoration for the upcoming year,  
6       which may include activities to ensure adequate and  
7       appropriate seed and seedling availability to further  
8       the objectives of other priority projects.

9       (d) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the program  
10      under subsection (a) and the requirements under sub-  
11      section (c), the Secretary shall consult or collaborate with,  
12      as appropriate, and inform the following:

13            (1) State and local governments.

14            (2) Indian Tribes.

15            (3) Covered institutions of higher education.

16            (4) Federal agencies that administer lands of  
17      the United States that adjoin or are proximal to  
18      lands that are the subject of priority projects and  
19      potential priority projects.

20            (5) Other stakeholders, as determined by the  
21      Secretary.

22      (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after  
23      the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,  
24      the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the relevant

1 Congressional Committees a report that includes the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 (1) An accounting of all lands identified under  
4 subsection (c)(1) for the period covered by the re-  
5 port.

6 (2) A list of priority projects identified under  
7 subsection (c)(2) for the period covered by the re-  
8 port and, with respect to each such priority project,  
9 any support issued under the program under sub-  
10 section (a) and any progress made towards reforest-  
11 ation and restoration.

12 (3) An accounting of each contract and cooper-  
13 ative agreement established under the program  
14 under subsection (a).

15 (4) A description of the actions taken in accord-  
16 ance with subsection (d).

17 (5) Assessments with respect to—

18 (A) gaps in—

19 (i) the implementation of the program  
20 under subsection (a); and

21 (ii) the progress made under the pro-  
22 gram with respect to priority projects; and

23 (B) opportunities to procure funding nec-  
24 essary to address any such gaps.

1 (f) NONDUPLICATION.—In carrying out this section,  
2 the Secretary of the Interior shall collaborate with the Sec-  
3 retary and the Secretary of Defense to ensure the non-  
4 duplication of activities carried out under section 205.

5 (g) SUNSET.—The authority provided under this sec-  
6 tion shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the  
7 date of enactment of this Act.

8 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) COVERED FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term  
10 “covered Federal agency” means the National Park  
11 Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service,  
12 the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of  
13 Reclamation, or the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

14 (2) COVERED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-  
15 CATION.—The term “covered institution of higher  
16 education” has the meaning given the term “eligible  
17 institution” in section 301(e)(3).

18 (3) NATURAL REGENERATION; REFOREST-  
19 ATION.—The terms “natural regeneration” and “re-  
20 forestation” have the meanings given such terms in  
21 section 3(e)(4)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland Re-  
22 newable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.  
23 1601(3)(4)(A)).

24 (4) RESTORATION.—The term “restoration”  
25 means activities that facilitate the recovery of an

1 ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or de-  
2 stroyed, including the reestablishment of appropriate  
3 plant species composition and community structure.

4 (5) UNPLANNED ECOSYSTEM DISTURBANCE.—  
5 The term “unplanned ecosystem disturbance” means  
6 any unplanned disturbance that disrupts the struc-  
7 ture or composition of an ecosystem, including a  
8 wildfire, an infestation of insects or disease, and a  
9 weather event.

10 **SEC. 207. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPAYMENT.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD OPERATING  
12 PROCEDURES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of  
13 the enactment of this section, the Secretaries shall—

14 (1) establish standard operating procedures re-  
15 lating to payment timelines for fire suppression cost  
16 share agreements established under the Act of May  
17 27, 1955 (42 U.S.C. 1856a) (commonly known as  
18 the “Reciprocal Fire Protection Act”); and

19 (2) with respect to each fire suppression cost  
20 share agreement in operation on such date—

21 (A) review each such agreement; and

22 (B) modify each agreement as necessary to  
23 comply with the standard operating procedures  
24 required under paragraph (1).

1           (b) ALIGNMENT OF FIRE SUPPRESSION COST SHARE  
2 AGREEMENTS WITH COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION  
3 AGREEMENTS.—The standard operating procedures re-  
4 quired under subsection (a)(1) shall include a requirement  
5 that each fire suppression cost share agreement be aligned  
6 with each of the cooperative fire protection agreements ap-  
7 plicable to the entity subject to such fire suppression cost  
8 share agreement.

9           (c) PAYMENTS PURSUANT TO COST SHARE AGREE-  
10 MENTS.—With respect to payments made pursuant to fire  
11 suppression cost share agreements, the standard operating  
12 procedures required under subsection (a)(1) shall require  
13 that the Federal paying entity reimburse a local fire de-  
14 partment if such fire department submits an invoice in  
15 accordance with cost settlement procedures.

16           (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
17 gress that the Secretaries should carry out reciprocal fire  
18 suppression cost share agreement repayments to local fire  
19 suppression organizations as soon as practicable after fire  
20 suppression occurs but not later than 1 year after fire sup-  
21 pression occurs.

1 **TITLE III—TRANSPARENCY,**  
2 **TECHNOLOGY, AND PARTNER-**  
3 **SHIPS**

4 **Subtitle A—Transparency and**  
5 **Technology**

6 **SEC. 301. BIOCHAR INNOVATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES**  
7 **FOR CONSERVATION, HEALTH, AND AD-**  
8 **VANCEMENTS IN RESEARCH.**

9 (a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

10 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the avail-  
12 ability of appropriations made in advance for  
13 such purpose, not later than 2 years after the  
14 date of enactment of this Act, the covered Sec-  
15 retaries shall establish a program to enter into  
16 partnerships with eligible entities to carry out  
17 demonstration projects to support the develop-  
18 ment and commercialization of biochar in ac-  
19 cordance with this subsection.

20 (B) LOCATION OF DEMONSTRATION  
21 PROJECTS.—In carrying out the program estab-  
22 lished under subparagraph (A), the covered  
23 Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent prac-  
24 ticable, enter into partnerships with eligible en-  
25 tities such that not fewer than one demonstra-

1           tion project is carried out in each region of the  
2           Forest Service and each region of the Bureau  
3           of Land Management.

4           (2) PROPOSALS.—To be eligible to enter into a  
5           partnership to carry out a biochar demonstration  
6           project under paragraph (1)(A), an eligible entity  
7           shall submit to the covered Secretaries a proposal at  
8           such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
9           formation as the covered Secretaries may require.

10          (3) PRIORITY.—In selecting proposals under  
11          paragraph (2), the covered Secretaries shall give pri-  
12          ority to entering into partnerships with eligible enti-  
13          ties that submit proposals to carry out biochar dem-  
14          onstration projects that—

15                 (A) have the most carbon sequestration po-  
16                 tential;

17                 (B) have the most potential to create new  
18                 jobs and contribute to local economies, particu-  
19                 larly in rural areas;

20                 (C) have the most potential to dem-  
21                 onstrate—

22                         (i) new and innovative uses of biochar;

23                         (ii) market viability for cost effective  
24                         biochar-based products;

1 (iii) the ecosystem services created or  
2 supported by the use of biochar;

3 (iv) the restorative benefits of biochar  
4 with respect to forest health and resiliency,  
5 including forest soils and watersheds; or

6 (v) any combination of purposes speci-  
7 fied in clauses (i) through (iv);

8 (D) are located in areas that have a high  
9 need for biochar production, as determined by  
10 the covered Secretaries, due to—

11 (i) nearby lands identified as having  
12 high or very high or extreme risk of wild-  
13 fire;

14 (ii) availability of sufficient quantities  
15 of feedstocks; or

16 (iii) a high level of demand for  
17 biochar or other commercial byproducts of  
18 biochar; or

19 (E) satisfy any combination of purposes  
20 specified in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

21 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the pro-  
22 gram established under paragraph (1)(A), the cov-  
23 ered Secretaries may enter into partnerships and  
24 provide funding to such partnerships to carry out  
25 demonstration projects to—



1 (A) acquire and test various feedstocks and  
2 their efficacy;

3 (B) develop and optimize commercially and  
4 technologically viable biochar production units,  
5 including mobile and permanent units;

6 (C) demonstrate—

7 (i) the production of biochar from for-  
8 est residue; and

9 (ii) the use of biochar to restore forest  
10 health and resiliency;

11 (D) build, expand, or establish biochar fa-  
12 cilities;

13 (E) conduct research on new and innova-  
14 tive uses of biochar;

15 (F) demonstrate cost-effective market op-  
16 portunities for biochar and biochar-based prod-  
17 ucts;

18 (G) carry out any other activities the cov-  
19 ered Secretaries determine appropriate; or

20 (H) any combination of the purposes speci-  
21 fied in subparagraphs (A) through (F).

22 (5) FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS.—To the max-  
23 imum extent practicable, an eligible entity that car-  
24 ries out a biochar demonstration project under this  
25 subsection shall, with respect to the feedstock used

1 under such project, derive at least 50 percent of  
2 such feedstock from forest thinning and manage-  
3 ment activities, including mill residues, conducted on  
4 National Forest System lands or public lands.

5 (6) REVIEW OF BIOCHAR DEMONSTRATION.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The covered Secretaries  
7 shall conduct regionally-specific research, in-  
8 cluding economic analyses and life-cycle assess-  
9 ments, on any biochar produced from a dem-  
10 onstration project carried out under the pro-  
11 gram established in paragraph (1)(A), includ-  
12 ing—

13 (i) the effects of such biochar on—

14 (I) forest health and resiliency;

15 (II) carbon capture and seques-  
16 tration, including increasing soil car-  
17 bon in the short-term and long-term;

18 (III) productivity, reduced input  
19 costs, and water retention in agricul-  
20 tural practices;

21 (IV) the health of soil and grass-  
22 lands used for grazing activities, in-  
23 cluding grazing activities on National  
24 Forest System land and public land;

1 (V) environmental remediation  
2 activities, including abandoned mine  
3 land remediation; and

4 (VI) other ecosystem services cre-  
5 ated or supported by the use of  
6 biochar;

7 (ii) the effectiveness of biochar as a  
8 co-product of biofuels or in biochemicals;  
9 and

10 (iii) the effectiveness of other poten-  
11 tial uses of biochar to determine if any  
12 such use is technologically and commer-  
13 cially viable.

14 (B) COORDINATION.—The covered Secre-  
15 taries shall, to the maximum extent practicable,  
16 provide data, analyses, and other relevant infor-  
17 mation collected under subparagraph (A) with  
18 recipients of a grant under subsection (b).

19 (7) LIMITATION ON FUNDING FOR ESTAB-  
20 LISHING BIOCHAR FACILITIES.—If the covered Sec-  
21 retaries provide to an eligible entity that enters into  
22 a partnership with the covered Secretaries under  
23 paragraph (1)(A) funding for establishing a biochar  
24 facility, such funding may not exceed 35 percent of

1 the total capital cost of establishing such biochar fa-  
2 cility.

3 (b) BIOCHAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT  
4 PROGRAM.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the In-  
6 terior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy,  
7 shall establish or expand an existing applied biochar  
8 research and development grant program to make  
9 competitive grants to eligible institutions to carry  
10 out the activities described in paragraph (3).

11 (2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
12 grant under this subsection, an eligible institution  
13 shall submit to the Secretary a proposal at such  
14 time, in such manner, and containing such informa-  
15 tion as the Secretary may require.

16 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution  
17 that receives a grant under this subsection shall use  
18 the grant funds to conduct applied research on—

19 (A) the effect of biochar on forest health  
20 and resiliency, accounting for variations in  
21 biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

22 (B) the effect of biochar on soil health and  
23 water retention, accounting for variations in  
24 biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

1 (C) the long-term carbon sequestration po-  
2 tential of biochar;

3 (D) the best management practices with  
4 respect to biochar and biochar-based products  
5 that maximize—

6 (i) carbon sequestration benefits; and

7 (ii) the commercial viability and appli-  
8 cation of such products in forestry, agri-  
9 culture, environmental remediation, water  
10 quality improvement, and any other similar  
11 uses, as determined by the Secretary;

12 (E) the regional uses of biochar to increase  
13 productivity and profitability, including—

14 (i) uses in agriculture and environ-  
15 mental remediation; and

16 (ii) use as a co-product in fuel produc-  
17 tion;

18 (F) new and innovative uses for biochar  
19 byproducts; and

20 (G) opportunities to expand markets for  
21 biochar and create related jobs, particularly in  
22 rural areas.

23 (c) REPORTS.—

24 (1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2  
25 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the

1 covered Secretaries shall submit to Congress a re-  
2 port that—

3 (A) includes policy and program rec-  
4 ommendations to improve the widespread use of  
5 biochar;

6 (B) identifies any area of research needed  
7 to advance biochar commercialization; and

8 (C) identifies barriers to further biochar  
9 commercialization, including permitting and  
10 siting considerations.

11 (2) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF  
12 THE PRESIDENT’S BUDGET.—Beginning with the  
13 second fiscal year that begins after the date of en-  
14 actment of this Act and annually thereafter until the  
15 date described in subsection (d), the covered Secre-  
16 taries shall include in the materials submitted to  
17 Congress in support of the President’s budget pursu-  
18 ant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code,  
19 a report describing, for the fiscal year covered by the  
20 report, the status of each demonstration project car-  
21 ried out under subsection (a) and each research and  
22 development grant carried out under subsection (b).

23 (d) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section  
24 shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date  
25 of enactment of this Act.

1 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) BIOCHAR.—The term “biochar” means car-  
3 bonized biomass produced by converting feedstock  
4 through reductive thermal processing for non-fuel  
5 uses.

6 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
7 ty” means—

8 (A) a State, local, special district, or Tribal  
9 government;

10 (B) an eligible institution;

11 (C) a private, non-private, or cooperative  
12 entity or organization;

13 (D) a National Laboratory (as such term  
14 is defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act  
15 of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)); or

16 (E) a partnership or consortium of two or  
17 more entities described in subparagraphs (A)  
18 through (D).

19 (3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-  
20 ble institution” means land-grant colleges and uni-  
21 versities, including institutions eligible for funding  
22 under the—

23 (A) Act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503,  
24 chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

1           (B) Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 417,  
2           chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including  
3           Tuskegee University;

4           (C) Public Law 87–788 (commonly known  
5           as the “McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962”); or

6           (D) Equity in Educational Land-Grant  
7           Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public  
8           Law 103–382).

9           (4) FEEDSTOCK.—The term “feedstock” means  
10          excess biomass in the form of plant matter or mate-  
11          rials that serves as the raw material for the produc-  
12          tion of biochar.

13          (5) COVERED SECRETARIES.—The term “cov-  
14          ered Secretaries” means—

15               (A) the Secretary, acting through the Chief  
16               of the Forest Service;

17               (B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting  
18               through the Director of the Bureau of Land  
19               Management; and

20               (C) the Secretary of Energy, acting  
21               through the Director of the Office of Science.



1 **SEC. 302. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**  
2 **PORTS.**

3 (a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION  
4 REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE  
5 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fis-  
7 cal year that begins after the date of enactment of  
8 this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-  
9 retary concerned shall include in the materials sub-  
10 mitted to Congress in support of the President's  
11 budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United  
12 States Code, a report on the number of acres of  
13 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned car-  
14 ried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during  
15 the preceding fiscal year.

16 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of the re-  
17 port required under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
18 concerned shall—

19 (A) in determining the number of acres of  
20 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned  
21 carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities  
22 during the period covered by the report—

23 (i) record acres of Federal land on  
24 which hazardous fuels reduction activities  
25 were completed during such period; and

1           (ii) record each acre described in  
2           clause (i) once in the report, regardless of  
3           whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction  
4           activities were carried out on such acre  
5           during such period; and

6           (B) with respect to the acres of Federal  
7           land recorded in the report, include information  
8           on—

9           (i) which such acres are located in the  
10          wildland-urban interface;

11          (ii) the level of wildfire risk (high,  
12          moderate, or low) on the first and last day  
13          of the period covered by the report;

14          (iii) the types of hazardous fuels ac-  
15          tivities completed for such acres, delin-  
16          eating between whether such activities  
17          were conducted—

18               (I) in a wildfire managed for re-  
19               source benefits; or

20               (II) through a planned project;

21          (iv) the cost per acre of hazardous  
22          fuels activities carried out during the pe-  
23          riod covered by the report;

24          (v) the region or system unit in which  
25          the acres are located; and

1 (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous  
2 fuels reduction activities on reducing the  
3 risk of wildfire.

4 (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned  
5 shall make each report submitted under paragraph  
6 (1) publicly available on the websites of the Depart-  
7 ment of Agriculture and the Department of the Inte-  
8 rior, as applicable.

9 (b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
11 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary con-  
12 cerned shall implement standardized procedures for  
13 tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduction  
14 activities carried out by the Secretary concerned.

15 (2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures  
16 required under paragraph (1) shall include—

17 (A) regular, standardized data reviews of  
18 the accuracy and timely input of data used to  
19 track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

20 (B) verification methods that validate  
21 whether such data accurately correlates to the  
22 hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out  
23 by the Secretary concerned;

1 (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term  
2 effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction  
3 activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

4 (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities  
5 that occur partially within the wildland-urban  
6 interface, methods to distinguish which acres  
7 are located within the wildland-urban interface  
8 and which acres are located outside the  
9 wildland-urban interface.

10 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 weeks after im-  
11 plementing the standardized procedures required  
12 under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall  
13 submit to Congress a report that describes—

14 (A) such standardized procedures; and

15 (B) program and policy recommendations  
16 to Congress to address any limitations in track-  
17 ing data related to hazardous fuels reduction  
18 activities under this subsection.

19 (c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the  
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
21 of the United States shall—

22 (1) conduct a study on the implementation of  
23 this section, including any limitations with respect  
24 to—

1 (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-  
2 tivities under subsection (a); or

3 (B) tracking data related to hazardous  
4 fuels reduction activities under subsection (b);  
5 and

6 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes  
7 the results of the study under paragraph (1).

8 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIV-  
10 ITY.—The term “hazardous fuels reduction activ-  
11 ity”—

12 (A) means any vegetation management ac-  
13 tivity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including  
14 mechanical treatments, grazing, and prescribed  
15 burning; and

16 (B) does not include the awarding of con-  
17 tracts to conduct hazardous fuels reduction ac-  
18 tivities.

19 (2) FEDERAL LANDS.—The term “Federal  
20 lands” means lands under the jurisdiction of the  
21 Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary.

22 (e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No addi-  
23 tional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements  
24 of this section, and the activities authorized by this section

1 are subject to the availability of appropriations made in  
2 advance for such purposes.

3 **SEC. 303. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DE-**  
4 **PLOYMENT AND DEMONSTRATION PARTNER-**  
5 **SHIP.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered  
8 agency” means—

9 (A) each Federal land management agency  
10 (as such term is defined in the Federal Lands  
11 Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C.  
12 6801));

13 (B) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
14 Administration;

15 (C) the United States Fire Administration;

16 (D) the Federal Emergency Management  
17 Agency;

18 (E) the National Aeronautics and Space  
19 Administration;

20 (F) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

21 (G) the Department of Defense;

22 (H) a State, Tribal, county, or municipal  
23 fire department or district operating through  
24 the United States Fire Administration or pur-

1           suant to an agreement with a Federal agency;  
2           and

3           (I) any other Federal agency involved in  
4           wildfire response.

5           (2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-  
6           tity” means—

7           (A) a private entity;

8           (B) a nonprofit organization; or

9           (C) an institution of higher education (as  
10          defined in section 101 of the Higher Education  
11          Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

12          (b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
13          date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordina-  
14          tion with the heads of the covered agencies, shall establish  
15          a deployment and demonstration pilot program (in this  
16          section referred to as “Pilot Program”) for new and inno-  
17          vative wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and  
18          mitigation technologies.

19          (c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program,  
20          the Secretaries shall—

21                 (1) incorporate the Pilot Program into the Na-  
22                 tional Wildfire Coordinating Group;

23                 (2) in consultation with the heads of covered  
24                 agencies, identify and advance the demonstration  
25                 and deployment of key technology priority areas with

1 respect to wildfire prevention, detection, communica-  
2 tion, and mitigation technologies, including—

3 (A) hazardous fuels reduction treatments  
4 or activities;

5 (B) dispatch communications;

6 (C) remote sensing, detection, and track-  
7 ing;

8 (D) safety equipment;

9 (E) common operating pictures or oper-  
10 ational dashboards; and

11 (F) interoperable commercial data; and

12 (3) connect each covered entity selected to par-  
13 ticipate in the Pilot Program with the appropriate  
14 covered agency to coordinate real-time and on-the-  
15 ground testing of technology during wildland fire  
16 mitigation activities and training.

17 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to be selected to  
18 participate in the Pilot Program, a covered entity shall  
19 submit to the Secretaries an application at such time, in  
20 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
21 retaries may require, including a proposal to demonstrate  
22 technologies specific to the key technology priority areas  
23 identified pursuant to subsection (c)(2).

24 (e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECH-  
25 NOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in



1 the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to  
2 covered entities—

3 (1) that have participated in the Fire Weather  
4 Testbed of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
5 Administration; or

6 (2) developing and applying emerging tech-  
7 nologies for wildfire mitigation, including artificial  
8 intelligence, quantum sensing, computing and quan-  
9 tum-hybrid applications, thermal mid-wave infrared  
10 equipped low earth orbit satellites, augmented re-  
11 ality, 5G private networks, and device-to-device com-  
12 munications supporting nomadic mesh networks and  
13 detection.

14 (f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination  
15 with the heads of covered agencies, shall make public the  
16 key technology priority areas identified pursuant to sub-  
17 section (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply under  
18 subsection (d) to deploy and demonstrate their tech-  
19 nologies to address such priority areas.

20 (g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later  
21 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and  
22 annually thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Program,  
23 the Secretaries shall submit to the relevant Congressional  
24 Committees, the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-  
25 nology of the House of Representatives, and the Com-

1 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the  
2 Senate a report that includes, with respect to the Pilot  
3 Program, the following:

4 (1) A list of participating covered entities.

5 (2) A brief description of the technologies de-  
6 ployed and demonstrated by each such covered enti-  
7 ty.

8 (3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring each  
9 such technology and applying the technology at  
10 scale.

11 (4) Outreach efforts by Federal agencies to cov-  
12 ered entities developing wildfire technologies.

13 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-  
14 ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and  
15 application at-scale in Federal land management  
16 agencies' wildfire prevention, detection, communica-  
17 tion, and mitigation efforts.

18 (6) A description of the relationship and coordi-  
19 nation between the Pilot Program and the activities  
20 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-  
21 tration, including the Fire Weather Testbed.

22 (h) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section  
23 shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date  
24 of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 304. GAO STUDY ON FOREST SERVICE POLICIES.**

2 Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment  
3 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
4 shall—

5 (1) conduct a study evaluating—

6 (A) the effectiveness of Forest Service  
7 wildland firefighting operations;

8 (B) transparency and accountability meas-  
9 ures in the Forest Service's budget and ac-  
10 counting process; and

11 (C) the suitability and feasibility of estab-  
12 lishing a new Federal agency with the responsi-  
13 bility of responding and suppressing wildland  
14 fires on Federal lands; and

15 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes  
16 the results of the study required under paragraph  
17 (1).

18 **SEC. 305. FOREST SERVICE WESTERN HEADQUARTERS**  
19 **STUDY.**

20 Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment  
21 of this Act, the Chief of the Forest Service shall—

22 (1) conduct a study evaluating—

23 (A) potential locations for a Western head-  
24 quarters for the Forest Service, including po-  
25 tential locations in at least 3 different States lo-  
26 cated west of the Mississippi river; and

1 (B) the potential benefits of creating a  
 2 Western headquarters for the Forest Service,  
 3 including expected—

4 (i) improvements to customer service;

5 (ii) improvements to employee recruit-  
 6 ment and retention; and

7 (iii) operational efficiencies and cost  
 8 savings; and

9 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes  
 10 the results of the study required under paragraph  
 11 (1).

12 **SEC. 306. KEEPING FOREST PLANS CURRENT AND MON-**  
 13 **ITORED.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—

15 (1) to the greatest extent practicable and sub-  
 16 ject to the availability of appropriations made in ad-  
 17 vance for such purpose—

18 (A) ensure forest plans comply with the re-  
 19 quirements of section 6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest  
 20 and Rangeland Resources Planning Act of 1974  
 21 (16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5)(A)); and

22 (B) prioritize revising any forest plan not  
 23 in compliance with such section 6(f)(5)(A);

24 (2) not be considered to be in violation of sec-  
 25 tion 6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland Renew-

1       able Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.  
2       1604(f)(5)(A)) solely because more than 15 years  
3       have passed without revision of the plan for a unit  
4       of the National Forest System;

5               (3) not later than 120 days after the date of  
6       the enactment of this Act, submit to the relevant  
7       Congressional Committees the date on which each  
8       forest plan required by such section 6 was most re-  
9       cently revised, amended, or modified;

10              (4) seek to publish a new, complete version of  
11       a forest plan that the Secretary has been directed to  
12       amend, revise, or modify by a court order within 60  
13       days of such amendment, revision, or modification,  
14       subject to the availability of appropriations made in  
15       advance for such purpose; and

16              (5) maintain a central, publicly accessible  
17       website with links to—

18                      (A) the most recently available forest plan  
19                      adopted, amended, or modified by a court order  
20                      as a single document; and

21                      (B) the most recently published forest plan  
22                      monitoring report for each unit of the National  
23                      Forest System.

24       (b) GOOD FAITH UPDATES.—If the Secretary is not  
25       acting expeditiously and in good faith, within the funding

1 available to revise, amend, or modify a plan for a unit  
2 of the National Forest System as required by law or a  
3 court order, subsection (a) shall be void with respect to  
4 such plan and a court of proper jurisdiction may order  
5 completion of the plan on an accelerated basis.

6 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
7 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
8 a report to the relevant Congressional Committees sum-  
9 marizing the implementation of this section.

10 **SEC. 307. CONTAINER AERIAL FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM**  
11 **(CAFFS).**

12 (a) EVALUATION.—Not later than 90 days after the  
13 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the  
14 Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the National  
15 Interagency Aviation Committee and the Interagency  
16 Airtanker Board, shall jointly conduct an evaluation of the  
17 container aerial firefighting system to assess the use of  
18 such system to mitigate and suppress wildfires.

19 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date  
20 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Sec-  
21 retary of the Interior, in consultation with the National  
22 Interagency Aviation Committee and the Interagency  
23 Airtanker Board, shall jointly submit to the relevant Con-  
24 gressional Committees a report that includes the results  
25 of the evaluation required under subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 308. STUDY ON PINE BEETLE INFESTATION.**

2 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment  
3 of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the  
4 Forest Service, shall—

5 (1) carry out a study on the causes and effects  
6 of, and solutions for, the infestation of pine beetles  
7 in the Northeastern region of the United States; and

8 (2) submit to the relevant Congressional Com-  
9 mittees a report that includes the results of the  
10 study required under paragraph (1).

11 **Subtitle B—White Oak Resilience**

12 **SEC. 311. WHITE OAK RESTORATION INITIATIVE COALI-**  
13 **TION.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The White Oak Restoration Ini-  
15 tiative Coalition shall be established—

16 (1) as a voluntary collaborative group of Fed-  
17 eral, State, Tribal, and local governments and pri-  
18 vate and non-governmental organizations to carry  
19 out the duties described in subsection (b); and

20 (2) in accordance with the charter titled “White  
21 Oak Initiative Coalition Charter” adopted by the  
22 White Oak Initiative Board of Directors on March  
23 21, 2023 (or a successor charter).

24 (b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in  
25 the charter described in subsection (a)(2), the duties of  
26 the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition are—

1           (1) to coordinate Federal, State, Tribal, local,  
2 private, and non-governmental restoration of white  
3 oak in the United States; and

4           (2) to make program and policy recommenda-  
5 tions, consistent with applicable forest management  
6 plans, with respect to—

7           (A) changes necessary to address Federal  
8 and State policies that impede activities to im-  
9 prove the health, resiliency, and natural regen-  
10 eration of white oak;

11           (B) adopting or modifying Federal and  
12 State policies to increase the pace and scale of  
13 white oak regeneration and resiliency of white  
14 oak;

15           (C) options to enhance communication, co-  
16 ordination, and collaboration between forest  
17 land owners, particularly for cross-boundary  
18 projects, to improve the health, resiliency, and  
19 natural regeneration of white oak;

20           (D) research gaps that should be ad-  
21 dressed to improve the best available science on  
22 white oak;

23           (E) outreach to forest landowners with  
24 white oak or white oak regeneration potential;  
25 and



1           (F) options and policies necessary to im-  
2           prove the quality and quantity of white oak in  
3           tree nurseries.

4           (c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-  
5 ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
6 rior and the Secretary shall make such personnel available  
7 to the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition for ad-  
8 ministrative support, technical services, and development  
9 and dissemination of educational materials as the Secre-  
10 taries determine necessary to carry out this section.

11          (d) PRIVATE FUNDING OF WHITE OAK RESTORA-  
12 TION PROJECTS.—Subject to the availability of appropria-  
13 tions made in advance for such purpose, the Secretary  
14 may make funds available to the White Oak Restoration  
15 Initiative Coalition to carry out this section from the ac-  
16 count established pursuant to section 1241(f) of the Food  
17 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(f)).

18 **SEC. 312. FOREST SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM.**

19          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the  
20 Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out  
21 5 pilot projects in national forests to restore white oak  
22 in such forests through white oak restoration and natural  
23 regeneration practices that are consistent with applicable  
24 forest management plans.

1 (b) NATIONAL FORESTS RESERVED OR WITHDRAWN  
 2 FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.—At least 3 pilot projects re-  
 3 quired under subsection (a) shall be carried out on na-  
 4 tional forests reserved or withdrawn from the public do-  
 5 main.

6 (c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE  
 7 AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative  
 8 agreements to carry out the pilot projects required under  
 9 subsection (a).

10 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
 11 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
 12 the enactment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 313. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WHITE OAK RE-**  
 14 **VIEW AND RESTORATION.**

15 (a) ASSESSMENT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
 17 rior shall carry out an assessment of land under the  
 18 administrative jurisdiction of the Department of the  
 19 Interior, including fish and wildlife refuges and  
 20 abandoned mine land, to evaluate—

21 (A) whether white oak is present on such  
 22 land; and

23 (B) the potential to restore white oak for-  
 24 ests on such land.

1           (2) USE OF INFORMATION.—In carrying out the  
2           assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary may  
3           use information from sources other than the Depart-  
4           ment of the Interior, including from the White Oak  
5           Initiative and the Forest Service.

6           (3) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the  
7           date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary  
8           shall submit to Congress, and make publicly avail-  
9           able on the website of the Department of the Inte-  
10          rior, a report regarding the results of the assessment  
11          carried out under this subsection.

12          (b) PILOT PROJECTS.—After the date on which the  
13          report required under subsection (a)(3) is submitted, the  
14          Secretary shall establish and carry out 5 pilot projects in  
15          different areas of land described in subsection (a)(1) to  
16          restore and naturally regenerate white oak.

17          (c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE  
18          AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of the Interior may enter  
19          into cooperative agreements to carry out the pilot projects  
20          required under subsection (b).

21          (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
22          terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
23          the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 314. WHITE OAK REGENERATION AND UPLAND OAK**  
2 **HABITAT.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
5 establish a non-regulatory program to be known as the  
6 “White Oak and Upland Oak Habitat Regeneration Pro-  
7 gram” (in this section referred to as the “Program”).

8 (b) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Program, the Sec-  
9 retary shall—

10 (1) draw upon the best available science and  
11 management plans for species of white oak to iden-  
12 tify, prioritize, and implement restoration and con-  
13 servation activities that will improve the growth of  
14 white oak within the United States;

15 (2) collaborate and coordinate with the White  
16 Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition to prioritize  
17 white oak restoration initiatives;

18 (3) adopt a white oak restoration strategy  
19 that—

20 (A) supports the implementation of a  
21 shared set of science-based restoration and con-  
22 servation activities developed in accordance with  
23 paragraph (1);

24 (B) targets cost effective projects with  
25 measurable results; and

1 (C) maximizes restoration outcomes with  
2 no net gain of Federal full-time equivalent em-  
3 ployees; and

4 (4) establish the voluntary grant and technical  
5 assistance programs in accordance with subsection  
6 (e).

7 (c) COORDINATION.—In establishing the Program  
8 the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-  
9 ice, shall consult with—

10 (1) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

11 (A) the Director of the United States Fish  
12 and Wildlife Service; and

13 (B) the Chief of the Natural Resources  
14 Conservation Service; and

15 (2) the Governor of each State in which res-  
16 toration efforts will be carried out pursuant to the  
17 Program.

18 (d) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program in-  
19 clude—

20 (1) coordinating restoration and conservation  
21 activities among Federal, State, local, and Tribal en-  
22 tities and conservation partners to address white oak  
23 restoration priorities;

1           (2) improving and regenerating white oak and  
2 upland oak forests and the wildlife habitat such for-  
3 ests provide;

4           (3) carrying out coordinated restoration and  
5 conservation activities that lead to the increased  
6 growth of species of white oak in native white oak  
7 regions on Federal, State, Tribal, and private land;

8           (4) facilitating strategic planning to maximize  
9 the resilience of white oak systems and habitats  
10 under changing climate conditions;

11           (5) engaging the public through outreach, edu-  
12 cation, and citizen involvement to increase capacity  
13 and support for coordinated restoration and con-  
14 servation activities for species of white oak; and

15           (6) increasing scientific capacity to support the  
16 planning, monitoring, and research activities nec-  
17 essary to carry out such coordinated restoration and  
18 conservation activities.

19 (e) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—

20           (1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that funds are  
21 available to carry out this section, the Secretary  
22 shall establish a voluntary grant and technical as-  
23 sistance program (in this section referred to as the  
24 “grant program”) to achieve the purposes of the  
25 Program described in subsection (d).

1 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
3 enter into a cooperative agreement with the Na-  
4 tional Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this  
5 subsection referred to as the “Foundation”) to  
6 manage and administer the grant program.

7 (B) FUNDING.—Subject to the availability  
8 of appropriations made in advance for such  
9 purpose, after the Secretary enters into a coop-  
10 erative agreement with the Foundation under  
11 subparagraph (A), the Foundation shall for  
12 each fiscal year, receive amounts to carry out  
13 this subsection in an advance payment of the  
14 entire amount on October 1, or as soon as prac-  
15 ticable thereafter, of that fiscal year.

16 (3) APPLICATION OF NATIONAL FISH AND  
17 WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.—

18 Amounts received by the Foundation to carry out  
19 the grant program shall be subject to the National  
20 Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16  
21 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), excluding section 10(a) of that  
22 Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)).

23 (f) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
24 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
25 the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 315. TREE NURSERY SHORTAGES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
3 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting  
4 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

5 (1) develop and implement a national strategy  
6 to increase the capacity of Federal, State, Tribal,  
7 and private tree nurseries to address the nationwide  
8 shortage of tree seedlings; and

9 (2) coordinate such strategy with—

10 (A) the national reforestation strategy of  
11 the Forest Service; and

12 (B) each regional implementation plan for  
13 National Forests.

14 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-  
15 section (a) shall—

16 (1) be based on the best available science and  
17 data; and

18 (2) identify and address—

19 (A) regional seedling shortages of bareroot  
20 and container tree seedlings;

21 (B) regional reforestation opportunities  
22 and the seedling supply necessary to fulfill such  
23 opportunities;

24 (C) opportunities to enhance seedling di-  
25 versity and close gaps in seed inventories; and



1 (D) barriers to expanding, enhancing, or  
2 creating new infrastructure to increase nursery  
3 capacity.

4 **SEC. 316. WHITE OAK RESEARCH.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into a  
6 memorandum of understanding with an Indian Tribe or  
7 institution, including a covered land grant college, to col-  
8 laboratively conduct research on—

9 (1) white oak genes with resistance or tolerance  
10 to stress;

11 (2) white oak trees that exhibit vigor for the  
12 purpose of increasing survival and growth;

13 (3) establishing a genetically diverse white oak  
14 seeds bank capable of responding to stressors;

15 (4) providing a sustainable supply of white oak  
16 seedlings and genetic resources;

17 (5) improved methods for aligning seed sources  
18 with the future climate at planting sites;

19 (6) reforestation of white oak through natural  
20 and artificial regeneration;

21 (7) improved methods for retaining and increas-  
22 ing white oak trees in forests;

23 (8) improved methods for reforesting aban-  
24 doned mine land sites; and

1           (9) economic and social aspects of white oak  
2 forest management across land ownerships.

3           (b) CONSULT.—In carrying out the research under  
4 subsection (a), the Indian Tribe or institution, including  
5 a covered land grant college, that enters into the memo-  
6 randum of understanding under such subsection may con-  
7 sult with such States, nonprofit organizations, institutions  
8 of higher education, and other scientific bodies, as the en-  
9 tity subject to such memorandum determines appropriate.

10          (c) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
11 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
12 the enactment of this Act.

13          (d) COVERED LAND GRANT COLLEGE DEFINED.—  
14 In this section, the term “covered land grant college”  
15 means an 1862 Institution, an 1890 Institution, or a 1994  
16 Institution (as such terms are defined, respectively, in sec-  
17 tion 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Edu-  
18 cation Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)).

19 **SEC. 317. USDA FORMAL INITIATIVE.**

20          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the  
21 Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and  
22 in coordination with the Chief of the Forest Service, shall  
23 establish a formal initiative on white oak to—

24           (1) re-establish white oak forests where appro-  
25 priate;

1           (2) improve management of existing white oak  
2 forests to foster natural regeneration of white oak;

3           (3) provide technical assistance to private land-  
4 owners to re-establish, improve management of, and  
5 naturally regenerate white oak;

6           (4) improve and expand white oak nursery  
7 stock; and

8           (5) adapt and improve white oak seedlings.

9           (b) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
10 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
11 the enactment of this Act.

12 **SEC. 318. AUTHORITIES.**

13           To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary of  
14 the Interior and the Secretary shall use the authorities  
15 provided under this title in combination with other au-  
16 thorities to carry out projects, including—

17           (1) good neighbor agreements entered into  
18 under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014  
19 (16 U.S.C. 2113) (as amended by this Act); and

20           (2) stewardship contracting projects entered  
21 into under section 604 of the Healthy Forests Res-  
22 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591) (as amended  
23 by this Act).

1 **TITLE IV—ENSURING CASUALTY**  
2 **ASSISTANCE FOR OUR FIRE-**  
3 **FIGHTERS**

4 **SEC. 401. WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT CASUALTY AS-**  
5 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

6 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later than 6  
7 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
8 Secretary of the Interior shall develop a Wildland Fire  
9 Management Casualty Assistance Program (referred to in  
10 this section as the “Program”) to provide assistance to  
11 the next-of-kin of—

- 12 (1) firefighters who, while in the line of duty,  
13 suffer illness or are critically injured or killed; and  
14 (2) wildland fire support personnel critically in-  
15 jured or killed in the line of duty.

16 (b) ASPECTS OF PROGRAM.—The Program shall ad-  
17 dress the following:

18 (1) The initial and any subsequent notifications  
19 to the next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire sup-  
20 port personnel who—

21 (A) are killed in the line of duty; or

22 (B) require hospitalization or treatment at  
23 a medical facility due to a line-of-duty injury or  
24 illness.

1           (2) The reimbursement of next-of-kin for ex-  
2           penses associated with travel to visit firefighters or  
3           wildland fire support personnel who—

4                   (A) are killed in the line of duty; or

5                   (B) require hospitalization or treatment at  
6           a medical facility due to a line-of-duty injury or  
7           illness.

8           (3) The qualifications, assignment, training, du-  
9           ties, supervision, and accountability for the perform-  
10          ance of casualty assistance responsibilities.

11          (4) The relief or transfer of casualty assistance  
12          officers, including notification to survivors of critical  
13          injury or illness in the line of duty and next-of-kin  
14          of the reassignment of such officers to other duties.

15          (5) Centralized, short-term and long-term case  
16          management procedures for casualty assistance, in-  
17          cluding rapid access by survivors of firefighters or  
18          wildland fire support personnel and casualty assist-  
19          ance officers to expert case managers and coun-  
20          selors.

21          (6) The provision, through a computer acces-  
22          sible website and other means and at no cost to sur-  
23          vivors and next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire  
24          support personnel, of personalized, integrated infor-

1       mation on the benefits and financial assistance avail-  
2       able to such survivors from the Federal Government.

3           (7) The provision of information to survivors  
4       and next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire sup-  
5       port personnel on mechanisms for registering com-  
6       plaints about, or requests for, additional assistance  
7       related to casualty assistance.

8           (8) Liaison with the Department of the Inte-  
9       rior, the Department of Justice, and the Social Se-  
10      curity Administration to ensure prompt and accurate  
11      resolution of issues relating to benefits administered  
12      by those agencies for survivors of firefighters or  
13      wildland fire support personnel.

14          (9) Data collection, in consultation with the  
15      United States Fire Administration and the National  
16      Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, re-  
17      garding the incidence and quality of casualty assist-  
18      ance provided to survivors of firefighters or wildland  
19      fire support personnel.

20      (c) LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH BENEFITS.—The Pro-  
21      gram shall not affect existing authorities for Line-of-Duty  
22      Death benefits for Federal firefighters and wildland fire  
23      support personnel.

24      (d) NEXT-OF-KIN DEFINED.—In this section, the  
25      term “next-of-kin” means a person or persons in the high-

1 est category of priority as determined by the following list  
2 (categories appear in descending order of priority):

3 (1) Surviving legal spouse.

4 (2) Children (whether by current or prior mar-  
5 riage) age 18 years or older in descending order of  
6 precedence by age.

7 (3) Father or mother, unless custody has been  
8 vested, by court order, in another (adoptive parent  
9 takes precedence over natural parent).

10 (4) Siblings (whole or half) age 18 years or  
11 older in descending order of precedence by age.

12 (5) Grandfather or grandmother.

13 (6) Any other relative (order of precedence to  
14 be determined in accordance with the civil law of de-  
15 scent of the deceased former member's State of  
16 domicile at time of death).

○



# County of Monterey

## Item No.3

### Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAPA 25-002

February 07, 2025

**Introduced:** 1/31/2025

**Current Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Matter Type:** WRA P&A Item

The Personnel and Administration Committee to make position recommendation to the Water Resources Agency Board of Directors on HR338, the Every Drop Counts Act. (Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian)





WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

Monterey County

DATE: February 7, 2025

TO: Personnel & Administration Committee

FROM: Ara Azhderian

SUBJECT: Recommendation regarding HR 338 Every Drop Counts Act

On January 13, 2025, a bipartisan group of San Joaquin Valley representatives introduced HR 338. The bill aims to amend the Bureau of Reclamation's Small Storage Program<sup>1</sup> authorized through 2026 under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (a.k.a. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) to provide a federal cost share to eligible, small surface and groundwater storage projects. Currently, the Program has approximately \$43.5 million available for federal fiscal-years 2025 and 2026 and the latest funding opportunity opened in September 2024. The federal cost share cannot exceed the lesser of 25 percent of project cost or \$30 million dollars. Reclamation continues to accept feasibility study submissions at any time and is encouraging non-Federal entities to submit their feasibility studies by Spring 2025 for consideration. This funding opportunity provides financial assistance for projects that will increase water supply reliability, improve operational flexibility, and enhance climate resiliency of water and related infrastructure throughout the 17 western states, Alaska, and Hawaii. In accordance with the current BIL, as amended, projects must have a water storage capacity of not less than 200 acre-feet and not more than 30,000 acre-feet. Water conveyance projects are also eligible.

HR 338 would extend authorization of the funding by another 5 years and expand eligibility by increasing the potential size of storage projects to a maximum recharge potential of 150,000 acre-feet. The ACWA FAC is recommending a "support" position. The Agency has an interest in the success of this bill to potentially support Sustainable Groundwater Management Act related activities.

ATCH: ACWA memorandum  
Draft HR 338

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.usbr.gov/smallstorage/index.html>

**Every Drop Counts Act ([H.R.338](#))**

On January 13, 2025, Congressman Jim Costa (D-CA-21) and Congressman David Valadao (R-CA-22) introduced H.R. 338, the Every Drop Counts Act. The bill is cosponsored by Congressman Russ Fulcher (R-ID-1), Congressman Adam Gray (D-CA-13), and Congressman Josh Harder (D-CA-9)

This legislation would amend section 40903(b)(1) the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (P.L.117-58) to expand eligibility criteria to apply for the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Small Water Storage and Groundwater Storage Program.

Reclamation's Small Water Storage and Groundwater Storage Program was authorized in 2021 as part of the IIJA. The program is authorized to allocate \$100 million in federal funds for projects with water storage capacity between 200 and 30,000 acre-feet, conveyance infrastructure to or from small capacity projects is also eligible for funding.

Federal cost share cannot exceed the lesser of 25 percent of project cost or \$30 million dollars.

H.R. 338 would expand eligibility criteria to also include projects that have an average annual project life capacity between 200 and 150,000 acre-feet. The bill would also extend the authorization of the small water storage and groundwater storage program for an additional five years (it is currently set to expire in 2026).

**ACWA Staff Recommendation:**

ACWA staff recommends support for this legislation.

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to increase surface water and groundwater storage, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. COSTA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to increase surface water and groundwater storage, and for other purposes.

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 “Every Drop Counts  
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBLE WATER STORAGE PROJECTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section  
8 40903(b)(1) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs

1 Act (43 U.S.C. 3203(b)(1)(B)) is amended to read as fol-  
2 lows:

3 “(B) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—The following  
4 projects shall be eligible for consideration for a  
5 grant under this section:

6 “(i) GENERAL ACRE-FEET CAPAC-  
7 ITY.—A project that—

8 “(I) has water storage capacity  
9 of not less than 200 acre-feet and not  
10 more than 30,000 acre-feet; and

11 “(II)(aa) increases surface water  
12 or groundwater storage; or

13 “(bb) conveys water, directly or  
14 indirectly, to or from surface water or  
15 groundwater storage.

16 “(ii) AVERAGE ANNUAL PROJECT LIFE  
17 ACRE-FEET CAPACITY.—A project that—

18 “(I) has water storage capacity  
19 of recharges not less than 200 acre-  
20 feet and not more than 150,000 acre-  
21 feet on an average annual basis over  
22 the life of the project for storage or  
23 use; and

24 “(II)(aa) increases groundwater  
25 aquifer storage;

1                   “(bb) conveys water, directly or  
2 indirectly, to or recovers water from  
3 groundwater storage;

4                   “(cc) both increases groundwater  
5 aquifer storage and conveys water, di-  
6 rectly or indirectly, to or recovers  
7 water from groundwater storage;

8                   “(dd) stabilizes groundwater lev-  
9 els.”.

10       (b) **AUTHORITY.**—Section 40903(e) of the Infrastruc-  
11 ture Investment and Jobs Act (43 U.S.C. 3203(e)) is  
12 amended by striking “5” and inserting “10”.

13 **SEC. 3. STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.**

14       Nothing in the amendment made by section 2 shall  
15 be construed—

16           (1) to supersede or in any manner affect or  
17 conflict with State water law, Federal water law,  
18 interstate compacts, or treaty obligations;

19           (2) to authorize any acquisition of water by the  
20 Federal Government; or

21           (3) to supersede or infringe on any water  
22 rights.



# County of Monterey

## Item No.4

### Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAPA 25-004

February 07, 2025

**Introduced:** 1/31/2025

**Current Status:** Agenda Ready

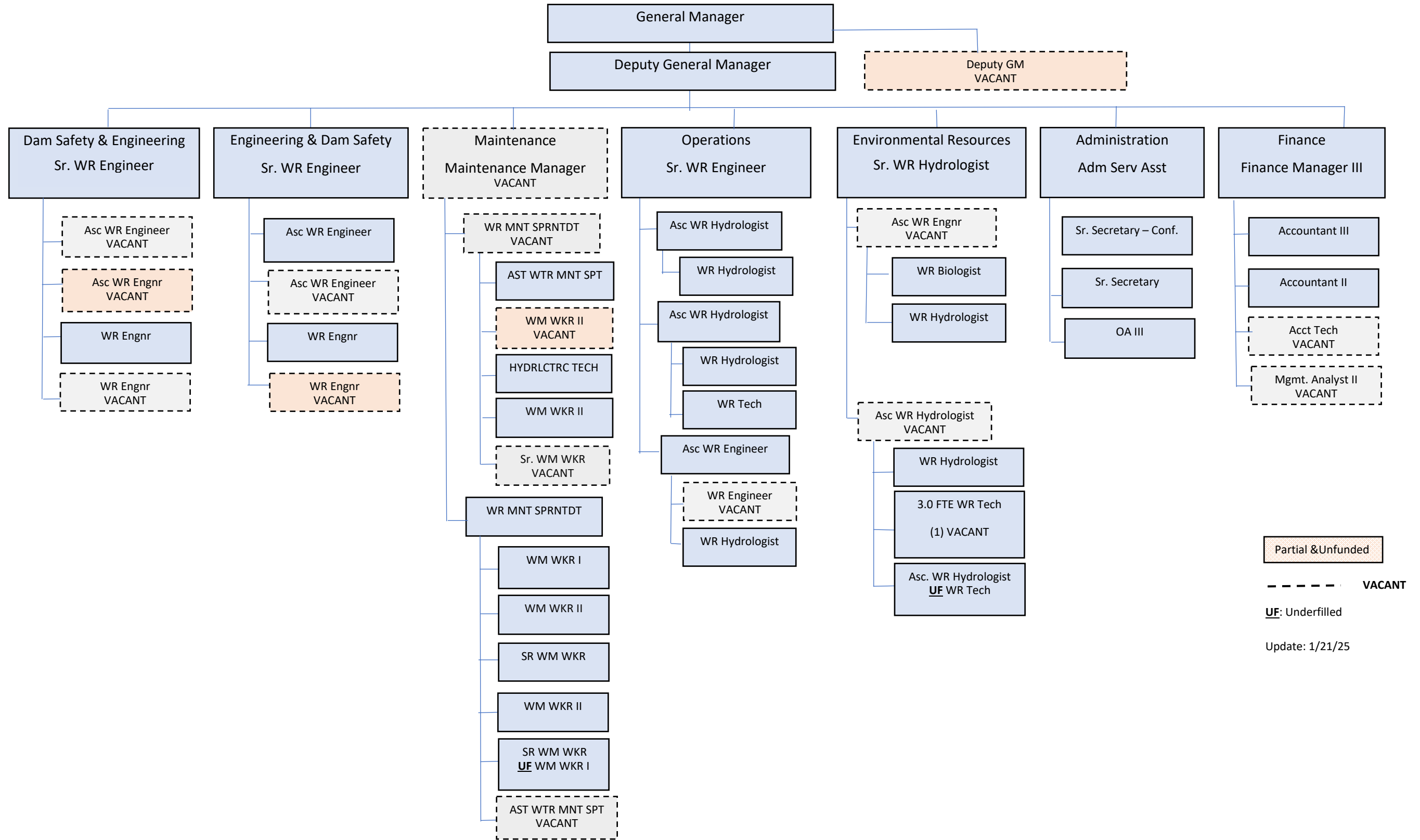
**Version:** 1

**Matter Type:** WRA P&A Item

Personnel Update. (Staff Presenting: Jessell Fenley)

# Monterey County Water Resources Agency

## FY25 Positions



Partial & Unfunded  
 - - - - - VACANT  
UF: Underfilled  
 Update: 1/21/25



# County of Monterey

## Item No.5

### Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAPA 25-006

February 07, 2025

**Introduced:** 1/31/2025

**Current Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Matter Type:** WRA P&A Item

Grazing Lease Update. (Staff Presenting: Jessell Fenley)





# County of Monterey

## Item No.6

### Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAPA 25-005

February 07, 2025

**Introduced:** 1/31/2025

**Current Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Matter Type:** WRA P&A Item

Set next meeting date and discuss future agenda items.

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 471

To expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on Tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mrs. KIM, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BERA, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. MALOY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CRANK, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. EZELL, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. GRAY, Mr. BARR, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. ISSA, Mr. FONG, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. FRY, and Mr. AMODEI of Nevada) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management,

and on Tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
 5 “Fix Our Forests Act”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
 7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.  
 Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE RESTORATION

Subtitle A—Addressing Emergency Wildfire Risks in High Priority Firesheds

Sec. 101. Designation of fireshed management areas.  
 Sec. 102. Fireshed center.  
 Sec. 103. Fireshed registry.  
 Sec. 104. Shared stewardship.  
 Sec. 105. Fireshed assessments.  
 Sec. 106. Emergency fireshed management.  
 Sec. 107. Sunset.

Subtitle B—Expanding Collaborative Tools to Reduce Wildfire Risk and  
 Improve Forest Health

Sec. 111. Modification of the treatment of certain revenue and payments under  
 good neighbor agreements.  
 Sec. 112. Fixing stewardship end result contracting.  
 Sec. 113. Intra-agency strike teams.  
 Sec. 114. Locally-led restoration.  
 Sec. 115. Joint Chiefs landscape restoration partnership program.  
 Sec. 116. Collaborative forest landscape restoration program.  
 Sec. 117. Utilizing grazing for wildfire risk reduction.  
 Sec. 118. Water source protection program.  
 Sec. 119. Watershed condition framework technical corrections.

Subtitle C—Litigation Reform

Sec. 121. Commonsense litigation reform.  
 Sec. 122. Consultation on forest plans.

TITLE II—PROTECTING COMMUNITIES IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN  
 INTERFACE

Sec. 201. Community wildfire risk reduction program.

- Sec. 202. Community wildfire defense research program.
- Sec. 203. Vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance relating to electric transmission and distribution facility rights-of-way.
- Sec. 204. Categorical exclusion for electric utility lines rights-of-way.
- Sec. 205. Seeds of success.
- Sec. 206. Program to support priority reforestation and restoration projects of Department of the Interior.
- Sec. 207. Fire department repayment.

### TITLE III—TRANSPARENCY, TECHNOLOGY, AND PARTNERSHIPS

#### Subtitle A—Transparency and Technology

- Sec. 301. Biochar innovations and opportunities for conservation, health, and advancements in research.
- Sec. 302. Accurate hazardous fuels reduction reports.
- Sec. 303. Public-private wildfire technology deployment and demonstration partnership.
- Sec. 304. GAO study on Forest Service policies.
- Sec. 305. Forest Service Western headquarters study.
- Sec. 306. Keeping forest plans current and monitored.
- Sec. 307. Container Aerial Firefighting System (CAFFS).
- Sec. 308. Study on pine beetle infestation.

#### Subtitle B—White Oak Resilience

- Sec. 311. White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition.
- Sec. 312. Forest Service pilot program.
- Sec. 313. Department of the Interior white oak review and restoration.
- Sec. 314. White oak regeneration and upland oak habitat.
- Sec. 315. Tree nursery shortages.
- Sec. 316. White oak research.
- Sec. 317. USDA formal initiative.
- Sec. 318. Authorities.

### TITLE IV—ENSURING CASUALTY ASSISTANCE FOR OUR FIREFIGHTERS

- Sec. 401. Wildland Fire Management Casualty Assistance Program.

## 1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means  
4 the Director of the Fireshed Center appointed under  
5 section 102.

6 (2) **FIRESHED.**—The term “fireshed” means a  
7 landscape-scale area that faces similar wildfire

1 threat where a response strategy could influence the  
2 wildfire outcome.

3 (3) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT.—The  
4 term “fireshed management project” means a  
5 project under section 106.

6 (4) FIRESHED REGISTRY.—The term “Fireshed  
7 Registry” means the fireshed registry established  
8 under section 103.

9 (5) FOREST PLAN.—The term “forest plan”  
10 means—

11 (A) a land use plan prepared by the Bu-  
12 reau of Land Management for public lands pur-  
13 suant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy  
14 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.  
15 1712);

16 (B) a land and resource management plan  
17 prepared by the Forest Service for a unit of the  
18 National Forest System pursuant to section 6  
19 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-  
20 sources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.  
21 1604); or

22 (C) a forest management plan (as defined  
23 in section 304 of the National Indian Forests  
24 Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3104))  
25 with respect to Indian forest land or rangeland.

1           (6) GOVERNOR.—The term “Governor” means  
2 the Governor or any other appropriate executive offi-  
3 cial of an affected State or Indian Tribe or the Com-  
4 monwealth of Puerto Rico.

5           (7) HAZARDOUS FUELS MANAGEMENT ACTIVI-  
6 TIES.—The term “hazardous fuels management ac-  
7 tivities” means any vegetation management activities  
8 (or combination thereof) that reduce the risk of  
9 wildfire, including mechanical thinning, mastication,  
10 prescribed burning, cultural burning (as determined  
11 by the applicable Indian Tribe), timber harvest, and  
12 grazing.

13           (8) HFRA TERMS.—The terms “at-risk com-  
14 munity”, “community wildfire protection plan”, and  
15 “wildland-urban interface” have the meanings given  
16 such terms, respectively, in section 101 of the  
17 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.  
18 6511).

19           (9) INDIAN FOREST LAND OR RANGELAND.—  
20 The term “Indian forest land or rangeland” means  
21 land that—

22                   (A) is held in trust by, or with a restriction  
23 against alienation by, the United States for an  
24 Indian Tribe or a member of an Indian Tribe;  
25 and

1 (B)(i)(I) is Indian forest land (as defined  
2 in section 304 of the National Indian Forest  
3 Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103));  
4 or

5 (II) has a cover of grasses,  
6 brush, or any similar vegetation; or

7 (ii) formerly had a forest cover or veg-  
8 etative cover that is capable of restoration.

9 (10) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”  
10 has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the  
11 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
12 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

13 (11) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.—The  
14 term “National Forest System lands” has the mean-  
15 ing given the term in section 11(a) of the Forest  
16 and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act  
17 of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609).

18 (12) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”  
19 has the meaning given that term in section 103 of  
20 the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of  
21 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702), except that the term in-  
22 cludes Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands and Or-  
23 egon and California Railroad Grant lands.

1           (13) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
2           TEES.—The term “relevant Congressional Commit-  
3           tees” means—

4                   (A) the Committees on Natural Resources  
5                   and Agriculture of the House of Representa-  
6                   tives; and

7                   (B) the Committees on Energy and Nat-  
8                   ural Resources and Agriculture, Nutrition, and  
9                   Forestry of the Senate.

10           (14) RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.—The term “re-  
11           sponsible official” means an employee of the Depart-  
12           ment of the Interior or Forest Service who has the  
13           authority to make and implement a decision on a  
14           proposed action.

15           (15) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”  
16           means each of—

17                   (A) the Secretary of the Interior; and

18                   (B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

19           (16) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
20           means the Secretary of Agriculture.

21           (17) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term  
22           “Secretary concerned” means—

23                   (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-  
24                   spect to National Forest System lands; and



1 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-  
2 spect to public lands.

3 (18) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term “special  
4 district” means a political subdivision of a State  
5 that—

6 (A) has significant budgetary autonomy or  
7 control;

8 (B) was created by or pursuant to the laws  
9 of the State for the purpose of performing a  
10 limited and specific governmental or proprietary  
11 function; and

12 (C) is distinct from any other local govern-  
13 ment unit within the State.

14 (19) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
15 the several States, the District of Columbia, and  
16 each territory of the United States.

17 **TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE**  
18 **RESTORATION**

19 **Subtitle A—Addressing Emergency**  
20 **Wildfire Risks in High Priority**  
21 **Fresheds**

22 **SEC. 101. DESIGNATION OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT**  
23 **AREAS.**

24 (a) DESIGNATION OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT  
25 AREAS.—

1           (1) INITIAL DESIGNATIONS.—For the period be-  
2           ginning on the date of enactment of this Act and  
3           ending on the date that is 5 years after the date of  
4           enactment of this Act, there are designated fireshed  
5           management areas, which—

6                   (A) shall be comprised of individual land-  
7                   scape-scale firesheds identified as being a high  
8                   risk fireshed in the “Wildfire Crisis Strategy”  
9                   published by the Forest Service in January  
10                  2022;

11                  (B) shall be comprised of individual land-  
12                  scape-scale firesheds identified by the Secretary,  
13                  in consultation with the Secretary of the Inte-  
14                  rior, as being in the top 20 percent of the 7,688  
15                  firesheds published by the Rocky Mountain Re-  
16                  search Station of the Forest Service in 2019 for  
17                  wildfire exposure based on the following cri-  
18                  teria—

19                          (i) wildfire exposure and cor-  
20                          responding risk to communities, including  
21                          risk to life and structures;

22                          (ii) wildfire exposure and cor-  
23                          responding risk to municipal watersheds,  
24                          including tribal water supplies and sys-  
25                          tems; and

1 (iii) risk of forest conversion due to  
2 wildfire;

3 (C) shall not overlap with any other  
4 fireshed management areas;

5 (D) may contain Federal and non-Federal  
6 land, including Indian forest lands or range-  
7 lands; and

8 (E) where the Secretary concerned shall  
9 carry out fireshed management projects.

10 (2) FURTHER FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREA  
11 DESIGNATIONS.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—On the date that is 5  
13 years after the date of the enactment of this  
14 Act and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary,  
15 in consultation with the Secretary of the Inte-  
16 rior, shall submit to the relevant Congressional  
17 Committees an updated map of firesheds based  
18 on the Fireshed Registry maintained under sec-  
19 tion 103.

20 (B) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 60  
21 days after submitting an updated fireshed map  
22 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall,  
23 based on such map, designate additional  
24 fireshed management areas that are identified  
25 as being in the top 20 percent of firesheds at

1 risk of wildfire exposure based on the criteria  
2 specified in subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and  
3 (E) of paragraph (1).

4 (b) **APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.**—The designation of  
5 fireshed management areas under this section shall not  
6 be subject to the requirements of the National Environ-  
7 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

8 **SEC. 102. FIRESHED CENTER.**

9 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

10 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, acting  
11 through the Chief of the Forest Service, and the  
12 Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Direc-  
13 tor of the U.S. Geological Survey, shall jointly estab-  
14 lish an interagency center, to be known as the  
15 Fireshed Center (hereinafter referred to as the  
16 “Center”) to carry out the purposes in subsection  
17 (b).

18 (2) **COMPOSITION.**—

19 (A) **DIVISIONS.**—The Center shall be com-  
20 prised of the following divisions:

21 (i) Technology and Engineering.

22 (ii) Data Services.

23 (iii) Analysis and Prediction.

24 (iv) Education and Consultation.

- 1 (B) REPRESENTATIVES.—The Center shall  
2 be comprised of at least one career representa-  
3 tive from each of the following:
- 4 (i) The Forest Service.
  - 5 (ii) The Bureau of Land Manage-  
6 ment.
  - 7 (iii) The National Park Service.
  - 8 (iv) The Bureau of Indian Affairs.
  - 9 (v) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv-  
10 ice.
  - 11 (vi) The U.S. Geological Survey.
  - 12 (vii) The Department of Defense.
  - 13 (viii) The Department of Homeland  
14 Security.
  - 15 (ix) The Department of Energy.
  - 16 (x) The Federal Emergency Manage-  
17 ment Agency.
  - 18 (xi) The National Science Foundation.
  - 19 (xii) The National Oceanic and At-  
20 mospheric Administration.
  - 21 (xiii) The National Aeronautics and  
22 Space Administration.
  - 23 (xiv) The National Institute of Stand-  
24 ards and Technology.

1 (xv) The United States Fire Adminis-  
2 tration.

3 (C) APPOINTMENTS.—Each representative  
4 of a Department, Agency, or other entity speci-  
5 fied in subparagraph (B) shall be appointed by  
6 the head of that Department, Agency, or other  
7 entity, as applicable.

8 (3) DIRECTOR.—The representatives appointed  
9 under paragraph (2) shall, by majority vote, appoint  
10 a Director of the Center, who—

11 (A) shall be an employee of the U.S. Geo-  
12 logical Survey or the Forest Service;

13 (B) shall serve an initial term of not more  
14 than 7 years;

15 (C) may serve one additional term of not  
16 more than 7 years after the initial term de-  
17 scribed in subparagraph (B); and

18 (D) shall be responsible for the manage-  
19 ment and operation of the Center.

20 (4) ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS.—In consultation  
21 with the representatives appointed under paragraph  
22 (2), the Director may appoint such Associate Direc-  
23 tors as the Director determines necessary.

24 (5) ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATION.—The Sec-  
25 retary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-

1 ice, and the Secretary of the Interior, acting through  
2 the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, may  
3 jointly appoint additional representatives of Federal  
4 agencies, States, Indian Tribes, or local governments  
5 to the Center, as the Secretaries determine nec-  
6 essary.

7 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Center are to—

8 (1) comprehensively assess and predict, using  
9 data tools (including artificial intelligence) and other  
10 decision support products, fire and smoke in the  
11 wildland and built environment interface across ju-  
12 risdictions to inform—

13 (A) land and fuels management;

14 (B) community (including at-risk commu-  
15 nities identified in firehazard assessments con-  
16 ducted under section 105) and built environ-  
17 ment risk reduction, including the support and  
18 development of community wildfire protection  
19 plans and evacuation decisions; and

20 (C) public health risk reduction related to  
21 wildland fire and smoke, including air quality  
22 monitoring and forecasting and smoke pre-  
23 diction models;

24 (D) fire response and management, includ-  
25 ing the pre-positioning of wildfire suppression

1 personnel and assets based on real-time risk;  
2 and

3 (E) post-fire recovery activities, including  
4 activities related to vegetation recovery, debris  
5 flows and flooding, watershed recovery and pro-  
6 tection, and ecosystem health;

7 (2) provide data aggregation, real-time land  
8 and fuels management services, and science-based  
9 decision support services to inform the purposes  
10 specified in subparagraph (A) through (E) of para-  
11 graph (1);

12 (3) reduce fragmentation and duplication across  
13 Federal land management agencies with respect to  
14 predictive service and decision support functions re-  
15 lated to wildland fire and smoke, including through  
16 the provision of data aggregation described in para-  
17 graph (2);

18 (4) promote coordination and sharing of data  
19 regarding wildland fire and smoke decision making  
20 (including through the provision of data aggregation  
21 described in paragraph (2)) to each of the entities  
22 specified in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of para-  
23 graph (8);

24 (5) streamline procurement processes for tech-  
25 nologies (including technologies identified under the



1 pilot program established under section 303) and cy-  
2 bersecurity systems related to addressing wildland  
3 fire and smoke for the purposes of scaling such tech-  
4 nologies and systems across Federal agencies;

5 (6) amplify and distribute existing, and develop  
6 as necessary, publicly accessible data, models, tech-  
7 nologies (including mapping technologies), assess-  
8 ments, and National Weather Service fire weather  
9 forecasts to support short- and long-term planning  
10 regarding wildland fire and smoke risk reduction  
11 and post-fire recovery while avoiding duplicative ef-  
12 forts, as determined by the Director;

13 (7) maintain the Fireshed Registry established  
14 under section 103; and

15 (8) disseminate data tools (including artificial  
16 intelligence) and other decision support products, for  
17 use in manners consistent with the purposes de-  
18 scribed paragraphs (1) through (7), to the following:

19 (A) Federal agencies.

20 (B) Indian Tribes.

21 (C) State and local governments.

22 (D) Academic or research institutions.

23 (E) Wildland firefighting entities, includ-  
24 ing applicable incident management teams and  
25 geographic coordination centers.

1           (F) Other entities, including public, pri-  
2           vate, and nonprofit entities, with expertise in  
3           land management, air quality, water manage-  
4           ment, or public health, as determined appro-  
5           priate by the Director.

6           (c) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Center  
7           may enter into memoranda of understanding, contracts,  
8           or other agreements with State governments, Indian  
9           Tribes, local governments, academic or research institu-  
10          tions, and private entities to improve the information and  
11          operations of the Center.

12          (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-  
13          ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—

14           (1) USGS SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the In-  
15          terior shall make personnel of the U.S. Geological  
16          Survey available to the Center for such administra-  
17          tive support, technical services, and development and  
18          dissemination of data as the Secretary determines  
19          necessary to carry out this section.

20           (2) USFS SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall  
21          make personnel of the Forest Service available to  
22          the Center for such administrative support, technical  
23          services, and the development and dissemination of  
24          information related to fire management and the

1       Fireshed Registry as the Secretary determines nec-  
2       essary to carry out this section.

3           (3) FUNDING.—Notwithstanding section 708 of  
4       title VII of division E of the Consolidated Appro-  
5       priations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328), the Sec-  
6       retary of the Interior and Secretary may enter into  
7       agreements to share the management and oper-  
8       ational costs of the Center.

9           (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
10      tion shall be construed to affect the ownership of any data  
11      sources.

12      **SEC. 103. FIRESHED REGISTRY.**

13           (a) FIRESHED REGISTRY.—The Secretary, acting  
14      through the Director of the Fireshed Center appointed  
15      under section 102, shall maintain a Fireshed Registry on  
16      a publicly accessible website that provides interactive  
17      geospatial data on individual firesheds, including informa-  
18      tion on—

19           (1) wildfire exposure delineated by ownership,  
20      including rights-of-way for utilities and other public  
21      or private purposes;

22           (2) any hazardous fuels management activities  
23      that have occurred within an individual fireshed in  
24      the past 10 years;

1           (3) wildfire exposure with respect to such  
2       fireshed delineated by—

3           (A) wildfire exposure and corresponding  
4       risk to communities, including risk to life and  
5       structures;

6           (B) wildfire exposure and corresponding  
7       risk to municipal watersheds, including tribal  
8       water supplies and systems; and

9           (C) risk of forest conversion due to wild-  
10      fire;

11          (4) the percentage of the fireshed that has  
12      burned in wildfires in the past 10 years, including,  
13      to the extent practicable, delineations of acres that  
14      have burned at a high severity;

15          (5) spatial patterns of wildfire exposure, includ-  
16      ing plausible extreme fire events; and

17          (6) any hazardous fuels management activities  
18      planned for the fireshed, including fireshed manage-  
19      ment projects.

20      (b) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS.—

21      The Director shall make data from the Fireshed Registry  
22      available to local communities developing or updating com-  
23      munity wildfire protection plans.

1           (c) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN.—As part of the  
2 website containing the Fireshed Registry, the Director  
3 shall—

4           (1) publish fireshed assessments created under  
5 section 105; and

6           (2) maintain a searchable database to track—

7               (A) the status of Federal environmental re-  
8 views, permits, and authorizations for fireshed  
9 management projects, including—

10                   (i) a comprehensive permitting time-  
11 table;

12                   (ii) the status of the compliance of  
13 each lead agency, cooperating agency, and  
14 participating agency with the permitting  
15 timetable with respect to such fireshed  
16 management projects;

17                   (iii) any modifications of the permit-  
18 ting timetable required under clause (i), in-  
19 cluding an explanation as to why the per-  
20 mitting timetable was modified; and

21                   (iv) information about project-related  
22 public meetings, public hearings, and pub-  
23 lic comment periods, which shall be pre-  
24 sented in English and the predominant  
25 language of the community or communities

1 most affected by the project, as that infor-  
2 mation becomes available;

3 (B) the projected cost of such fireshed  
4 management projects; and

5 (C) in the case of completed fireshed man-  
6 agement projects, the effectiveness of such  
7 projects in reducing the wildfire exposure within  
8 an applicable fireshed, including wildfire expo-  
9 sure described in subparagraphs (A) through  
10 (C) of subsection (a)(3).

11 (d) RELIANCE ON EXISTING ASSESSMENTS.—In car-  
12 rying out this section, the Director may rely on assess-  
13 ments completed or data gather through existing partner-  
14 ships, to the extent practicable.

15 **SEC. 104. SHARED STEWARDSHIP.**

16 (a) JOINT AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 90 days  
17 after receiving a written request from a Governor of a  
18 State or an Indian Tribe, the Secretary concerned shall  
19 enter into a shared stewardship agreement (or similar  
20 agreement) with such Governor or Indian Tribe to joint-  
21 ly—

22 (1) promote the reduction of wildfire exposure,  
23 based on the criteria in section 101(a)(1)(B), in  
24 fireshed management areas across jurisdictional  
25 boundaries; and

1           (2) conduct fireshed assessments under section  
2       105.

3       (b) **ADDITIONAL FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREAS.**—

4       With respect to a shared stewardship agreement (or simi-  
5       lar agreement) with a Governor of a State or an Indian  
6       Tribe entered into under subsection (a), the Secretary con-  
7       cerned, if requested by such Governor or Indian Tribe,  
8       may—

9           (1) designate additional fireshed management  
10       areas under such agreement; and

11          (2) update such agreement to address new wild-  
12       fire threats.

13       **SEC. 105. FIRESHED ASSESSMENTS.**

14       (a) **FIRESHED ASSESSMENTS.**—

15          (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after  
16       the date on which the Secretary concerned enters  
17       into an agreement with a Governor of a State or an  
18       Indian Tribe under section 104, the Secretary con-  
19       cerned and such Governor or Indian Tribe shall,  
20       with respect to the fireshed management areas des-  
21       ignated in such State, jointly conduct a fireshed as-  
22       sessment that—

23           (A) identifies—

24               (i) using the best available science,  
25               wildfire exposure risks within each such

- 1           fired management area, including sce-  
2           nario planning and wildfire hazard map-  
3           ping and models; and
- 4           (ii) each at-risk community within  
5           each fired management area;
- 6           (B) identifies potential fired manage-  
7           ment projects to be carried out in such fired  
8           management areas, giving priority—
- 9           (i) primarily, to projects with the pur-  
10          pose of reducing—
- 11           (I) wildfire exposure and cor-  
12          responding risk to communities, in-  
13          cluding risk to life and structures;
- 14           (II) wildfire exposure and cor-  
15          responding risk to municipal water-  
16          sheds, including tribal water supplies  
17          and systems;
- 18           (III) risk of forest conversion due  
19          to wildfire; or
- 20           (IV) any combination of purposes  
21          described in subclauses (I) through  
22          (III); and
- 23           (ii) secondarily, to projects with the  
24          purpose of protecting—



1 (I) critical infrastructure, includ-  
2 ing utility infrastructure;

3 (II) wildlife habitats, including  
4 habitat for species listed under the  
5 Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C.  
6 1531 et seq.);

7 (III) the built environment, in-  
8 cluding residential and commercial  
9 buildings;

10 (IV) resources of an Indian  
11 Tribe, as defined by the Indian Tribe;  
12 or

13 (V) any combination of purposes  
14 described in subclauses (I) through  
15 (IV);

16 (C) includes—

17 (i) a strategy for reducing the threat  
18 of wildfire to at-risk communities in the  
19 wildland-urban interface on both Federal  
20 and non-Federal land;

21 (ii) a timeline for the implementation  
22 of fireshed management projects;

23 (iii) long-term benchmark goals for  
24 the completion of fireshed management  
25 projects in the highest wildfire exposure

1 areas so that such projects contribute to  
2 the development and maintenance of  
3 healthy and resilient landscapes;

4 (iv) policies to ensure fireshed man-  
5 agement projects comply with applicable  
6 forest plans and incorporate the best avail-  
7 able science; and

8 (v) a strategy for reducing the threat  
9 of wildfire to improve the effectiveness of  
10 wildland firefighting, particularly the effec-  
11 tiveness of fuels treatments that would im-  
12 prove wildland firefighter safety during  
13 wildfires;

14 (D) shall be regularly updated based on  
15 the best available science, as determined by the  
16 Secretary concerned; and

17 (E) shall be publicly available on a website  
18 maintained by the Secretary concerned.

19 (2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION.—

20 Upon the written request of a local government, the  
21 Secretary concerned and the Governor of the State  
22 in which the local government is located may allow  
23 such local government to participate in producing  
24 the fireshed assessment under paragraph (1) for  
25 such State.

1 (3) INFORMATION IMPROVEMENT.—

2 (A) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—

3 In carrying out a fireshed assessment under  
4 this subsection, the Secretary concerned may  
5 enter into memoranda of understanding with  
6 other Federal agencies or departments (includ-  
7 ing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
8 ministration), States, Indian Tribes, private en-  
9 tities, or research or educational institutions to  
10 improve, with respect to such assessment, the  
11 use and integration of—

12 (i) advanced remote sensing and  
13 geospatial technologies;

14 (ii) statistical modeling and analysis;

15 or

16 (iii) any other technology or combina-  
17 tion of technologies and analyses that the  
18 Secretary concerned determines will benefit  
19 the quality of information of such an as-  
20 sessment.

21 (B) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In using  
22 the best available science for the fireshed as-  
23 sements completed under subsection (a)(1),  
24 the Secretary concerned and Governor shall, to  
25 the maximum extent practicable, incorporate—

- 1 (i) traditional ecological knowledge  
2 from Indian Tribes;
- 3 (ii) data from State forest action  
4 plans and State wildfire risk assessments;
- 5 (iii) data from the Fireshed Registry  
6 maintained under section 103; and
- 7 (iv) data from other Federal, State,  
8 Tribal, and local governments or agencies.

9 (b) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.—Fireshed assess-  
10 ments conducted under this section shall not be subject  
11 to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy  
12 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

13 **SEC. 106. EMERGENCY FIRESHED MANAGEMENT.**

14 (a) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned,  
16 acting through a responsible official, shall carry out  
17 fireshed management projects in fireshed manage-  
18 ment areas designated under section 101 in accord-  
19 ance with this section.

20 (2) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—The  
21 responsible official shall carry out the following for-  
22 est and vegetation management activities as fireshed  
23 management projects under this section:

24 (A) Conducting hazardous fuels manage-  
25 ment activities.

1 (B) Creating fuel breaks and fire breaks.

2 (C) Removing hazard trees, dead trees,  
3 dying trees, or trees at risk of dying, as deter-  
4 mined by the responsible official.

5 (D) Developing, approving, or conducting  
6 routine maintenance under a vegetation man-  
7 agement, facility inspection, and operation and  
8 maintenance plan submitted under section  
9 512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Man-  
10 agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(1)).

11 (E) Removing trees to address over-  
12 stocking or crowding in a forest stand, con-  
13 sistent with the appropriate basal area of the  
14 forest stand as determined by the responsible  
15 official.

16 (F) Using chemical or re-seeding and  
17 planting treatments to address insects and dis-  
18 ease and control vegetation competition or  
19 invasive species.

20 (G) Any activities recommended by an ap-  
21 plicable firehazard assessment carried out under  
22 section 105.

23 (H) Any activities recommended by an ap-  
24 plicable community wildfire protection plan.

1 (I) Any combination of activities described  
2 in this paragraph.

3 (3) EMERGENCY FIRESHED MANAGEMENT.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—For any fireshed man-  
5 agement area designated under section 101, the  
6 following shall have the force and effect of law:

7 (i) Section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code  
8 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
9 date of enactment of this Act), with re-  
10 spect to lands under the jurisdiction of the  
11 Secretary.

12 (ii) Section 46.150 of title 43, Code of  
13 Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
14 date of enactment of this Act), with re-  
15 spect to lands under the jurisdiction of the  
16 Secretary of the Interior.

17 (iii) Section 402.05 of title 50, Code  
18 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
19 date of enactment of this Act).

20 (iv) Section 800.12 of title 36, Code  
21 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
22 date of enactment of this Act).

23 (B) UTILIZATION OF EXISTING STREAM-  
24 LINED AUTHORITIES IN FIRESHED MANAGE-  
25 MENT AREAS.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—Fireshed manage-  
2 ment projects carried out under this sec-  
3 tion shall be considered authorized projects  
4 under the following categorical exclusions:

5 (I) Section 603(a) of the Healthy  
6 Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16  
7 U.S.C. 6591b(a)).

8 (II) Section 605(a) of the  
9 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
10 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(a)).

11 (III) Section 606(b) of the  
12 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
13 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e(b)).

14 (IV) Section 40806(b) of the In-  
15 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act  
16 (16 U.S.C. 6592b(b)).

17 (V) Section 4(c)(4) of the Lake  
18 Tahoe Restoration Act (Public Law  
19 106–506; 114 Stat. 2353).

20 (ii) ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY AC-  
21 TIONS.—Subsection (d) of section 40807 of  
22 the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs  
23 Act (16 U.S.C. 6592c) shall apply to  
24 fireshed management projects under this  
25 section in the same manner as such sub-

1 section applies to authorized emergency ac-  
2 tions (as defined in subsection (a) of such  
3 section 40807) under such section 40807.

4 (iii) USE OF EXPEDITED AUTHORI-  
5 TIES.—In carrying out a firehshed manage-  
6 ment project, the Secretary shall apply a  
7 categorical exclusion under clause (i)—

8 (I) in a manner consistent with  
9 the statute establishing such categor-  
10 ical exclusion; and

11 (II) in any area—

12 (aa) designated as suitable  
13 for timber production within the  
14 applicable forest plan; or

15 (bb) where timber harvest  
16 activities are not prohibited.

17 (iv) FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT RE-  
18 QUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this sec-  
19 tion, the Secretary concerned shall ensure  
20 compliance with the amendments made to  
21 the National Environmental Policy Act (42  
22 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) by the Fiscal Respon-  
23 sibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5).

24 (v) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—  
25 To the maximum extent practicable, the



1 Secretary concerned shall use the authori-  
2 ties provided under this section in com-  
3 bination with other authorities to carry out  
4 fireshed management projects, including—

5 (I) good neighbor agreements en-  
6 tered into under section 8206 of the  
7 Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C.  
8 2113a) (as amended by this Act);

9 (II) stewardship contracting  
10 projects entered into under section  
11 604 of the Healthy Forests Restora-  
12 tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c)  
13 (as amended by this Act);

14 (III) self-determination contracts  
15 and self-governance compact agree-  
16 ments entered into under the Indian  
17 Self-Determination and Education As-  
18 sistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);  
19 and

20 (IV) agreements entered into  
21 under the Tribal Forest Protection  
22 Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a et  
23 seq.).

24 (b) EXPANSION.—

1           (1) HFRA AMENDMENTS.—The Healthy For-  
2       ests Restoration Act of 2003 is amended—

3                   (A) in section 3 (16 U.S.C. 6502), by in-  
4       serting at the end the following:

5           “(3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘local  
6       government’ means a county, municipality, or special  
7       district.

8           “(4) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term ‘special dis-  
9       trict’ means a political subdivision of a State that—

10                   “(A) has significant budgetary autonomy  
11       or control;

12                   “(B) was created by or pursuant to the  
13       laws of the State for the purpose of performing  
14       a limited and specific governmental or propri-  
15       etary function; and

16                   “(C) is distinct from any other local gov-  
17       ernment unit within the State.”.

18                   (B) in section 603(c)(1) (16 U.S.C.  
19       6591b(c)(1)), by striking “3000 acres” and in-  
20       serting “10,000 acres”;

21                   (C) in section 603(c)(2)(B) (16 U.S.C.  
22       6591b(c)(2)(B)), by striking “Fire Regime  
23       Groups I, II, or III” and inserting “Fire Re-  
24       gime I, Fire Regime II, Fire Regime III, Fire  
25       Regime IV, or Fire Regime V”;

1 (D) in section 605(c)(1) (16 U.S.C.  
2 6591d(e)(1)), by striking “3000 acres” and in-  
3 serting “10,000 acres”; and

4 (E) in section 606(g) (16 U.S.C.  
5 6591e(g)), by striking “4,500 acres” and in-  
6 serting “10,000 acres”.

7 (2) INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS  
8 ACT AMENDMENT.—Section 40806(d)(1) of the In-  
9 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C.  
10 6592b(d)(1)), by striking “3,000 acres” and insert-  
11 ing “10,000 acres”.

12 (3) LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION ACT AMEND-  
13 MENTS.—Section 4(c)(4)(C) of the Lake Tahoe Res-  
14 toration Act (Public Law 106–506; 114 Stat. 2353)  
15 is amended—

16 (A) by striking “Lake Tahoe Basin Man-  
17 agement Unit”; and

18 (B) by inserting “applicable to the area”  
19 before the period at the end.

20 **SEC. 107. SUNSET.**

21 The authority under this subtitle shall terminate on  
22 the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of  
23 this Act.

1 **Subtitle B—Expanding Collaborative Tools to Reduce Wildfire**  
 2 **Risk and Improve Forest Health**

4 **SEC. 111. MODIFICATION OF THE TREATMENT OF CERTAIN**  
 5 **REVENUE AND PAYMENTS UNDER GOOD**  
 6 **NEIGHBOR AGREEMENTS.**

7 (a) GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.—Section 8206 of  
 8 the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) is amend-  
 9 ed—

10 (1) in subsection (a)(6), by striking “or Indian  
 11 tribe”;

12 (2) in subsection (a), by inserting the following:

13 “(11) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term ‘special  
 14 district’ means a political subdivision of a State  
 15 that—

16 “(A) has significant budgetary autonomy  
 17 or control;

18 “(B) was created by or pursuant to the  
 19 laws of the State for the purpose of performing  
 20 a limited and specific governmental or propri-  
 21 etary function; and

22 “(C) is distinct from any other local gov-  
 23 ernment unit within the State.”.

24 (3) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “,  
2 Indian Tribe, special district,” after “Gov-  
3 ernor”;

4 (B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

5 (i) in clause (i)—

6 (I) by inserting “special district,”  
7 after “Indian Tribe,” each place it ap-  
8 pears;

9 (II) in subclause (I)—

10 (aa) by striking “on”; and

11 (bb) by striking “; and” and  
12 inserting a semicolon;

13 (III) in subclause (II)(bb), by  
14 striking the period at the end and in-  
15 serting a semicolon; and

16 (IV) by adding at the end the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(III) to construct new perma-  
19 nent roads on Federal lands that  
20 are—

21 “(aa) necessary to imple-  
22 ment authorized restoration ac-  
23 tivities; and

24 “(bb) approved by the Fed-  
25 eral agency through an environ-

1                   mental analysis or categorical ex-  
2                   clusion decision;

3                   “(IV) to complete new permanent  
4                   road construction to replace and de-  
5                   commission an existing permanent  
6                   road that is adversely impacting for-  
7                   est, rangeland, or watershed health;  
8                   and

9                   “(V) if there are funds remaining  
10                  after carrying out subclauses (I)  
11                  through (IV), to carry out authorized  
12                  restoration services under other good  
13                  neighbor agreements and for the ad-  
14                  ministration of a good neighbor au-  
15                  thority program by a Governor, In-  
16                  dian tribe, special district, or coun-  
17                  ty.”; and

18                  (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “2028”  
19                  and inserting “2030”; and

20                  (C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, In-  
21                  dian Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”;  
22                  and

23                  (D) by striking paragraph (4).

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 8206(a)  
2 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)) is  
3 amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “, Indian  
5 Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”; and

6 (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, Indian  
7 Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”.

8 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
9 this section apply to any project initiated pursuant to a  
10 good neighbor agreement (as defined in section 8206(a)  
11 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)))—

12 (1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if  
13 the project was initiated after the date of enactment  
14 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public  
15 Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or

16 (2) on or after the date of enactment of this  
17 Act.

18 **SEC. 112. FIXING STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CON-**  
19 **TRACTING.**

20 Section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act  
21 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (b), by inserting “, including  
23 retaining and expanding existing forest products in-  
24 frastructure” before the period at the end;

1           (2) in subsection (d)(3)(B), by striking “10  
2           years” and inserting “20 years”; and

3           (3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the  
4           following:

5           “(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARD-  
6           SHIP CONTRACTS.—

7           “(A) IN GENERAL.—A long-term agree-  
8           ment or contract entered into with an entity  
9           under subsection (b) by the Chief or the Direc-  
10          tor shall provide that in the case of the can-  
11          cellation or termination by the Chief or the Di-  
12          rector of such long-term agreement or contract,  
13          the Chief or the Director, as applicable, shall  
14          provide 10 percent of the agreement or contract  
15          amount to such entity as cancellation or termi-  
16          nation costs.

17          “(B) DEFINITION OF LONG-TERM AGREE-  
18          MENT OR CONTRACT.—In this paragraph, the  
19          term ‘long-term agreement or contract’ means  
20          an agreement or contract under subsection  
21          (b)—

22                  “(i) with a term of more than 5 years;

23                  and

24                  “(ii) entered into on or after the date  
25                  of the enactment of this paragraph.”.



1 **SEC. 113. INTRA-AGENCY STRIKE TEAMS.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary concerned  
3 shall establish intra-agency strike teams to assist the Sec-  
4 retary concerned with—

5 (1) any reviews, including analysis under the  
6 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
7 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under the Na-  
8 tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C.  
9 470 et seq.), and consultations under the Endan-  
10 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.),  
11 with the intent to accelerate and streamline inter-  
12 agency consultation processes;

13 (2) the implementation of any necessary site  
14 preparation work in advance of or as part of a  
15 fireshed management project;

16 (3) the implementation of fireshed management  
17 projects under such section; and

18 (4) any combination of purposes under para-  
19 graphs (1) through (3).

20 (b) MEMBERS.—The Secretary concerned may ap-  
21 point not more than 10 individuals to serve on an intra-  
22 agency strike team comprised of—

23 (1) employees of the Department under the ju-  
24 risdiction of the Secretary concerned;

25 (2) employees of a different Federal agency,  
26 with the consent of that agency's Secretary;

1           (3) private contractors from any nonprofit orga-  
2           nization, State government, Indian Tribe, local gov-  
3           ernment, quasi-governmental agency, academic insti-  
4           tution, or private organization; and

5           (4) volunteers from any nonprofit organization,  
6           State government, Indian Tribe, local government,  
7           quasi-governmental agency, academic institution, or  
8           private organization.

9           (c) SUNSET.—The authority provided under this sec-  
10          tion shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the  
11          date of enactment of this Act.

12          **SEC. 114. LOCALLY-LED RESTORATION.**

13          (a) THRESHOLD ADJUSTMENT.—Section 14(d) of the  
14          National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C.  
15          472a(d)) is amended by—

16                (1) striking “\$10,000” and inserting  
17                “\$55,000”; and

18                (2) by adding at the end the following: “Begin-  
19                ning on January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter,  
20                the amount in the first sentence of this subsection  
21                shall be adjusted by the Secretary for changes in the  
22                Consumer Price Index of All Urban Consumers pub-  
23                lished by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the De-  
24                partment of Labor.”.

1 (b) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—Begin-  
 2 ning on the date that is 30 days after the date of enact-  
 3 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall solicit bids under sec-  
 4 tion 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976  
 5 (16 U.S.C. 472a(d)) for fireshed management projects  
 6 under section 106.

7 **SEC. 115. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PART-**  
 8 **NERSHIP PROGRAM.**

9 Section 40808 of the Infrastructure Investment and  
 10 Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592d) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

12 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or”  
 13 at the end;

14 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the  
 15 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;  
 16 and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(D) to recover from wildfires; or

19 “(E) to enhance soil, water, and related  
 20 natural resources.”;

21 (2) in subsection (d)(1)—

22 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
 23 “and post-wildfire impacts” after “wildfire  
 24 risk”; and

1 (B) in subparagraph (F), by inserting “,  
2 as identified in the corresponding State forest  
3 action plan or similar priority plan (such as a  
4 State wildlife or water plan)” before the semi-  
5 colon;

6 (3) in subsection (g)(2), by inserting “and at  
7 least once every 2 fiscal years thereafter” after “and  
8 2023”; and

9 (4) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “and  
10 2023” and inserting “through 2030”.

11 **SEC. 116. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORA-**  
12 **TION PROGRAM.**

13 Section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Manage-  
14 ment Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b)(3)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “spe-  
17 cies;” and inserting “species or pathogens;”;

18 (B) in subparagraph (G), by striking  
19 “and” at the end;

20 (C) in subparagraph (H), by adding “and”  
21 after the semicolon at the end; and

22 (D) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(I) address standardized monitoring ques-  
24 tions and indicators;”;

25 (2) in subsection (c)(3)(A)—

1 (A) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the  
2 end;

3 (B) in clause (ii), by adding “and” at the  
4 end; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(iii) include a plan to provide sup-  
7 port to collaborative processes established  
8 pursuant to subsection (b)(2);”;

9 (3) in subsection (d)—

10 (A) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
12 “and” at the end;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
14 the period at the end and inserting “;  
15 and”; and

16 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(G) proposals that seek to use innovative  
19 implementation mechanisms, including good  
20 neighbor agreements entered into under section  
21 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16  
22 U.S.C. 2113a);

23 “(H) proposals that seek to remove or  
24 treat insects or diseases, including the removal  
25 of trees killed by, or infested with, bark beetles

1 in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Mon-  
2 tana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon,  
3 South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyo-  
4 ming;

5 “(I) proposals that seek to facilitate the  
6 sale of firewood and Christmas trees on lands  
7 under the jurisdiction of the Secretary or the  
8 Secretary of the Interior;

9 “(J) proposals that seek to reduce the risk  
10 of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase ecologi-  
11 cal restoration activities—

12 “(i) within areas across land owner-  
13 ships, including State, Tribal, and private  
14 land; and

15 “(ii) within the wildland-urban inter-  
16 face (as defined in section 101 of the  
17 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003  
18 (16 U.S.C. 6511)); and

19 “(K) proposals that seek to enhance water-  
20 shed health and drinking water sources.”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (3)—

22 (i) by amending subparagraph (A) to  
23 read as follows:

1           “(A) 4 proposals in any 1 region of the  
2           National Forest System to be funded during  
3           any fiscal year; and”;

4                       (ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

5                       (iii) by redesignating subparagraph  
6                       (C) as subparagraph (B); and

7           (4) in subsection (f)(6), by striking “2019  
8           through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2030”.

9   **SEC. 117. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK REDUC-**  
10                       **TION.**

11           The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest  
12           Service, in coordination with holders of permits to graze  
13           livestock on Federal land, shall develop a strategy to in-  
14           crease opportunities to utilize livestock grazing as a wild-  
15           fire risk reduction strategy, including—

16                       (1) completion of reviews (as required under the  
17                       National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (U.S.C.  
18                       4321 et seq.)) to allow permitted grazing on vacant  
19                       grazing allotments during instances of drought, wild-  
20                       fire, or other natural disasters that disrupt grazing  
21                       on allotments already permitted;

22                       (2) use of targeted grazing;

23                       (3) increased use of temporary permits to pro-  
24                       mote targeted fuels reduction and reduction of  
25                       invasive annual grasses;

- 1           (4) increased use of grazing as a postfire recovery and restoration strategy, where appropriate; and
- 2
- 3           (5) use of all applicable authorities under the
- 4 law.

5 **SEC. 118. WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

6           Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act

7 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542(g)(4)(B)) is amended—

8           (1) in subsection (a)—

9                   (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)

10 through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), respectively;

11

12                   (B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as

13 so redesignated, the following:

14                   “(1) ADJACENT LAND.—The term ‘adjacent

15 land’ means non-Federal land, including State, local,

16 and private land, that is adjacent to, and within the

17 same watershed as, National Forest System land on

18 which a watershed protection and restoration project

19 is carried out under this section.”; and

20                   (C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

21                           (i) by redesignating subparagraphs

22 (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (K) and

23 (L), respectively; and

24                           (ii) by inserting after subparagraph

25 (F) the following:



1           “(G) an acequia association;

2           “(H) a local, regional, or other public enti-  
3           ty that manages stormwater or wastewater re-  
4           sources or other related water infrastructure;

5           “(I) a land-grant mercedes;

6           “(J) a local, regional, or other private enti-  
7           ty that has water delivery authority;”;

8           (2) in subsection (b)—

9           (A) by striking “The Secretary shall” and  
10          inserting the following:

11          “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall”; and

12          (B) by adding at the end the following:

13          “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A watershed protection  
14          and restoration project under the Program shall be  
15          designed to—

16               “(A) protect and restore watershed health,  
17               water supply and quality, a municipal or agri-  
18               cultural water supply system, and water-related  
19               infrastructure;

20               “(B) protect and restore forest health from  
21               insect infestation and disease or wildfire; or

22               “(C) advance any combination of the pur-  
23               poses described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

24          “(3) PRIORITIES.—In selecting watershed pro-  
25          tection and restoration projects under the Program,

1 the Secretary shall give priority to projects that  
2 would—

3 “(A) provide risk management benefits as-  
4 sociated with: drought; wildfire; post-wildfire  
5 conditions; extreme weather; flooding; resilience  
6 to climate change; and watershed and fire resil-  
7 ience, including minimizing risks to watershed  
8 health, water supply and quality, and water-re-  
9 lated infrastructure, including municipal and  
10 agricultural water supply systems;

11 “(B) support aquatic restoration and con-  
12 servation efforts that complement existing or  
13 planned forest restoration or wildfire risk re-  
14 duction efforts; or

15 “(C) provide quantifiable benefits to water  
16 supply or quality and include the use of nature-  
17 based solutions, such as restoring wetland and  
18 riparian ecosystems.

19 “(4) CONDITIONS FOR PROJECTS ON ADJACENT  
20 LAND.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—No project or activity  
22 may be carried out under this section on adja-  
23 cent land unless the owner of the adjacent land  
24 agrees in writing that the owner is a willing and

1 engaged partner in carrying out that project or  
2 activity.

3 “(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section  
4 shall be construed to authorize any change in—

5 “(i) the ownership of adjacent land on  
6 which a project or activity is carried out  
7 under this section; or

8 “(ii) the management of adjacent land  
9 on which a project or activity is carried out  
10 under this section, except during the car-  
11 rying out of that project or activity.”;

12 (3) in subsection (c)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “with  
14 end water users” and inserting “with end water  
15 users to protect and restore the condition of  
16 National Forest watersheds and adjacent land  
17 that provide water—

18 “(A) to the end water users subject to the  
19 agreement; or

20 “(B) for the benefit of another end water  
21 user.”;

22 (B) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
24 “or” at the end;

1 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph  
2 (D) as subparagraph (E); and

3 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph  
4 (C) the following:

5 “(D) a good neighbor agreement entered  
6 into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act  
7 of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); or”; and

8 (C) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(3) COOPERATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PART-  
10 NERS.—The Secretary shall cooperate with non-Fed-  
11 eral partners in carrying out assessments, planning,  
12 project design, and project implementation under  
13 this section.”;

14 (4) in subsection (d)—

15 (A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as  
16 follows:

17 “(2) REQUIREMENT.—A water source manage-  
18 ment plan shall be—

19 “(A) designed to protect and restore eco-  
20 logical integrity (as defined in section 219.19 of  
21 title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in ef-  
22 fect on the date of enactment of this subpara-  
23 graph));

24 “(B) based on the best available scientific  
25 information; and

1           “(C) conducted in a manner consistent  
2           with the forest plan applicable to the National  
3           Forest System land on which the watershed  
4           protection and restoration project is carried  
5           out.”; and

6           (B) by adding at the end the following:

7           “(4) REDUCING REDUNDANCY.—An existing  
8           watershed plan, such as a watershed protection and  
9           restoration action plan developed under section  
10          304(a)(3), or other applicable watershed planning  
11          documents as approved by the Secretary may be  
12          used as the basis for a water source management  
13          plan under this subsection.”; and

14          (5) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “primary  
15          purpose of” and all that follows through the period  
16          at the end and inserting “primary purpose of ad-  
17          vancing any of the purposes described in subsection  
18          (b)(2).”.

19 **SEC. 119. WATERSHED CONDITION FRAMEWORK TECH-**  
20 **NICAL CORRECTIONS.**

21          Section 304(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration  
22          Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6543(a)) is amended in para-  
23          graphs (3) and (5) by striking “protection and”.

## 1           **Subtitle C—Litigation Reform**

### 2   **SEC. 121. COMMONSENSE LITIGATION REFORM.**

3           (a) **IN GENERAL.**—A court shall not enjoin a covered  
4 agency action if the court determines that the plaintiff is  
5 unable to demonstrate that the claim of the plaintiff is  
6 likely to succeed on the merits.

7           (b) **BALANCING SHORT- AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS**  
8 **OF COVERED AGENCY ACTION IN CONSIDERING INJUNC-**  
9 **TIVE RELIEF.**—As part of its weighing the equities while  
10 considering any request for an injunction that applies to  
11 a covered agency action, the court reviewing such action  
12 shall balance the impact to the ecosystem likely affected  
13 by such action of—

14                 (1) the short- and long-term effects of under-  
15 taking such action; against

16                 (2) the short- and long-term effects of not un-  
17 dertaking such action.

18           (c) **LIMITATIONS ON JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—

19                 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other  
20 provision of law (except this section), in the case of  
21 a claim arising under Federal law seeking judicial  
22 review of a covered agency action—

23                         (A) a court shall not hold unlawful, set  
24 aside, or otherwise limit, delay, stay, vacate, or

1           enjoin such agency action unless the court de-  
2           termines that—

3                   (i) such action poses or will pose a  
4                   risk of a proximate and substantial envi-  
5                   ronmental harm; and

6                   (ii) there is no other equitable remedy  
7                   available as a matter of law; and

8                   (B) if a court determines that subpara-  
9                   graph (A) does not apply to the covered agency  
10                  action the only remedy the court may order  
11                  with regard to such agency action is to remand  
12                  the matter to the agency with instructions to,  
13                  during the 180-day period beginning on the  
14                  date of the order, take such additional actions  
15                  as may be necessary to redress any legal wrong  
16                  suffered by, or adverse effect on, the plaintiff,  
17                  except such additional actions may not include  
18                  the preparation of a new agency document un-  
19                  less the court finds the agency was required  
20                  and failed to prepare such agency document.

21                  (2) EFFECT OF REMAND.—In the case of a cov-  
22                  ered agency action to which paragraph (1)(B) ap-  
23                  plies, the agency may—

24                   (A) continue to carry out such agency ac-  
25                   tion to the extent the action does not impact

1 the additional actions required pursuant to such  
2 paragraph; and

3 (B) if the agency action relates to an agen-  
4 cy document, use any format to correct such  
5 document (including a supplemental environ-  
6 mental document, memorandum, or errata  
7 sheet).

8 (d) LIMITATIONS ON CLAIMS.—Notwithstanding any  
9 other provision of law (except this section), a claim arising  
10 under Federal law seeking judicial review of a covered  
11 agency action shall be barred unless—

12 (1) with respect to an agency document or the  
13 application of a categorical exclusion noticed in the  
14 Federal Register, such claim is filed not later than  
15 120 days after the date of publication of a notice in  
16 the Federal Register of agency intent to carry out  
17 the finished management project relating to such  
18 agency document or application, unless a shorter pe-  
19 riod is specified in such Federal law;

20 (2) in the case of an agency document or the  
21 application of a categorical exclusion not described  
22 in paragraph (1), such claim is filed not later than  
23 120 days after the date that is the earlier of—

24 (A) the date on which such agency docu-  
25 ment or application is published; and



1 (B) the date on which such agency docu-  
2 ment or application is noticed; and

3 (3) in the case of a covered agency action for  
4 which there was a public comment period, such  
5 claim—

6 (A) is filed by a party that—

7 (i) participated in the administrative  
8 proceedings regarding the fireshed man-  
9 agement project relating to such action;  
10 and

11 (ii) submitted a comment during such  
12 public comment period and such comment  
13 was sufficiently detailed to put the applica-  
14 ble agency on notice of the issue upon  
15 which the party seeks judicial review; and

16 (B) is related to such comment.

17 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) AGENCY DOCUMENT.—The term “agency  
19 document” means, with respect to a fireshed man-  
20 agement project, a record of decision, environmental  
21 document, or programmatic environmental docu-  
22 ment.

23 (2) COVERED AGENCY ACTION.—The term  
24 “covered agency action” means—

1 (A) the establishment of a fireshed man-  
2 agement project by an agency;

3 (B) the application of a categorical exclu-  
4 sion to a fireshed management project;

5 (C) the preparation of any agency docu-  
6 ment for a fireshed management project; or

7 (D) any other agency action as part of a  
8 fireshed management project.

9 (3) NEPA TERMS.—The terms “categorical ex-  
10 clusion”, “environmental document”, and “pro-  
11 grammatic environmental document” have the mean-  
12 ings given such terms, respectively, in section 111 of  
13 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
14 U.S.C. 4336e).

15 **SEC. 122. CONSULTATION ON FOREST PLANS.**

16 (a) FOREST SERVICE PLANS.—Section 6(d)(2) of the  
17 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act  
18 of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(d)(2)) is amended to read as  
19 follows:

20 “(2) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION RE-  
21 QUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Not-  
22 withstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-  
23 retary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation  
24 under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act  
25 of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of

1 title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor  
2 regulation), on a land management plan approved,  
3 amended, or revised under this section when—

4 “(A) a new species is listed or critical habi-  
5 tat is designated under the Endangered Species  
6 Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

7 “(B) new information reveals effects of the  
8 land management plan that may affect a spe-  
9 cies listed or critical habitat designated under  
10 that Act in a manner or to an extent not pre-  
11 viously considered.”.

12 (b) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Sec-  
13 tion 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act  
14 of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended by adding at the  
15 end the following:

16 “(g) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED  
17 UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding  
18 any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be re-  
19 quired to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of  
20 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
21 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal  
22 Regulations (or a successor regulation), on a land use plan  
23 approved, amended, or revised under this section when—

1           “(1) a new species is listed or critical habitat  
2 is designated under the Endangered Species Act of  
3 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

4           “(2) new information reveals effects of the land  
5 use plan that may affect a species listed or critical  
6 habitat designated under that Act in a manner or to  
7 an extent not previously considered.”.

8 **TITLE II—PROTECTING COMMU-**  
9 **NITIES IN THE WILDLAND-**  
10 **URBAN INTERFACE**

11 **SEC. 201. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PRO-**  
12 **GRAM.**

13           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after  
14 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall  
15 jointly establish an interagency program to be known as  
16 the “Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program” that  
17 shall consist of at least one representative from each of  
18 the following:

19           (1) The Office of Wildland Fire of the Depart-  
20 ment of the Interior.

21           (2) The National Park Service.

22           (3) The Bureau of Land Management.

23           (4) The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-  
24 ice.

25           (5) The Bureau of Indian Affairs.

1 (6) The Forest Service.

2 (7) The Federal Emergency Management Agen-  
3 cy.

4 (8) The United States Fire Administration.

5 (9) The National Institute of Standards and  
6 Technology.

7 (10) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
8 Administration.

9 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program estab-  
10 lished under subsection (a) is to support interagency co-  
11 ordination in reducing the risk of, and the damages result-  
12 ing from, wildfires in communities (including tribal com-  
13 munities) in the wildland-urban interface through—

14 (1) advancing research and science in wildfire  
15 resilience and land management, including support  
16 for non-Federal research partnerships;

17 (2) supporting adoption by Indian Tribes and  
18 local governmental entities of fire-resistant building  
19 methods, codes, and standards;

20 (3) supporting efforts by Indian Tribes or local  
21 governmental entities to address the effects of  
22 wildland fire on such communities, including prop-  
23 erty damages, air quality, and water quality;

1           (4) encouraging public-private partnerships to  
2           conduct hazardous fuels management activities in  
3           the wildland-urban interface;

4           (5) providing technical and financial assistance  
5           targeted towards communities, including tribal com-  
6           munities, through streamlined and unified technical  
7           assistance and grant management mechanisms, in-  
8           cluding the portal and grant application established  
9           under subsection (c), to—

10           (A) encourage critical risk reduction meas-  
11           ures on private property with high wildfire risk  
12           exposure in such communities; and

13           (B) mitigate costs for and improve capac-  
14           ity among such communities.

15           (c) PORTAL AND UNIFORM GRANT APPLICATION.—

16           (1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program es-  
17           tablished under subsection (a), the Secretaries and  
18           the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-  
19           agement Agency shall establish a portal through  
20           which a person may submit a single, uniform appli-  
21           cation for any of the following:

22           (A) A community wildfire defense grant  
23           under section 40803(f) of the Infrastructure In-  
24           vestment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(f)).

1           (B) An emergency management perform-  
2           ance grant under section 662 of the Post-  
3           Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of  
4           2006 (6 U.S.C. 761).

5           (C) A grant under section 33 of the Fed-  
6           eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
7           (15 U.S.C. 2229).

8           (D) A grant under section 34 of the Fed-  
9           eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
10          (15 U.S.C. 2229a).

11          (E) Financial or technical assistance or a  
12          grant under sections 203, 205, 404, 406, or  
13          420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
14          and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
15          5133, 5135, 5170c, 5172, 5187).

16          (2) SIMPLIFICATION OF APPLICATION.—In es-  
17          tablishing the portal and application under para-  
18          graph (1), the Secretaries and the Administrator  
19          shall seek to reduce the complexity and length of the  
20          application process for the grants described in para-  
21          graph (1).

22          (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretaries  
23          shall provide technical assistance to communities or  
24          persons seeking to apply for financial assistance

1 through the portal using the application established  
2 under paragraph (1).

3 (d) SUNSET.—The program established under this  
4 section shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after  
5 the date of enactment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 202. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE RESEARCH PRO-**  
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall, acting  
9 jointly, expand the Joint Fire Science Program to include  
10 a performance-driven research and development program  
11 known as the “Community Wildfire Defense Research  
12 Program” for the purpose of testing and advancing inno-  
13 vative designs to create or improve the wildfire-resistance  
14 of structures and communities.

15 (b) PROGRAM PRIORITIES.—In carrying out the pro-  
16 gram established under subsection (a), the Secretaries  
17 shall evaluate opportunities to create wildfire-resistant  
18 structures and communities through—

19 (1) different affordable building materials, in-  
20 cluding mass timber;

21 (2) home hardening, including policies to  
22 incentivize and incorporate defensible space;

23 (3) subdivision design and other land use plan-  
24 ning and design;

25 (4) landscape architecture; and



1           (5) other wildfire-resistant designs, as deter-  
2           mined by the Secretary.

3           (c) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE INNOVATION  
4 PRIZE.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program  
6           established under subsection (a), the Secretaries  
7           shall carry out a competition through which a person  
8           may submit to the Secretaries innovative designs for  
9           the creation or improvement of an ignition-resistant  
10          structure or fire-adapted communities.

11          (2) PRIZE.—Subject to the availability of ap-  
12          propriations made in advance for such purpose, the  
13          Secretaries may award a prize under the competition  
14          described in paragraph (1), based on criteria estab-  
15          lished by the Secretaries and in accordance with  
16          paragraph (3).

17          (3) SCALE.—In awarding a prize under para-  
18          graph (2), the Secretaries shall prioritize for an  
19          award designs with the most potential to scale to ex-  
20          isting infrastructure.

21          (d) COLLABORATION AND NONDUPLICATION.—In  
22          carrying out the program established under subsection (a),  
23          the Secretaries shall ensure collaboration and nonduplica-  
24          tion of activities with the Building Technologies Office of  
25          the Department of Energy.

1 (e) SUNSET.—The program established under sub-  
 2 section (a) shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after  
 3 the date of enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 203. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, FACILITY INSPEC-**  
 5 **TION, AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**  
 6 **RELATING TO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND**  
 7 **DISTRIBUTION FACILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**

8 (a) HAZARD TREES WITHIN 150 FEET OF ELECTRIC  
 9 POWER LINE.—Section 512(a)(1)(B)(ii) of the Federal  
 10 Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.  
 11 1772(a)(1)(B)(ii)) is amended by striking “10” and in-  
 12 serting “150”.

13 (b) CONSULTATION WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS.—  
 14 Section 512(e)(3)(E) of such Act (43 U.S.C.  
 15 1772(e)(3)(E)) is amended—

16 (1) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

17 (2) in clause (ii), by striking the period and in-  
 18 serting “; and”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(iii) consulting with a private land-  
 21 owner with respect to any hazard trees  
 22 identified for removal from land owned by  
 23 the private landowner.”.

1           (c) REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—Section  
2 512(c)(4)(A)(iv) of such Act (43 U.S.C.  
3 1772(c)(4)(A)(iv)) is amended to read as follows:

4                           “(iv) ensures that—

5   “(I) a plan submitted without a  
6 modification under clause (iii) shall be  
7 automatically approved 120 days after  
8 being submitted; and

9   “(II) with respect to a plan sub-  
10 mitted with a modification under  
11 clause (iii), if not approved within 120  
12 days after being submitted, the Sec-  
13 retary concerned shall develop and  
14 submit a letter to the owner and oper-  
15 ator describing—

16   “(aa) a detailed timeline (to  
17 conclude within 165 days after  
18 the submission of the plan) for  
19 completing review of the plan;

20   “(bb) any identified defi-  
21 ciencies with the plan and spe-  
22 cific opportunities for the owner  
23 and operator to address such de-  
24 ficiencies; and

1                                   “(cc) any other relevant in-  
2                                   formation, as determined by the  
3                                   Secretary concerned.”.

4 **SEC. 204. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR ELECTRIC UTIL-**  
5 **ITY LINES RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**

6           (a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ESTABLISHED.—For-  
7 est management activities described in subsection (b) are  
8 a category of activities hereby designated as being cat-  
9 egorically excluded from the preparation of an environ-  
10 mental assessment or an environmental impact statement  
11 under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy  
12 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

13           (b) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DESIGNATED  
14 FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—The forest management  
15 activities designated under subsection (a) for a categorical  
16 exclusion are—

17                   (1) the development and approval of a vegeta-  
18 tion management, facility inspection, and operation  
19 and maintenance plan submitted under section  
20 512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-  
21 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(1)) by the  
22 Secretary concerned; and

23                   (2) the implementation of routine activities con-  
24 ducted under the plan referred to in paragraph (1).

1           (c) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—  
2 On and after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
3 retary concerned may use the categorical exclusion estab-  
4 lished under subsection (a) in accordance with this section.

5           (d) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN AREAS FROM CATEGOR-  
6 ICAL EXCLUSION.—The categorical exclusion established  
7 under subsection (a) shall not apply to any forest manage-  
8 ment activity conducted—

9                 (1) in a component of the National Wilderness  
10            Preservation System; or

11                (2) on National Forest System lands on which  
12            the removal of vegetation is restricted or prohibited  
13            by an Act of Congress.

14           (e) PERMANENT ROADS.—

15                (1) PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHMENT.—A for-  
16            est management activity designated under subsection  
17            (b) shall not include the establishment of a perma-  
18            nent road.

19                (2) EXISTING ROADS.—The Secretary con-  
20            cerned may carry out necessary maintenance and re-  
21            pair on an existing permanent road for the purposes  
22            of conducting a forest management activity des-  
23            ignated under subsection (b).

24                (3) TEMPORARY ROADS.—The Secretary con-  
25            cerned shall decommission any temporary road con-

1       structured for carrying out a forest management activ-  
2       ity designated under subsection (b) not later than  
3       the date that is 3 years after the date on which the  
4       forest management activity is completed.

5       (f) APPLICABLE LAWS.—Clauses (iii) and (iv) of sec-  
6       tion 106(a)(3) shall apply to forest management activities  
7       designated under subsection (b).

8       **SEC. 205. SEEDS OF SUCCESS.**

9       (a) STRATEGY ESTABLISHED.—Not later than 2  
10      years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secre-  
11      taries and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly develop  
12      and implement a strategy, to be known as the “Seeds of  
13      Success strategy”, to enhance the domestic supply chain  
14      of seeds.

15      (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-  
16      section (a) shall include a plan for each of the following:

17           (1) Facilitating sustained interagency coordina-  
18           tion in, and a comprehensive approach to, native  
19           plant materials development and restoration.

20           (2) Promoting the re-seeding of native or fire-  
21           resistant vegetation post-wildfire, particularly in the  
22           wildland-urban interface.

23           (3) Creating and consolidating information on  
24           native or fire-resistant vegetation and sharing such

1 information with State governments, Indian Tribes,  
2 and local governments.

3 (4) Building regional programs and partner-  
4 ships to promote the development of materials made  
5 from plants native to the United States and restore  
6 such plants to their respective, native habitats within  
7 the United States, giving priority to the building of  
8 such programs and partnerships in regions of the  
9 Bureau of Land Management where such partner-  
10 ships and programs do not already exist as of the  
11 date of enactment of this Act.

12 (5) Expanding seed storage and seed-cleaning  
13 infrastructure.

14 (6) Expanding the Warehouse System of the  
15 Bureau of Land Management, particularly the cold  
16 storage capacity of the Warehouse System.

17 (7) Shortening the timeline for the approval of  
18 permits to collect seeds on public lands managed by  
19 the Bureau of Land Management.

20 (c) REPORT.—The Secretaries and the Secretary of  
21 Defense shall submit to the relevant Congressional Com-  
22 mittees the strategy developed under paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 206. PROGRAM TO SUPPORT PRIORITY REFOREST-**  
2 **ATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS OF DE-**  
3 **PARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the  
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Inte-  
6 rior, in coordination with the heads of covered Federal  
7 agencies, shall establish a program to provide support for  
8 priority projects identified under subsection (c)(2), in ac-  
9 cordance with this section.

10 (b) **SUPPORT.**—In carrying out the program under  
11 subsection (a), the Secretary may provide support  
12 through—

13 (1) cooperative agreements entered into in ac-  
14 cordance with processes established by the Sec-  
15 retary; and

16 (2) contracts, including contracts established  
17 pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-  
18 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

19 (c) **ANNUAL IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY**  
20 **PROJECTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-  
21 ment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary  
22 of the Interior, in consultation with the heads of covered  
23 Federal agencies, shall—

24 (1) identify lands of the United States adminis-  
25 tered by, or under the jurisdiction of, the Secretary  
26 of the Interior that require reforestation and res-



1       toration due to unplanned disturbances and that are  
2       unlikely to experience natural regeneration without  
3       assistance; and

4             (2) establish a list of priority projects for refor-  
5       estation and restoration for the upcoming year,  
6       which may include activities to ensure adequate and  
7       appropriate seed and seedling availability to further  
8       the objectives of other priority projects.

9       (d) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the program  
10      under subsection (a) and the requirements under sub-  
11      section (c), the Secretary shall consult or collaborate with,  
12      as appropriate, and inform the following:

13            (1) State and local governments.

14            (2) Indian Tribes.

15            (3) Covered institutions of higher education.

16            (4) Federal agencies that administer lands of  
17      the United States that adjoin or are proximal to  
18      lands that are the subject of priority projects and  
19      potential priority projects.

20            (5) Other stakeholders, as determined by the  
21      Secretary.

22      (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after  
23      the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,  
24      the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the relevant

1 Congressional Committees a report that includes the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 (1) An accounting of all lands identified under  
4 subsection (c)(1) for the period covered by the re-  
5 port.

6 (2) A list of priority projects identified under  
7 subsection (c)(2) for the period covered by the re-  
8 port and, with respect to each such priority project,  
9 any support issued under the program under sub-  
10 section (a) and any progress made towards reforest-  
11 ation and restoration.

12 (3) An accounting of each contract and cooper-  
13 ative agreement established under the program  
14 under subsection (a).

15 (4) A description of the actions taken in accord-  
16 ance with subsection (d).

17 (5) Assessments with respect to—

18 (A) gaps in—

19 (i) the implementation of the program  
20 under subsection (a); and

21 (ii) the progress made under the pro-  
22 gram with respect to priority projects; and

23 (B) opportunities to procure funding nec-  
24 essary to address any such gaps.

1 (f) NONDUPLICATION.—In carrying out this section,  
2 the Secretary of the Interior shall collaborate with the Sec-  
3 retary and the Secretary of Defense to ensure the non-  
4 duplication of activities carried out under section 205.

5 (g) SUNSET.—The authority provided under this sec-  
6 tion shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the  
7 date of enactment of this Act.

8 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) COVERED FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term  
10 “covered Federal agency” means the National Park  
11 Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service,  
12 the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of  
13 Reclamation, or the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

14 (2) COVERED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-  
15 CATION.—The term “covered institution of higher  
16 education” has the meaning given the term “eligible  
17 institution” in section 301(e)(3).

18 (3) NATURAL REGENERATION; REFOREST-  
19 ATION.—The terms “natural regeneration” and “re-  
20 forestation” have the meanings given such terms in  
21 section 3(e)(4)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland Re-  
22 newable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.  
23 1601(3)(4)(A)).

24 (4) RESTORATION.—The term “restoration”  
25 means activities that facilitate the recovery of an

1 ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or de-  
2 stroyed, including the reestablishment of appropriate  
3 plant species composition and community structure.

4 (5) UNPLANNED ECOSYSTEM DISTURBANCE.—  
5 The term “unplanned ecosystem disturbance” means  
6 any unplanned disturbance that disrupts the struc-  
7 ture or composition of an ecosystem, including a  
8 wildfire, an infestation of insects or disease, and a  
9 weather event.

10 **SEC. 207. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPAYMENT.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD OPERATING  
12 PROCEDURES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of  
13 the enactment of this section, the Secretaries shall—

14 (1) establish standard operating procedures re-  
15 lating to payment timelines for fire suppression cost  
16 share agreements established under the Act of May  
17 27, 1955 (42 U.S.C. 1856a) (commonly known as  
18 the “Reciprocal Fire Protection Act”); and

19 (2) with respect to each fire suppression cost  
20 share agreement in operation on such date—

21 (A) review each such agreement; and

22 (B) modify each agreement as necessary to  
23 comply with the standard operating procedures  
24 required under paragraph (1).

1 (b) ALIGNMENT OF FIRE SUPPRESSION COST SHARE  
2 AGREEMENTS WITH COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION  
3 AGREEMENTS.—The standard operating procedures re-  
4 quired under subsection (a)(1) shall include a requirement  
5 that each fire suppression cost share agreement be aligned  
6 with each of the cooperative fire protection agreements ap-  
7 plicable to the entity subject to such fire suppression cost  
8 share agreement.

9 (c) PAYMENTS PURSUANT TO COST SHARE AGREE-  
10 MENTS.—With respect to payments made pursuant to fire  
11 suppression cost share agreements, the standard operating  
12 procedures required under subsection (a)(1) shall require  
13 that the Federal paying entity reimburse a local fire de-  
14 partment if such fire department submits an invoice in  
15 accordance with cost settlement procedures.

16 (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
17 gress that the Secretaries should carry out reciprocal fire  
18 suppression cost share agreement repayments to local fire  
19 suppression organizations as soon as practicable after fire  
20 suppression occurs but not later than 1 year after fire sup-  
21 pression occurs.

1 **TITLE III—TRANSPARENCY,**  
2 **TECHNOLOGY, AND PARTNER-**  
3 **SHIPS**

4 **Subtitle A—Transparency and**  
5 **Technology**

6 **SEC. 301. BIOCHAR INNOVATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES**  
7 **FOR CONSERVATION, HEALTH, AND AD-**  
8 **VANCEMENTS IN RESEARCH.**

9 (a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

10 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the avail-  
12 ability of appropriations made in advance for  
13 such purpose, not later than 2 years after the  
14 date of enactment of this Act, the covered Sec-  
15 retaries shall establish a program to enter into  
16 partnerships with eligible entities to carry out  
17 demonstration projects to support the develop-  
18 ment and commercialization of biochar in ac-  
19 cordance with this subsection.

20 (B) LOCATION OF DEMONSTRATION  
21 PROJECTS.—In carrying out the program estab-  
22 lished under subparagraph (A), the covered  
23 Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent prac-  
24 ticable, enter into partnerships with eligible en-  
25 tities such that not fewer than one demonstra-

1           tion project is carried out in each region of the  
2           Forest Service and each region of the Bureau  
3           of Land Management.

4           (2) PROPOSALS.—To be eligible to enter into a  
5           partnership to carry out a biochar demonstration  
6           project under paragraph (1)(A), an eligible entity  
7           shall submit to the covered Secretaries a proposal at  
8           such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
9           formation as the covered Secretaries may require.

10          (3) PRIORITY.—In selecting proposals under  
11          paragraph (2), the covered Secretaries shall give pri-  
12          ority to entering into partnerships with eligible enti-  
13          ties that submit proposals to carry out biochar dem-  
14          onstration projects that—

15                (A) have the most carbon sequestration po-  
16                tential;

17                (B) have the most potential to create new  
18                jobs and contribute to local economies, particu-  
19                larly in rural areas;

20                (C) have the most potential to dem-  
21                onstrate—

22                    (i) new and innovative uses of biochar;

23                    (ii) market viability for cost effective  
24                    biochar-based products;

1 (iii) the ecosystem services created or  
2 supported by the use of biochar;

3 (iv) the restorative benefits of biochar  
4 with respect to forest health and resiliency,  
5 including forest soils and watersheds; or

6 (v) any combination of purposes speci-  
7 fied in clauses (i) through (iv);

8 (D) are located in areas that have a high  
9 need for biochar production, as determined by  
10 the covered Secretaries, due to—

11 (i) nearby lands identified as having  
12 high or very high or extreme risk of wild-  
13 fire;

14 (ii) availability of sufficient quantities  
15 of feedstocks; or

16 (iii) a high level of demand for  
17 biochar or other commercial byproducts of  
18 biochar; or

19 (E) satisfy any combination of purposes  
20 specified in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

21 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the pro-  
22 gram established under paragraph (1)(A), the cov-  
23 ered Secretaries may enter into partnerships and  
24 provide funding to such partnerships to carry out  
25 demonstration projects to—



1 (A) acquire and test various feedstocks and  
2 their efficacy;

3 (B) develop and optimize commercially and  
4 technologically viable biochar production units,  
5 including mobile and permanent units;

6 (C) demonstrate—

7 (i) the production of biochar from for-  
8 est residue; and

9 (ii) the use of biochar to restore forest  
10 health and resiliency;

11 (D) build, expand, or establish biochar fa-  
12 cilities;

13 (E) conduct research on new and innova-  
14 tive uses of biochar;

15 (F) demonstrate cost-effective market op-  
16 portunities for biochar and biochar-based prod-  
17 ucts;

18 (G) carry out any other activities the cov-  
19 ered Secretaries determine appropriate; or

20 (H) any combination of the purposes speci-  
21 fied in subparagraphs (A) through (F).

22 (5) FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS.—To the max-  
23 imum extent practicable, an eligible entity that car-  
24 ries out a biochar demonstration project under this  
25 subsection shall, with respect to the feedstock used

1 under such project, derive at least 50 percent of  
2 such feedstock from forest thinning and manage-  
3 ment activities, including mill residues, conducted on  
4 National Forest System lands or public lands.

5 (6) REVIEW OF BIOCHAR DEMONSTRATION.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The covered Secretaries  
7 shall conduct regionally-specific research, in-  
8 cluding economic analyses and life-cycle assess-  
9 ments, on any biochar produced from a dem-  
10 onstration project carried out under the pro-  
11 gram established in paragraph (1)(A), includ-  
12 ing—

13 (i) the effects of such biochar on—

14 (I) forest health and resiliency;

15 (II) carbon capture and seques-  
16 tration, including increasing soil car-  
17 bon in the short-term and long-term;

18 (III) productivity, reduced input  
19 costs, and water retention in agricul-  
20 tural practices;

21 (IV) the health of soil and grass-  
22 lands used for grazing activities, in-  
23 cluding grazing activities on National  
24 Forest System land and public land;

1 (V) environmental remediation  
2 activities, including abandoned mine  
3 land remediation; and

4 (VI) other ecosystem services cre-  
5 ated or supported by the use of  
6 biochar;

7 (ii) the effectiveness of biochar as a  
8 co-product of biofuels or in biochemicals;  
9 and

10 (iii) the effectiveness of other poten-  
11 tial uses of biochar to determine if any  
12 such use is technologically and commer-  
13 cially viable.

14 (B) COORDINATION.—The covered Secre-  
15 taries shall, to the maximum extent practicable,  
16 provide data, analyses, and other relevant infor-  
17 mation collected under subparagraph (A) with  
18 recipients of a grant under subsection (b).

19 (7) LIMITATION ON FUNDING FOR ESTAB-  
20 LISHING BIOCHAR FACILITIES.—If the covered Sec-  
21 retaries provide to an eligible entity that enters into  
22 a partnership with the covered Secretaries under  
23 paragraph (1)(A) funding for establishing a biochar  
24 facility, such funding may not exceed 35 percent of

1 the total capital cost of establishing such biochar fa-  
2 cility.

3 (b) BIOCHAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT  
4 PROGRAM.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the In-  
6 terior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy,  
7 shall establish or expand an existing applied biochar  
8 research and development grant program to make  
9 competitive grants to eligible institutions to carry  
10 out the activities described in paragraph (3).

11 (2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
12 grant under this subsection, an eligible institution  
13 shall submit to the Secretary a proposal at such  
14 time, in such manner, and containing such informa-  
15 tion as the Secretary may require.

16 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution  
17 that receives a grant under this subsection shall use  
18 the grant funds to conduct applied research on—

19 (A) the effect of biochar on forest health  
20 and resiliency, accounting for variations in  
21 biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

22 (B) the effect of biochar on soil health and  
23 water retention, accounting for variations in  
24 biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

1 (C) the long-term carbon sequestration po-  
2 tential of biochar;

3 (D) the best management practices with  
4 respect to biochar and biochar-based products  
5 that maximize—

6 (i) carbon sequestration benefits; and

7 (ii) the commercial viability and appli-  
8 cation of such products in forestry, agri-  
9 culture, environmental remediation, water  
10 quality improvement, and any other similar  
11 uses, as determined by the Secretary;

12 (E) the regional uses of biochar to increase  
13 productivity and profitability, including—

14 (i) uses in agriculture and environ-  
15 mental remediation; and

16 (ii) use as a co-product in fuel produc-  
17 tion;

18 (F) new and innovative uses for biochar  
19 byproducts; and

20 (G) opportunities to expand markets for  
21 biochar and create related jobs, particularly in  
22 rural areas.

23 (c) REPORTS.—

24 (1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2  
25 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the

1 covered Secretaries shall submit to Congress a re-  
2 port that—

3 (A) includes policy and program rec-  
4 ommendations to improve the widespread use of  
5 biochar;

6 (B) identifies any area of research needed  
7 to advance biochar commercialization; and

8 (C) identifies barriers to further biochar  
9 commercialization, including permitting and  
10 siting considerations.

11 (2) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF  
12 THE PRESIDENT’S BUDGET.—Beginning with the  
13 second fiscal year that begins after the date of en-  
14 actment of this Act and annually thereafter until the  
15 date described in subsection (d), the covered Secre-  
16 taries shall include in the materials submitted to  
17 Congress in support of the President’s budget pursu-  
18 ant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code,  
19 a report describing, for the fiscal year covered by the  
20 report, the status of each demonstration project car-  
21 ried out under subsection (a) and each research and  
22 development grant carried out under subsection (b).

23 (d) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section  
24 shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date  
25 of enactment of this Act.

1 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) BIOCHAR.—The term “biochar” means car-  
3 bonized biomass produced by converting feedstock  
4 through reductive thermal processing for non-fuel  
5 uses.

6 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
7 ty” means—

8 (A) a State, local, special district, or Tribal  
9 government;

10 (B) an eligible institution;

11 (C) a private, non-private, or cooperative  
12 entity or organization;

13 (D) a National Laboratory (as such term  
14 is defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act  
15 of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)); or

16 (E) a partnership or consortium of two or  
17 more entities described in subparagraphs (A)  
18 through (D).

19 (3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-  
20 ble institution” means land-grant colleges and uni-  
21 versities, including institutions eligible for funding  
22 under the—

23 (A) Act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503,  
24 chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

1 (B) Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 417,  
2 chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including  
3 Tuskegee University;

4 (C) Public Law 87–788 (commonly known  
5 as the “McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962”); or

6 (D) Equity in Educational Land-Grant  
7 Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public  
8 Law 103–382).

9 (4) FEEDSTOCK.—The term “feedstock” means  
10 excess biomass in the form of plant matter or mate-  
11 rials that serves as the raw material for the produc-  
12 tion of biochar.

13 (5) COVERED SECRETARIES.—The term “cov-  
14 ered Secretaries” means—

15 (A) the Secretary, acting through the Chief  
16 of the Forest Service;

17 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting  
18 through the Director of the Bureau of Land  
19 Management; and

20 (C) the Secretary of Energy, acting  
21 through the Director of the Office of Science.



1 **SEC. 302. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**  
2 **PORTS.**

3 (a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION  
4 REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE  
5 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fis-  
7 cal year that begins after the date of enactment of  
8 this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-  
9 retary concerned shall include in the materials sub-  
10 mitted to Congress in support of the President's  
11 budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United  
12 States Code, a report on the number of acres of  
13 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned car-  
14 ried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during  
15 the preceding fiscal year.

16 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of the re-  
17 port required under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
18 concerned shall—

19 (A) in determining the number of acres of  
20 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned  
21 carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities  
22 during the period covered by the report—

23 (i) record acres of Federal land on  
24 which hazardous fuels reduction activities  
25 were completed during such period; and

1 (ii) record each acre described in  
2 clause (i) once in the report, regardless of  
3 whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction  
4 activities were carried out on such acre  
5 during such period; and

6 (B) with respect to the acres of Federal  
7 land recorded in the report, include information  
8 on—

9 (i) which such acres are located in the  
10 wildland-urban interface;

11 (ii) the level of wildfire risk (high,  
12 moderate, or low) on the first and last day  
13 of the period covered by the report;

14 (iii) the types of hazardous fuels ac-  
15 tivities completed for such acres, delin-  
16 eating between whether such activities  
17 were conducted—

18 (I) in a wildfire managed for re-  
19 source benefits; or

20 (II) through a planned project;

21 (iv) the cost per acre of hazardous  
22 fuels activities carried out during the pe-  
23 riod covered by the report;

24 (v) the region or system unit in which  
25 the acres are located; and

1 (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous  
2 fuels reduction activities on reducing the  
3 risk of wildfire.

4 (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned  
5 shall make each report submitted under paragraph  
6 (1) publicly available on the websites of the Depart-  
7 ment of Agriculture and the Department of the Inte-  
8 rior, as applicable.

9 (b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
11 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary con-  
12 cerned shall implement standardized procedures for  
13 tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduction  
14 activities carried out by the Secretary concerned.

15 (2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures  
16 required under paragraph (1) shall include—

17 (A) regular, standardized data reviews of  
18 the accuracy and timely input of data used to  
19 track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

20 (B) verification methods that validate  
21 whether such data accurately correlates to the  
22 hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out  
23 by the Secretary concerned;

1 (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term  
2 effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction  
3 activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

4 (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities  
5 that occur partially within the wildland-urban  
6 interface, methods to distinguish which acres  
7 are located within the wildland-urban interface  
8 and which acres are located outside the  
9 wildland-urban interface.

10 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 weeks after im-  
11 plementing the standardized procedures required  
12 under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall  
13 submit to Congress a report that describes—

14 (A) such standardized procedures; and

15 (B) program and policy recommendations  
16 to Congress to address any limitations in track-  
17 ing data related to hazardous fuels reduction  
18 activities under this subsection.

19 (c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the  
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
21 of the United States shall—

22 (1) conduct a study on the implementation of  
23 this section, including any limitations with respect  
24 to—

1 (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-  
2 tivities under subsection (a); or

3 (B) tracking data related to hazardous  
4 fuels reduction activities under subsection (b);  
5 and

6 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes  
7 the results of the study under paragraph (1).

8 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIV-  
10 ITY.—The term “hazardous fuels reduction activ-  
11 ity”—

12 (A) means any vegetation management ac-  
13 tivity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including  
14 mechanical treatments, grazing, and prescribed  
15 burning; and

16 (B) does not include the awarding of con-  
17 tracts to conduct hazardous fuels reduction ac-  
18 tivities.

19 (2) FEDERAL LANDS.—The term “Federal  
20 lands” means lands under the jurisdiction of the  
21 Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary.

22 (e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No addi-  
23 tional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements  
24 of this section, and the activities authorized by this section

1 are subject to the availability of appropriations made in  
2 advance for such purposes.

3 **SEC. 303. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DE-**  
4 **PLOYMENT AND DEMONSTRATION PARTNER-**  
5 **SHIP.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered  
8 agency” means—

9 (A) each Federal land management agency  
10 (as such term is defined in the Federal Lands  
11 Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C.  
12 6801));

13 (B) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
14 Administration;

15 (C) the United States Fire Administration;

16 (D) the Federal Emergency Management  
17 Agency;

18 (E) the National Aeronautics and Space  
19 Administration;

20 (F) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

21 (G) the Department of Defense;

22 (H) a State, Tribal, county, or municipal  
23 fire department or district operating through  
24 the United States Fire Administration or pur-

1           suant to an agreement with a Federal agency;  
2           and

3           (I) any other Federal agency involved in  
4           wildfire response.

5           (2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-  
6           tity” means—

7           (A) a private entity;

8           (B) a nonprofit organization; or

9           (C) an institution of higher education (as  
10          defined in section 101 of the Higher Education  
11          Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

12          (b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
13          date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordina-  
14          tion with the heads of the covered agencies, shall establish  
15          a deployment and demonstration pilot program (in this  
16          section referred to as “Pilot Program”) for new and inno-  
17          vative wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and  
18          mitigation technologies.

19          (c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program,  
20          the Secretaries shall—

21                 (1) incorporate the Pilot Program into the Na-  
22                 tional Wildfire Coordinating Group;

23                 (2) in consultation with the heads of covered  
24                 agencies, identify and advance the demonstration  
25                 and deployment of key technology priority areas with

1 respect to wildfire prevention, detection, communica-  
2 tion, and mitigation technologies, including—

3 (A) hazardous fuels reduction treatments  
4 or activities;

5 (B) dispatch communications;

6 (C) remote sensing, detection, and track-  
7 ing;

8 (D) safety equipment;

9 (E) common operating pictures or oper-  
10 ational dashboards; and

11 (F) interoperable commercial data; and

12 (3) connect each covered entity selected to partici-  
13 pate in the Pilot Program with the appropriate  
14 covered agency to coordinate real-time and on-the-  
15 ground testing of technology during wildland fire  
16 mitigation activities and training.

17 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to be selected to  
18 participate in the Pilot Program, a covered entity shall  
19 submit to the Secretaries an application at such time, in  
20 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
21 retaries may require, including a proposal to demonstrate  
22 technologies specific to the key technology priority areas  
23 identified pursuant to subsection (c)(2).

24 (e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECH-  
25 NOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in



1 the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to  
2 covered entities—

3 (1) that have participated in the Fire Weather  
4 Testbed of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
5 Administration; or

6 (2) developing and applying emerging tech-  
7 nologies for wildfire mitigation, including artificial  
8 intelligence, quantum sensing, computing and quan-  
9 tum-hybrid applications, thermal mid-wave infrared  
10 equipped low earth orbit satellites, augmented re-  
11 ality, 5G private networks, and device-to-device com-  
12 munications supporting nomadic mesh networks and  
13 detection.

14 (f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination  
15 with the heads of covered agencies, shall make public the  
16 key technology priority areas identified pursuant to sub-  
17 section (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply under  
18 subsection (d) to deploy and demonstrate their tech-  
19 nologies to address such priority areas.

20 (g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later  
21 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and  
22 annually thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Program,  
23 the Secretaries shall submit to the relevant Congressional  
24 Committees, the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-  
25 nology of the House of Representatives, and the Com-

1 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the  
2 Senate a report that includes, with respect to the Pilot  
3 Program, the following:

4 (1) A list of participating covered entities.

5 (2) A brief description of the technologies de-  
6 ployed and demonstrated by each such covered enti-  
7 ty.

8 (3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring each  
9 such technology and applying the technology at  
10 scale.

11 (4) Outreach efforts by Federal agencies to cov-  
12 ered entities developing wildfire technologies.

13 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-  
14 ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and  
15 application at-scale in Federal land management  
16 agencies' wildfire prevention, detection, communica-  
17 tion, and mitigation efforts.

18 (6) A description of the relationship and coordi-  
19 nation between the Pilot Program and the activities  
20 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-  
21 tration, including the Fire Weather Testbed.

22 (h) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section  
23 shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date  
24 of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 304. GAO STUDY ON FOREST SERVICE POLICIES.**

2 Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment  
3 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
4 shall—

5 (1) conduct a study evaluating—

6 (A) the effectiveness of Forest Service  
7 wildland firefighting operations;

8 (B) transparency and accountability meas-  
9 ures in the Forest Service's budget and ac-  
10 counting process; and

11 (C) the suitability and feasibility of estab-  
12 lishing a new Federal agency with the responsi-  
13 bility of responding and suppressing wildland  
14 fires on Federal lands; and

15 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes  
16 the results of the study required under paragraph  
17 (1).

18 **SEC. 305. FOREST SERVICE WESTERN HEADQUARTERS**  
19 **STUDY.**

20 Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment  
21 of this Act, the Chief of the Forest Service shall—

22 (1) conduct a study evaluating—

23 (A) potential locations for a Western head-  
24 quarters for the Forest Service, including po-  
25 tential locations in at least 3 different States lo-  
26 cated west of the Mississippi river; and

1 (B) the potential benefits of creating a  
 2 Western headquarters for the Forest Service,  
 3 including expected—

4 (i) improvements to customer service;

5 (ii) improvements to employee recruit-  
 6 ment and retention; and

7 (iii) operational efficiencies and cost  
 8 savings; and

9 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes  
 10 the results of the study required under paragraph  
 11 (1).

12 **SEC. 306. KEEPING FOREST PLANS CURRENT AND MON-**  
 13 **ITORED.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—

15 (1) to the greatest extent practicable and sub-  
 16 ject to the availability of appropriations made in ad-  
 17 vance for such purpose—

18 (A) ensure forest plans comply with the re-  
 19 quirements of section 6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest  
 20 and Rangeland Resources Planning Act of 1974  
 21 (16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5)(A)); and

22 (B) prioritize revising any forest plan not  
 23 in compliance with such section 6(f)(5)(A);

24 (2) not be considered to be in violation of sec-  
 25 tion 6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland Renew-

1       able Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.  
2       1604(f)(5)(A)) solely because more than 15 years  
3       have passed without revision of the plan for a unit  
4       of the National Forest System;

5               (3) not later than 120 days after the date of  
6       the enactment of this Act, submit to the relevant  
7       Congressional Committees the date on which each  
8       forest plan required by such section 6 was most re-  
9       cently revised, amended, or modified;

10              (4) seek to publish a new, complete version of  
11       a forest plan that the Secretary has been directed to  
12       amend, revise, or modify by a court order within 60  
13       days of such amendment, revision, or modification,  
14       subject to the availability of appropriations made in  
15       advance for such purpose; and

16              (5) maintain a central, publicly accessible  
17       website with links to—

18                      (A) the most recently available forest plan  
19                      adopted, amended, or modified by a court order  
20                      as a single document; and

21                      (B) the most recently published forest plan  
22                      monitoring report for each unit of the National  
23                      Forest System.

24       (b) GOOD FAITH UPDATES.—If the Secretary is not  
25       acting expeditiously and in good faith, within the funding

1 available to revise, amend, or modify a plan for a unit  
2 of the National Forest System as required by law or a  
3 court order, subsection (a) shall be void with respect to  
4 such plan and a court of proper jurisdiction may order  
5 completion of the plan on an accelerated basis.

6 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
7 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
8 a report to the relevant Congressional Committees sum-  
9 marizing the implementation of this section.

10 **SEC. 307. CONTAINER AERIAL FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM**  
11 **(CAFFS).**

12 (a) EVALUATION.—Not later than 90 days after the  
13 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the  
14 Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the National  
15 Interagency Aviation Committee and the Interagency  
16 Airtanker Board, shall jointly conduct an evaluation of the  
17 container aerial firefighting system to assess the use of  
18 such system to mitigate and suppress wildfires.

19 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date  
20 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Sec-  
21 retary of the Interior, in consultation with the National  
22 Interagency Aviation Committee and the Interagency  
23 Airtanker Board, shall jointly submit to the relevant Con-  
24 gressional Committees a report that includes the results  
25 of the evaluation required under subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 308. STUDY ON PINE BEETLE INFESTATION.**

2 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment  
3 of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the  
4 Forest Service, shall—

5 (1) carry out a study on the causes and effects  
6 of, and solutions for, the infestation of pine beetles  
7 in the Northeastern region of the United States; and

8 (2) submit to the relevant Congressional Com-  
9 mittees a report that includes the results of the  
10 study required under paragraph (1).

11 **Subtitle B—White Oak Resilience**

12 **SEC. 311. WHITE OAK RESTORATION INITIATIVE COALI-**  
13 **TION.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The White Oak Restoration Ini-  
15 tiative Coalition shall be established—

16 (1) as a voluntary collaborative group of Fed-  
17 eral, State, Tribal, and local governments and pri-  
18 vate and non-governmental organizations to carry  
19 out the duties described in subsection (b); and

20 (2) in accordance with the charter titled “White  
21 Oak Initiative Coalition Charter” adopted by the  
22 White Oak Initiative Board of Directors on March  
23 21, 2023 (or a successor charter).

24 (b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in  
25 the charter described in subsection (a)(2), the duties of  
26 the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition are—

1           (1) to coordinate Federal, State, Tribal, local,  
2 private, and non-governmental restoration of white  
3 oak in the United States; and

4           (2) to make program and policy recommenda-  
5 tions, consistent with applicable forest management  
6 plans, with respect to—

7                 (A) changes necessary to address Federal  
8 and State policies that impede activities to im-  
9 prove the health, resiliency, and natural regen-  
10 eration of white oak;

11                (B) adopting or modifying Federal and  
12 State policies to increase the pace and scale of  
13 white oak regeneration and resiliency of white  
14 oak;

15                (C) options to enhance communication, co-  
16 ordination, and collaboration between forest  
17 land owners, particularly for cross-boundary  
18 projects, to improve the health, resiliency, and  
19 natural regeneration of white oak;

20                (D) research gaps that should be ad-  
21 dressed to improve the best available science on  
22 white oak;

23                (E) outreach to forest landowners with  
24 white oak or white oak regeneration potential;  
25 and



1           (F) options and policies necessary to im-  
2           prove the quality and quantity of white oak in  
3           tree nurseries.

4           (c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-  
5 ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
6 rior and the Secretary shall make such personnel available  
7 to the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition for ad-  
8 ministrative support, technical services, and development  
9 and dissemination of educational materials as the Secre-  
10 taries determine necessary to carry out this section.

11          (d) PRIVATE FUNDING OF WHITE OAK RESTORA-  
12 TION PROJECTS.—Subject to the availability of appropria-  
13 tions made in advance for such purpose, the Secretary  
14 may make funds available to the White Oak Restoration  
15 Initiative Coalition to carry out this section from the ac-  
16 count established pursuant to section 1241(f) of the Food  
17 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(f)).

18 **SEC. 312. FOREST SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM.**

19          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the  
20 Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out  
21 5 pilot projects in national forests to restore white oak  
22 in such forests through white oak restoration and natural  
23 regeneration practices that are consistent with applicable  
24 forest management plans.

1 (b) NATIONAL FORESTS RESERVED OR WITHDRAWN  
 2 FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.—At least 3 pilot projects re-  
 3 quired under subsection (a) shall be carried out on na-  
 4 tional forests reserved or withdrawn from the public do-  
 5 main.

6 (c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE  
 7 AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative  
 8 agreements to carry out the pilot projects required under  
 9 subsection (a).

10 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
 11 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
 12 the enactment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 313. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WHITE OAK RE-**  
 14 **VIEW AND RESTORATION.**

15 (a) ASSESSMENT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
 17 rior shall carry out an assessment of land under the  
 18 administrative jurisdiction of the Department of the  
 19 Interior, including fish and wildlife refuges and  
 20 abandoned mine land, to evaluate—

21 (A) whether white oak is present on such  
 22 land; and

23 (B) the potential to restore white oak for-  
 24 ests on such land.

1           (2) USE OF INFORMATION.—In carrying out the  
2           assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary may  
3           use information from sources other than the Depart-  
4           ment of the Interior, including from the White Oak  
5           Initiative and the Forest Service.

6           (3) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the  
7           date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary  
8           shall submit to Congress, and make publicly avail-  
9           able on the website of the Department of the Inte-  
10          rior, a report regarding the results of the assessment  
11          carried out under this subsection.

12          (b) PILOT PROJECTS.—After the date on which the  
13          report required under subsection (a)(3) is submitted, the  
14          Secretary shall establish and carry out 5 pilot projects in  
15          different areas of land described in subsection (a)(1) to  
16          restore and naturally regenerate white oak.

17          (c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE  
18          AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of the Interior may enter  
19          into cooperative agreements to carry out the pilot projects  
20          required under subsection (b).

21          (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
22          terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
23          the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 314. WHITE OAK REGENERATION AND UPLAND OAK**  
2 **HABITAT.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
5 establish a non-regulatory program to be known as the  
6 “White Oak and Upland Oak Habitat Regeneration Pro-  
7 gram” (in this section referred to as the “Program”).

8 (b) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Program, the Sec-  
9 retary shall—

10 (1) draw upon the best available science and  
11 management plans for species of white oak to iden-  
12 tify, prioritize, and implement restoration and con-  
13 servation activities that will improve the growth of  
14 white oak within the United States;

15 (2) collaborate and coordinate with the White  
16 Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition to prioritize  
17 white oak restoration initiatives;

18 (3) adopt a white oak restoration strategy  
19 that—

20 (A) supports the implementation of a  
21 shared set of science-based restoration and con-  
22 servation activities developed in accordance with  
23 paragraph (1);

24 (B) targets cost effective projects with  
25 measurable results; and

1 (C) maximizes restoration outcomes with  
2 no net gain of Federal full-time equivalent em-  
3 ployees; and

4 (4) establish the voluntary grant and technical  
5 assistance programs in accordance with subsection  
6 (e).

7 (c) COORDINATION.—In establishing the Program  
8 the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-  
9 ice, shall consult with—

10 (1) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

11 (A) the Director of the United States Fish  
12 and Wildlife Service; and

13 (B) the Chief of the Natural Resources  
14 Conservation Service; and

15 (2) the Governor of each State in which res-  
16 toration efforts will be carried out pursuant to the  
17 Program.

18 (d) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program in-  
19 clude—

20 (1) coordinating restoration and conservation  
21 activities among Federal, State, local, and Tribal en-  
22 tities and conservation partners to address white oak  
23 restoration priorities;

1           (2) improving and regenerating white oak and  
2 upland oak forests and the wildlife habitat such for-  
3 ests provide;

4           (3) carrying out coordinated restoration and  
5 conservation activities that lead to the increased  
6 growth of species of white oak in native white oak  
7 regions on Federal, State, Tribal, and private land;

8           (4) facilitating strategic planning to maximize  
9 the resilience of white oak systems and habitats  
10 under changing climate conditions;

11           (5) engaging the public through outreach, edu-  
12 cation, and citizen involvement to increase capacity  
13 and support for coordinated restoration and con-  
14 servation activities for species of white oak; and

15           (6) increasing scientific capacity to support the  
16 planning, monitoring, and research activities nec-  
17 essary to carry out such coordinated restoration and  
18 conservation activities.

19 (e) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—

20           (1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that funds are  
21 available to carry out this section, the Secretary  
22 shall establish a voluntary grant and technical as-  
23 sistance program (in this section referred to as the  
24 “grant program”) to achieve the purposes of the  
25 Program described in subsection (d).

1 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
3 enter into a cooperative agreement with the Na-  
4 tional Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this  
5 subsection referred to as the “Foundation”) to  
6 manage and administer the grant program.

7 (B) FUNDING.—Subject to the availability  
8 of appropriations made in advance for such  
9 purpose, after the Secretary enters into a coop-  
10 erative agreement with the Foundation under  
11 subparagraph (A), the Foundation shall for  
12 each fiscal year, receive amounts to carry out  
13 this subsection in an advance payment of the  
14 entire amount on October 1, or as soon as prac-  
15 ticable thereafter, of that fiscal year.

16 (3) APPLICATION OF NATIONAL FISH AND  
17 WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.—

18 Amounts received by the Foundation to carry out  
19 the grant program shall be subject to the National  
20 Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16  
21 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), excluding section 10(a) of that  
22 Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)).

23 (f) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
24 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
25 the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 315. TREE NURSERY SHORTAGES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
3 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting  
4 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

5 (1) develop and implement a national strategy  
6 to increase the capacity of Federal, State, Tribal,  
7 and private tree nurseries to address the nationwide  
8 shortage of tree seedlings; and

9 (2) coordinate such strategy with—

10 (A) the national reforestation strategy of  
11 the Forest Service; and

12 (B) each regional implementation plan for  
13 National Forests.

14 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-  
15 section (a) shall—

16 (1) be based on the best available science and  
17 data; and

18 (2) identify and address—

19 (A) regional seedling shortages of bareroot  
20 and container tree seedlings;

21 (B) regional reforestation opportunities  
22 and the seedling supply necessary to fulfill such  
23 opportunities;

24 (C) opportunities to enhance seedling di-  
25 versity and close gaps in seed inventories; and



1 (D) barriers to expanding, enhancing, or  
2 creating new infrastructure to increase nursery  
3 capacity.

4 **SEC. 316. WHITE OAK RESEARCH.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into a  
6 memorandum of understanding with an Indian Tribe or  
7 institution, including a covered land grant college, to col-  
8 laboratively conduct research on—

9 (1) white oak genes with resistance or tolerance  
10 to stress;

11 (2) white oak trees that exhibit vigor for the  
12 purpose of increasing survival and growth;

13 (3) establishing a genetically diverse white oak  
14 seeds bank capable of responding to stressors;

15 (4) providing a sustainable supply of white oak  
16 seedlings and genetic resources;

17 (5) improved methods for aligning seed sources  
18 with the future climate at planting sites;

19 (6) reforestation of white oak through natural  
20 and artificial regeneration;

21 (7) improved methods for retaining and increas-  
22 ing white oak trees in forests;

23 (8) improved methods for reforesting aban-  
24 doned mine land sites; and

1           (9) economic and social aspects of white oak  
2 forest management across land ownerships.

3           (b) CONSULT.—In carrying out the research under  
4 subsection (a), the Indian Tribe or institution, including  
5 a covered land grant college, that enters into the memo-  
6 randum of understanding under such subsection may con-  
7 sult with such States, nonprofit organizations, institutions  
8 of higher education, and other scientific bodies, as the en-  
9 tity subject to such memorandum determines appropriate.

10          (c) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
11 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
12 the enactment of this Act.

13          (d) COVERED LAND GRANT COLLEGE DEFINED.—  
14 In this section, the term “covered land grant college”  
15 means an 1862 Institution, an 1890 Institution, or a 1994  
16 Institution (as such terms are defined, respectively, in sec-  
17 tion 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Edu-  
18 cation Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)).

19 **SEC. 317. USDA FORMAL INITIATIVE.**

20          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the  
21 Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and  
22 in coordination with the Chief of the Forest Service, shall  
23 establish a formal initiative on white oak to—

24           (1) re-establish white oak forests where appro-  
25 priate;

1           (2) improve management of existing white oak  
2 forests to foster natural regeneration of white oak;

3           (3) provide technical assistance to private land-  
4 owners to re-establish, improve management of, and  
5 naturally regenerate white oak;

6           (4) improve and expand white oak nursery  
7 stock; and

8           (5) adapt and improve white oak seedlings.

9           (b) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
10 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
11 the enactment of this Act.

12 **SEC. 318. AUTHORITIES.**

13           To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary of  
14 the Interior and the Secretary shall use the authorities  
15 provided under this title in combination with other au-  
16 thorities to carry out projects, including—

17           (1) good neighbor agreements entered into  
18 under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014  
19 (16 U.S.C. 2113) (as amended by this Act); and

20           (2) stewardship contracting projects entered  
21 into under section 604 of the Healthy Forests Res-  
22 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591) (as amended  
23 by this Act).

1 **TITLE IV—ENSURING CASUALTY**  
2 **ASSISTANCE FOR OUR FIRE-**  
3 **FIGHTERS**

4 **SEC. 401. WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT CASUALTY AS-**  
5 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

6 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later than 6  
7 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
8 Secretary of the Interior shall develop a Wildland Fire  
9 Management Casualty Assistance Program (referred to in  
10 this section as the “Program”) to provide assistance to  
11 the next-of-kin of—

- 12 (1) firefighters who, while in the line of duty,  
13 suffer illness or are critically injured or killed; and  
14 (2) wildland fire support personnel critically in-  
15 jured or killed in the line of duty.

16 (b) ASPECTS OF PROGRAM.—The Program shall ad-  
17 dress the following:

18 (1) The initial and any subsequent notifications  
19 to the next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire sup-  
20 port personnel who—

21 (A) are killed in the line of duty; or

22 (B) require hospitalization or treatment at  
23 a medical facility due to a line-of-duty injury or  
24 illness.

1           (2) The reimbursement of next-of-kin for ex-  
2           penses associated with travel to visit firefighters or  
3           wildland fire support personnel who—

4                   (A) are killed in the line of duty; or

5                   (B) require hospitalization or treatment at  
6           a medical facility due to a line-of-duty injury or  
7           illness.

8           (3) The qualifications, assignment, training, du-  
9           ties, supervision, and accountability for the perform-  
10          ance of casualty assistance responsibilities.

11          (4) The relief or transfer of casualty assistance  
12          officers, including notification to survivors of critical  
13          injury or illness in the line of duty and next-of-kin  
14          of the reassignment of such officers to other duties.

15          (5) Centralized, short-term and long-term case  
16          management procedures for casualty assistance, in-  
17          cluding rapid access by survivors of firefighters or  
18          wildland fire support personnel and casualty assist-  
19          ance officers to expert case managers and coun-  
20          selors.

21          (6) The provision, through a computer acces-  
22          sible website and other means and at no cost to sur-  
23          vivors and next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire  
24          support personnel, of personalized, integrated infor-

1       mation on the benefits and financial assistance avail-  
2       able to such survivors from the Federal Government.

3           (7) The provision of information to survivors  
4       and next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire sup-  
5       port personnel on mechanisms for registering com-  
6       plaints about, or requests for, additional assistance  
7       related to casualty assistance.

8           (8) Liaison with the Department of the Inte-  
9       rior, the Department of Justice, and the Social Se-  
10      curity Administration to ensure prompt and accurate  
11      resolution of issues relating to benefits administered  
12      by those agencies for survivors of firefighters or  
13      wildland fire support personnel.

14          (9) Data collection, in consultation with the  
15      United States Fire Administration and the National  
16      Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, re-  
17      garding the incidence and quality of casualty assist-  
18      ance provided to survivors of firefighters or wildland  
19      fire support personnel.

20      (c) LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH BENEFITS.—The Pro-  
21      gram shall not affect existing authorities for Line-of-Duty  
22      Death benefits for Federal firefighters and wildland fire  
23      support personnel.

24      (d) NEXT-OF-KIN DEFINED.—In this section, the  
25      term “next-of-kin” means a person or persons in the high-

1 est category of priority as determined by the following list  
2 (categories appear in descending order of priority):

3 (1) Surviving legal spouse.

4 (2) Children (whether by current or prior mar-  
5 riage) age 18 years or older in descending order of  
6 precedence by age.

7 (3) Father or mother, unless custody has been  
8 vested, by court order, in another (adoptive parent  
9 takes precedence over natural parent).

10 (4) Siblings (whole or half) age 18 years or  
11 older in descending order of precedence by age.

12 (5) Grandfather or grandmother.

13 (6) Any other relative (order of precedence to  
14 be determined in accordance with the civil law of de-  
15 scent of the deceased former member's State of  
16 domicile at time of death).

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