

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 3.27  
(ID # 27569)

**MEETING DATE:**

Tuesday, April 08, 2025

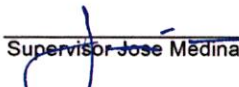
**FROM :** SUPERVISOR JOSE MEDINA AND SUPERVISOR KAREN SPIEGEL

**SUBJECT:** SUPERVISOR JOSE MEDINA AND SUPERVISOR KAREN SPIEGEL: FIRE/EMS  
AD HOC: Support legislative priorities [All Districts] [\$0]

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Board Chair to sign letters of support for Assembly Bill 1 (Connolly- D) and House Resolution 471 (Westerman- R).
2. Direct the Executive Office to track fire related legislation of interest to the County and report advocacy updates to the Fire/EMD Ad Hoc Committee.

**ACTION:**Policy

  
Supervisor Jose Medina

4/3/2025

  
Supervisor Karen Spiegel, Supervisor 2nd District

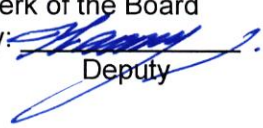
4/3/2025

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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

On motion of Supervisor Spiegel, seconded by Supervisor Washington and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: April 8, 2025  
xc: BOS-D1, BOS-D2, EO

Kimberly A. Rector  
Clerk of the Board  
By:   
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

One of the County's top legislative priorities is to pave the way for resilient, ready, and connected communities. In the wake of the historically damaging January wildfire disasters in Los Angeles County, renewed attention is being paid by the state and federal governments to wildfire prevention, readiness, and recovery, as well as the homeowners insurance crisis. The County of Riverside has dealt with these issues repeatedly, with the most recent large-scale example being the Airport Fire in September and October of 2024.

While much of the attention is currently being paid to Los Angeles, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that Riverside County is also part of these discussions taking place in Sacramento and Washington, DC, as even those efforts that exclusively apply to the January fires today, might be applied to other jurisdictions in the future.

On September 10, 2024, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to request that the California Insurance Commissioner, State Legislature, and Governor declare a state of emergency and take immediate emergency regulatory and legislative action to strengthen and stabilize California's marketplace for homeowners' insurance and commercial property insurance. By directing the Executive Office to track fire related legislation of interest to the County, and report advocacy updates to the Fire/EMD Ad Hoc Committee, the County could better focus its advocacy efforts.

There are two legislative proposals that appear to be ahead of the curve regarding these issues:

- California Assembly Bill 1: Authored by Assembly Member Damon Connolly (D-12), would require the Department of Insurance to review its rate-setting process to potentially incentivize additional building hardening measures and community-wide wildfire mitigation programs, by providing discounted rates to those who implement such efforts.
- House Resolution 471: Authored by Representative Bruce Westerman (R-AR-4), aims to enhance forest management and reduce wildfire risks through interagency coordination, expedited processes, and innovative strategies, while also addressing vegetation management, reforestation, and technology deployment, with a focus on collaboration across federal, state, and tribal entities, and includes support for firefighters' families.

The Fire/EMD Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the full Board of Supervisors support these initial fire-related bills, and that the Executive Office continue to monitor legislation for

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

opportunities to engage in support of legislation and funding for wildfire prevention, preparedness, and recovery in Riverside County.

**Impact on Residents and Businesses:** Changes in state and federal law, and increases in funding to support wildfire prevention, preparedness, and recovery could benefit Riverside County residents who live in severe fire hazard areas.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Assembly Bill 1 Bill Text

House Resolution 471 Bill Text

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Connolly  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Calderon and Rivas)**

December 2, 2024

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An act to add Article 5 (commencing with Section 2095) to Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 2 of the Insurance Code, relating to insurance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1, as introduced, Connolly. Residential property insurance: wildfire risk.

Existing law generally regulates classes of insurance, including property and fire insurance. Existing law creates the Department of Insurance, headed by the Insurance Commissioner, and prescribes the department's powers and duties. Existing department regulations prohibit an insurer from using a rating plan that does not take into account and reflect specified wildfire risk mitigation, including property-level building hardening measures.

This bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2030, and every 5 years thereafter, to consider whether or not to update its regulations to include additional building hardening measures for property-level mitigation efforts and communitywide wildfire mitigation programs. As part of this consideration, the bill would require the department to consult with specified agencies to identify additional building hardening measures to consider, as well as to develop and implement a public participation process during the evaluation.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Article 5 (commencing with Section 2095) is added to Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 2 of the Insurance Code, to read:

Article 5. Reduced Wildfire Risk

2095. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) More than 2,000,000 California households, or approximately one in four residential structures in California, are located within or near “high” or “very high” fire hazard severity zones. These households are particularly vulnerable to increasingly catastrophic wildfires that pose urgent threats to lives, property, and resources in California.

(b) The state has invested nearly three billion dollars (\$3,000,000,000) since the Budget Act of 2019 into programs and projects to improve forest health and resilience, create fuel breaks, harden homes and communities, and build resilient lifeline infrastructure to withstand wildfire disasters when they do occur.

(c) Chapter 391 of the Statutes of 2019, which created the California Wildfire Mitigation Program jointly administered by the Office of Emergency Services and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, recognized that “California must develop statewide options to encourage cost-effective structure hardening to create fire-resistant homes, businesses, and public buildings within wildfire hazard areas and with a focus on vulnerable communities.”

(d) State support for home hardening incentive programs is especially critical now. California residents are finding homeowners’ insurance in very high risk fire areas to be increasingly difficult and costly to obtain, if coverage is even available. The Department of Insurance determined that the majority of nonrenewals, refusals to insure, and increased premiums resulted from insurers’ use of wildfire risk models that do not account for wildfire risk reduction or home hardening measures completed by the homeowner or community.

(e) On September 21, 2023, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order No. N-13-23 asking the Insurance Commissioner to take “prompt regulatory action to strengthen and stabilize California’s

1 marketplace for homeowners insurance and commercial property  
2 insurance,” including maintaining “the long-term availability of  
3 homeowners and commercial property insurance coverage.”

4 (f) Regular review of and updates to the Department of  
5 Insurance’s Safer from Wildfires regulations will advance these  
6 goals. The Safer from Wildfires regulations incentivize  
7 homeowners to invest in specified wildfire risk reduction and home  
8 hardening measures by requiring admitted insurers to reflect and  
9 take into account these measures in their ratings plans. The  
10 voluntary home hardening measures included in the Safer from  
11 Wildfires regulations provide a higher level of fire protection than  
12 what is otherwise required by state law and help contain the spread  
13 of wildfires, reduce property damage, save lives, and encourage  
14 insurance companies to remain committed to the California  
15 insurance market.

16 (g) It is the intent of the Legislature to further incentivize  
17 homeowners to invest in demonstrably effective home hardening  
18 measures by requiring the Department of Insurance to periodically  
19 review its Safer from Wildfires regulations and consider whether  
20 or not to amend the regulations to include additional  
21 communitywide mitigation programs and building hardening  
22 measures, including use of specified noncombustible construction  
23 materials that are included by the Office of the State Fire Marshal  
24 on the Building Materials Listing. Noncombustible construction  
25 materials, as defined by the California Building Standards Code  
26 (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations), provide the  
27 highest level of fire safety among materials included on the  
28 Building Materials Listing because these materials do not ignite,  
29 even when exposed to high temperatures for extended periods of  
30 time. Use of noncombustible construction materials is an effective  
31 means of reducing fire-related property damage and the  
32 contribution of structures to the spread of wildfires.

33 (h) The Building Materials Listing includes construction  
34 materials that have been tested and analyzed by a laboratory  
35 accredited by the Office of the State Fire Marshal to confirm the  
36 materials meet established performance and reliability features.

37 2096. For purposes of this article:

38 (a) “Building Materials Listing” means the list of construction  
39 materials and equipment biennially prepared by the Office of the  
40 State Fire Marshal pursuant to Section 13144.1 of the Health and

1 Safety Code as part of the Office of the State Fire Marshal's  
2 Building Materials Listing Program.

3 (b) "Safer from Wildfires regulations" means the regulations  
4 set forth in Section 2644.9 of Title 10 of California Code of  
5 Regulations.

6 2097. (a) (1) On or before January 1, 2030, and every five  
7 years thereafter, the department shall consider whether to update  
8 the Safer from Wildfires regulations to include additional building  
9 hardening measures for property-level mitigation efforts and  
10 communitywide wildfire mitigation programs.

11 (2) If the department updates the Safer from Wildfires  
12 regulations, it shall, as a part of its first consideration, consider  
13 whether to update these regulations to include in the regulations  
14 the installation of construction materials included by the Office of  
15 the State Fire Marshal on the Building Materials Listing or in  
16 compliance with the most recent provisions of Chapter 7A of the  
17 California Building Standards Code.

18 (b) As part of its consideration pursuant to subdivision (a), the  
19 department shall do both of the following:

20 (1) Consult with the Office of Emergency Services, the  
21 Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Public Utilities  
22 Commission, and the Office of Planning and Research to identify  
23 additional building hardening measures for property-level  
24 mitigation efforts and communitywide wildfire mitigation programs  
25 to consider.

26 (2) Consult with relevant stakeholders to consider potential  
27 revisions to the Safer from Wildfires regulations.

28 (3) Develop and implement a process that allows for meaningful  
29 public participation that includes, at a minimum, all of the  
30 following:

31 (A) Holding at least one public meeting to allow interested  
32 persons to submit suggestions for additional building hardening  
33 measures for property-level mitigation efforts and communitywide  
34 wildfire mitigation programs for the department to consider.

35 (B) Making available for public review and comment, including  
36 during at least one public meeting, a preliminary list of building  
37 hardening measures for property-level mitigation efforts and  
38 communitywide wildfire mitigation programs being considered  
39 by the department for inclusion in the Safer from Wildfires  
40 regulations.

(C) Making available to the public a final list of building hardening measures for property-level mitigation efforts and communitywide wildfire mitigation programs the department proposes to include in the list of building hardening measures identified in the Safer from Wildfires regulations before amending the regulations pursuant to the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

(c) If the department makes public a final list of building hardening measures for property-level mitigation efforts and communitywide wildfire mitigation programs to be included in the list of building hardening measures identified in the Safer from Wildfires regulations pursuant to subparagraph (C) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), the department shall initiate the Administrative Procedure Act rulemaking process to amend the Safer from Wildfires regulations within 30 days of publishing the final list.

**CORRECTIONS:**

**Heading—Line 2.**



119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 471

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Fix Our Forests Act”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
5 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 main-  
tenance relating to electric transmission and distribution facil-  
ity 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.
- Sec. 309. Fire safe electrical corridors.

## 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  
8 threat where a response strategy could influence the  
9 wildfire outcome.

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

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

7           (5) FOREST PLAN.—The term “forest plan”  
8       means—

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

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

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

24          (6) GOVERNOR.—The term “Governor” means  
25       the Governor or any other appropriate executive offi-

1        cial of an affected State or Indian Tribe or the Com-  
2        monwealth of Puerto Rico.

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

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

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

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

24                    (B)(i)(I) is Indian forest land (as defined  
25                    in section 304 of the National Indian Forest

1           Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103));  
2           or

3                               (II) has a cover of grasses,  
4                               brush, or any similar vegetation; or  
5                               (ii) formerly had a forest cover or veg-  
6                               etative cover that is capable of restoration.

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

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

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

22          (13) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
23          TEES.—The term “relevant Congressional Commit-  
24          tees” means—

1 (A) the Committees on Natural Resources  
2 and Agriculture of the House of Representa-  
3 tives; and

4 (B) the Committees on Energy and Nat-  
5 ural Resources and Agriculture, Nutrition, and  
6 Forestry of the Senate.

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

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

14 (A) the Secretary of the Interior; and

15 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

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

18 (17) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term  
19 “Secretary concerned” means—

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

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

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

4                       (A) has significant budgetary autonomy or  
5       control;

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

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

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

15       **TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE**  
16       **RESTORATION**

17       **Subtitle A—Addressing Emergency**  
18       **Wildfire Risks in High Priority**  
19       **Firesheds**

20       **SEC. 101. DESIGNATION OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT**  
21       **AREAS.**

22           (a) DESIGNATION OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT  
23       AREAS.—

24                      (1) INITIAL DESIGNATIONS.—For the period be-  
25       ginning on the date of enactment of this Act and



1 ending on the date that is 5 years after the date of  
2 enactment of this Act, there are designated fireshed  
3 management areas, which—

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

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

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

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

24 (iii) risk of forest conversion due to  
25 wildfire;

1 (C) shall not overlap with any other  
2 fireshed management areas;

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

6 (E) where the Secretary concerned shall  
7 carry out fireshed management projects.

8 (2) FURTHER FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREA  
9 DESIGNATIONS.—

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

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

1 specified in subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and  
2 (E) of paragraph (1).

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

7 **SEC. 102. FIRESHED CENTER.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

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

17 (2) COMPOSITION.—

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

- 20 (i) Technology and Engineering.
- 21 (ii) Data Services.
- 22 (iii) Analysis and Prediction.
- 23 (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 fireshed 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  
2 cybersecurity 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           fireshed 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 fireshed management area;

6           (B) identifies potential fireshed manage-  
7           ment projects to be carried out in such fireshed  
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 sessments 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 fireshed 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(c)(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)—

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

(B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

(i) in clause (i)—

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

(II) in subclause (I)—

(aa) by striking “on”; and

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

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

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

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

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

“(bb) approved by the Fed-  
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 fireshed 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(c)(3)(E) of such Act (43 U.S.C.  
 15 1772(c)(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 refo-  
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 potential to create new  
16                jobs and contribute to local economies, particu-  
17                larly in rural areas;

18                (B) have the most potential to dem-  
19                onstrate—

20                   (i) new and innovative uses of biochar;

21                   (ii) market viability for cost effective  
22                   biochar-based products;

23                   (iii) the restorative benefits of biochar  
24                   with respect to forest health and resiliency,  
25                   including forest soils and watersheds; or

1 (iv) any combination of purposes spec-  
2 ified in clauses (i) through (iii);

3 (C) are located in areas that have a high  
4 need for biochar production, as determined by  
5 the covered Secretaries, due to—

6 (i) nearby lands identified as having  
7 high or very high or extreme risk of wild-  
8 fire;

9 (ii) availability of sufficient quantities  
10 of feedstocks; or

11 (iii) a high level of demand for  
12 biochar or other commercial byproducts of  
13 biochar; or

14 (D) satisfy any combination of purposes  
15 specified in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

16 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the pro-  
17 gram established under paragraph (1)(A), the cov-  
18 ered Secretaries may enter into partnerships and  
19 provide funding to such partnerships to carry out  
20 demonstration projects to—

21 (A) acquire and test various feedstocks and  
22 their efficacy;

23 (B) develop and optimize commercially and  
24 technologically viable biochar production units,  
25 including mobile and permanent units;

1 (C) demonstrate—

2 (i) the production of biochar from for-  
3 est residue; and

4 (ii) the use of biochar to restore forest  
5 health and resiliency;

6 (D) build, expand, or establish biochar fa-  
7 cilities;

8 (E) conduct research on new and innova-  
9 tive uses of biochar;

10 (F) demonstrate cost-effective market op-  
11 portunities for biochar and biochar-based prod-  
12 ucts;

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

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

17 (5) FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS.—To the max-  
18 imum extent practicable, an eligible entity that car-  
19 ries out a biochar demonstration project under this  
20 subsection shall, with respect to the feedstock used  
21 under such project, derive at least 50 percent of  
22 such feedstock from forest thinning and manage-  
23 ment activities, including mill residues, conducted on  
24 National Forest System lands or public lands.

25 (6) REVIEW OF BIOCHAR DEMONSTRATION.—



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

8 (i) the effects of such biochar on—

9 (I) forest health and resiliency;

10 (II) carbon capture and seques-  
11 tration, including increasing soil car-  
12 bon in the short-term and long-term;

13 (III) productivity, reduced input  
14 costs, and water retention in agricul-  
15 tural practices;

16 (IV) the health of soil and grass-  
17 lands used for grazing activities, in-  
18 cluding grazing activities on National  
19 Forest System land and public land;  
20 and

21 (V) environmental remediation  
22 activities, including abandoned mine  
23 land remediation;

1 (ii) the effectiveness of biochar as a  
2 co-product of biofuels or in biochemicals;  
3 and

4 (iii) the effectiveness of other poten-  
5 tial uses of biochar to determine if any  
6 such use is technologically and commer-  
7 cially viable.

8 (B) COORDINATION.—The covered Secre-  
9 taries shall, to the maximum extent practicable,  
10 provide data, analyses, and other relevant infor-  
11 mation collected under subparagraph (A) with  
12 recipients of a grant under subsection (b).

13 (7) LIMITATION ON FUNDING FOR ESTAB-  
14 LISHING BIOCHAR FACILITIES.—If the covered Sec-  
15 retaries provide to an eligible entity that enters into  
16 a partnership with the covered Secretaries under  
17 paragraph (1)(A) funding for establishing a biochar  
18 facility, such funding may not exceed 35 percent of  
19 the total capital cost of establishing such biochar fa-  
20 cility.

21 (b) BIOCHAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT  
22 PROGRAM.—

23 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the In-  
24 terior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy,  
25 shall establish or expand an existing applied biochar

1 research and development grant program to make  
2 competitive grants to eligible institutions to carry  
3 out the activities described in paragraph (3).

4 (2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
5 grant under this subsection, an eligible institution  
6 shall submit to the Secretary a proposal at such  
7 time, in such manner, and containing such informa-  
8 tion as the Secretary may require.

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

12 (A) the effect of biochar on forest health  
13 and resiliency, accounting for variations in  
14 biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

15 (B) the effect of biochar on soil health and  
16 water retention, accounting for variations in  
17 biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

18 (C) the long-term carbon sequestration po-  
19 tential of biochar;

20 (D) the best management practices with  
21 respect to biochar and biochar-based products  
22 that maximize—

23 (i) carbon sequestration benefits; and

24 (ii) the commercial viability and appli-  
25 cation of such products in forestry, agri-

1 culture, environmental remediation, water  
2 quality improvement, and any other similar  
3 uses, as determined by the Secretary;

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

6 (i) uses in agriculture and environ-  
7 mental remediation; and

8 (ii) use as a co-product in fuel produc-  
9 tion;

10 (F) new and innovative uses for biochar  
11 byproducts; and

12 (G) opportunities to expand markets for  
13 biochar and create related jobs, particularly in  
14 rural areas.

15 (c) REPORTS.—

16 (1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2  
17 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
18 covered Secretaries shall submit to Congress a re-  
19 port that—

20 (A) includes policy and program rec-  
21 ommendations to improve the widespread use of  
22 biochar;

23 (B) identifies any area of research needed  
24 to advance biochar commercialization; and

1 (C) identifies barriers to further biochar  
2 commercialization, including permitting and  
3 siting considerations.

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

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

19 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) BIOCHAR.—The term “biochar” means car-  
21 bonized biomass produced by converting feedstock  
22 through reductive thermal processing for non-fuel  
23 uses.

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

1 (A) a State, local, special district, or Tribal  
2 government;

3 (B) an eligible institution;

4 (C) a private, non-private, or cooperative  
5 entity or organization;

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

9 (E) a partnership or consortium of two or  
10 more entities described in subparagraphs (A)  
11 through (D).

12 (3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-  
13 ble institution” means land-grant colleges and uni-  
14 versities, including institutions eligible for funding  
15 under the—

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

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

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

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

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

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

7                   (A) the Secretary, acting through the Chief  
 8                   of the Forest Service;

9                   (B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting  
 10                  through the Director of the Bureau of Land  
 11                  Management; and

12                  (C) the Secretary of Energy, acting  
 13                  through the Director of the Office of Science.

14 **SEC. 302. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**  
 15 **PORTS.**

16           (a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION  
 17           REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE  
 18           PRESIDENT’S BUDGET.—

19                   (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fis-  
 20                   cal year that begins after the date of enactment of  
 21                   this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-  
 22                   retary concerned shall include in the materials sub-  
 23                   mitted to Congress in support of the President’s  
 24                   budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United  
 25                   States Code, a report on the number of acres of

1 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned car-  
2 ried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during  
3 the preceding fiscal year.

4 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of the re-  
5 port required under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
6 concerned shall—

7 (A) in determining the number of acres of  
8 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned  
9 carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities  
10 during the period covered by the report—

11 (i) record acres of Federal land on  
12 which hazardous fuels reduction activities  
13 were completed during such period; and

14 (ii) record each acre described in  
15 clause (i) once in the report, regardless of  
16 whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction  
17 activities were carried out on such acre  
18 during such period; and

19 (B) with respect to the acres of Federal  
20 land recorded in the report, include information  
21 on—

22 (i) which such acres are located in the  
23 wildland-urban interface;



1 (ii) the level of wildfire risk (high,  
2 moderate, or low) on the first and last day  
3 of the period covered by the report;

4 (iii) the types of hazardous fuels ac-  
5 tivities completed for such acres, delin-  
6 eating between whether such activities  
7 were conducted—

8 (I) in a wildfire managed for re-  
9 source benefits; or

10 (II) through a planned project;

11 (iv) the cost per acre of hazardous  
12 fuels activities carried out during the pe-  
13 riod covered by the report;

14 (v) the region or system unit in which  
15 the acres are located; and

16 (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous  
17 fuels reduction activities on reducing the  
18 risk of wildfire.

19 (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned  
20 shall make each report submitted under paragraph  
21 (1) publicly available on the websites of the Depart-  
22 ment of Agriculture and the Department of the Inte-  
23 rior, as applicable.

24 (b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

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

6           (2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures  
7           required under paragraph (1) shall include—

8                   (A) regular, standardized data reviews of  
9                   the accuracy and timely input of data used to  
10                  track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

11                  (B) verification methods that validate  
12                  whether such data accurately correlates to the  
13                  hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out  
14                  by the Secretary concerned;

15                  (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term  
16                  effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction  
17                  activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

18                  (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities  
19                  that occur partially within the wildland-urban  
20                  interface, methods to distinguish which acres  
21                  are located within the wildland-urban interface  
22                  and which acres are located outside the  
23                  wildland-urban interface.

24           (3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 weeks after im-  
25           plementing the standardized procedures required

1 under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall  
2 submit to Congress a report that describes—

3 (A) such standardized procedures; and

4 (B) program and policy recommendations  
5 to Congress to address any limitations in track-  
6 ing data related to hazardous fuels reduction  
7 activities under this subsection.

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

11 (1) conduct a study on the implementation of  
12 this section, including any limitations with respect  
13 to—

14 (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-  
15 tivities under subsection (a); or

16 (B) tracking data related to hazardous  
17 fuels reduction activities under subsection (b);  
18 and

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

21 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIV-  
23 ITY.—The term “hazardous fuels reduction activ-  
24 ity”—

1 (A) means any vegetation management ac-  
 2 tivity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including  
 3 mechanical treatments, grazing, and prescribed  
 4 burning; and

5 (B) does not include the awarding of con-  
 6 tracts to conduct hazardous fuels reduction ac-  
 7 tivities.

8 (2) FEDERAL LANDS.—The term “Federal  
 9 lands” means lands under the jurisdiction of the  
 10 Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary.

11 (e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No addi-  
 12 tional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements  
 13 of this section, and the activities authorized by this section  
 14 are subject to the availability of appropriations made in  
 15 advance for such purposes.

16 **SEC. 303. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DE-**  
 17 **PLOYMENT AND DEMONSTRATION PARTNER-**  
 18 **SHIP.**

19 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered  
 21 agency” means—

22 (A) each Federal land management agency  
 23 (as such term is defined in the Federal Lands  
 24 Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C.  
 25 6801));

1 (B) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
2 Administration;

3 (C) the United States Fire Administration;

4 (D) the Federal Emergency Management  
5 Agency;

6 (E) the National Aeronautics and Space  
7 Administration;

8 (F) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

9 (G) the Department of Defense;

10 (H) a State, Tribal, county, or municipal  
11 fire department or district operating through  
12 the United States Fire Administration or pur-  
13 suant to an agreement with a Federal agency;  
14 and

15 (I) any other Federal agency involved in  
16 wildfire response.

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

19 (A) a private entity;

20 (B) a nonprofit organization; or

21 (C) an institution of higher education (as  
22 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education  
23 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

24 (b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
25 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordina-

1 tion with the heads of the covered agencies, shall establish  
2 a deployment and demonstration pilot program (in this  
3 section referred to as “Pilot Program”) for new and inno-  
4 vative wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and  
5 mitigation technologies.

6 (c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program,  
7 the Secretaries shall—

8 (1) incorporate the Pilot Program into the Na-  
9 tional Wildfire Coordinating Group;

10 (2) in consultation with the heads of covered  
11 agencies, identify and advance the demonstration  
12 and deployment of key technology priority areas with  
13 respect to wildfire prevention, detection, communica-  
14 tion, and mitigation technologies, including—

15 (A) hazardous fuels reduction treatments  
16 or activities;

17 (B) dispatch communications;

18 (C) remote sensing, detection, and track-  
19 ing;

20 (D) safety equipment;

21 (E) common operating pictures or oper-  
22 ational dashboards; and

23 (F) interoperable commercial data; and

24 (3) connect each covered entity selected to par-  
25 ticipate in the Pilot Program with the appropriate

1 covered agency to coordinate real-time and on-the-  
2 ground testing of technology during wildland fire  
3 mitigation activities and training.

4 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to be selected to  
5 participate in the Pilot Program, a covered entity shall  
6 submit to the Secretaries an application at such time, in  
7 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
8 retaries may require, including a proposal to demonstrate  
9 technologies specific to the key technology priority areas  
10 identified pursuant to subsection (c)(2).

11 (e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECH-  
12 NOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in  
13 the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to  
14 covered entities—

15 (1) that have participated in the Fire Weather  
16 Testbed of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
17 Administration; or

18 (2) developing and applying emerging tech-  
19 nologies for wildfire mitigation, including artificial  
20 intelligence, quantum sensing, computing and quan-  
21 tum-hybrid applications, thermal mid-wave infrared  
22 equipped low earth orbit satellites, augmented re-  
23 ality, 5G private networks, and device-to-device com-  
24 munications supporting nomadic mesh networks and  
25 detection.

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

7       (g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later  
8 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and  
9 annually thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Program,  
10 the Secretaries shall submit to the relevant Congressional  
11 Committees, the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-  
12 nology of the House of Representatives, and the Com-  
13 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the  
14 Senate a report that includes, with respect to the Pilot  
15 Program, the following:

16           (1) A list of participating covered entities.

17           (2) A brief description of the technologies de-  
18 ployed and demonstrated by each such covered enti-  
19 ty.

20           (3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring each  
21 such technology and applying the technology at  
22 scale.

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



1           (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-  
2           ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and  
3           application at-scale in Federal land management  
4           agencies' wildfire prevention, detection, communica-  
5           tion, and mitigation efforts.

6           (6) A description of the relationship and coordi-  
7           nation between the Pilot Program and the activities  
8           of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-  
9           tration, including the Fire Weather Testbed.

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

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

14          Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment  
15          of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
16          shall—

17               (1) conduct a study evaluating—

18                       (A) the effectiveness of Forest Service  
19                       wildland firefighting operations;

20                       (B) transparency and accountability meas-  
21                       ures in the Forest Service's budget and ac-  
22                       counting process; and

23                       (C) the suitability and feasibility of estab-  
24                       lishing a new Federal agency with the responsi-

1           bility of responding and suppressing wildland  
2           fires on Federal lands; and

3           (2) submit to Congress a report that describes  
4       the results of the study required under paragraph  
5       (1).

6 **SEC. 305. FOREST SERVICE WESTERN HEADQUARTERS**  
7           **STUDY.**

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

10           (1) conduct a study evaluating—

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

15                   (B) the potential benefits of creating a  
16                   Western headquarters for the Forest Service,  
17                   including expected—

18                           (i) improvements to customer service;

19                           (ii) improvements to employee recruit-  
20                           ment and retention; and

21                           (iii) operational efficiencies and cost  
22                           savings; and

23           (2) submit to Congress a report that describes  
24       the results of the study required under paragraph  
25       (1).

1 **SEC. 306. KEEPING FOREST PLANS CURRENT AND MON-**  
2 **ITORED.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—

4 (1) to the greatest extent practicable and sub-  
5 ject to the availability of appropriations made in ad-  
6 vance for such purpose—

7 (A) ensure forest plans comply with the re-  
8 quirements of section 6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest  
9 and Rangeland Resources Planning Act of 1974  
10 (16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5)(A)); and

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

13 (2) not be considered to be in violation of sec-  
14 tion 6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland Renew-  
15 able Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.  
16 1604(f)(5)(A)) solely because more than 15 years  
17 have passed without revision of the plan for a unit  
18 of the National Forest System;

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

24 (4) seek to publish a new, complete version of  
25 a forest plan that the Secretary has been directed to  
26 amend, revise, or modify by a court order within 60

1 days of such amendment, revision, or modification,  
2 subject to the availability of appropriations made in  
3 advance for such purpose; and

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

6 (A) the most recently available forest plan  
7 adopted, amended, or modified by a court order  
8 as a single document; and

9 (B) the most recently published forest plan  
10 monitoring report for each unit of the National  
11 Forest System.

12 (b) GOOD FAITH UPDATES.—If the Secretary is not  
13 acting expeditiously and in good faith, within the funding  
14 available to revise, amend, or modify a plan for a unit  
15 of the National Forest System as required by law or a  
16 court order, subsection (a) shall be void with respect to  
17 such plan and a court of proper jurisdiction may order  
18 completion of the plan on an accelerated basis.

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

1 **SEC. 307. CONTAINER AERIAL FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM**  
2 **(CAFFS).**

3 (a) EVALUATION.—Not later than 90 days after the  
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the  
5 Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the National  
6 Interagency Aviation Committee and the Interagency  
7 Airtanker Board, shall jointly conduct an evaluation of the  
8 container aerial firefighting system to assess the use of  
9 such system to mitigate and suppress wildfires.

10 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date  
11 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Sec-  
12 retary of the Interior, in consultation with the National  
13 Interagency Aviation Committee and the Interagency  
14 Airtanker Board, shall jointly submit to the relevant Con-  
15 gressional Committees a report that includes the results  
16 of the evaluation required under subsection (a).

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

18 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment  
19 of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the  
20 Forest Service, shall—

- 21 (1) carry out a study on the causes and effects  
22 of, and solutions for, the infestation of pine beetles  
23 in the Northeastern region of the United States; and  
24 (2) submit to the relevant Congressional Com-  
25 mittees a report that includes the results of the  
26 study required under paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 309. FIRE SAFE ELECTRICAL CORRIDORS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—In any special use permit or ease-  
3 ment on National Forest System land provided to an elec-  
4 trical utility, the Secretary may provide permission to cut  
5 and remove trees or other vegetation from within the vicin-  
6 ity of distribution lines or transmission lines without re-  
7 quiring a separate timber sale, if that cutting and removal  
8 is consistent with—

9 (1) the applicable land and resource manage-  
10 ment plan; and

11 (2) other applicable environmental laws (includ-  
12 ing regulations).

13 (b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—A special use permit or  
14 easement that includes permission for cutting and removal  
15 described in subsection (a) shall include a requirement  
16 that, if the applicable electrical utility sells any portion  
17 of the material removed under the permit or easement,  
18 the electrical utility shall provide to the Secretary, acting  
19 through the Chief of the Forest Service, any proceeds re-  
20 ceived from the sale, less any transportation costs incurred  
21 in the sale.

22 (c) EFFECT.—Nothing in subsection (b) shall require  
23 the sale of any material removed under a permit or ease-  
24 ment that includes permission for cutting and removal de-  
25 scribed in subsection (a).

1     **Subtitle B—White Oak Resilience**

2     **SEC. 311. WHITE OAK RESTORATION INITIATIVE COALI-**  
3                     **TION.**

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

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

10                (2) in accordance with the charter titled “White  
11             Oak Initiative Coalition Charter” adopted by the  
12             White Oak Initiative Board of Directors on March  
13             21, 2023 (or a successor charter).

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

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

20                 (2) to make program and policy recommenda-  
21             tions, consistent with applicable forest management  
22             plans, with respect to—

23                         (A) changes necessary to address Federal  
24             and State policies that impede activities to im-

1           prove the health, resiliency, and natural regen-  
2           eration of white oak;

3                 (B) adopting or modifying Federal and  
4           State policies to increase the pace and scale of  
5           white oak regeneration and resiliency of white  
6           oak;

7                 (C) options to enhance communication, co-  
8           ordination, and collaboration between forest  
9           land owners, particularly for cross-boundary  
10          projects, to improve the health, resiliency, and  
11          natural regeneration of white oak;

12                (D) research gaps that should be ad-  
13          dressed to improve the best available science on  
14          white oak;

15                (E) outreach to forest landowners with  
16          white oak or white oak regeneration potential;  
17          and

18                (F) options and policies necessary to im-  
19          prove the quality and quantity of white oak in  
20          tree nurseries.

21          (c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-  
22          ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
23          rior and the Secretary shall make such personnel available  
24          to the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition for ad-  
25          ministrative support, technical services, and development



1 and dissemination of educational materials as the Secre-  
2 taries determine necessary to carry out this section.

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

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

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the  
12 Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out  
13 5 pilot projects in national forests to restore white oak  
14 in such forests through white oak restoration and natural  
15 regeneration practices that are consistent with applicable  
16 forest management plans.

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

22 (c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE  
23 AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative  
24 agreements to carry out the pilot projects required under  
25 subsection (a).

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

4 **SEC. 313. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WHITE OAK RE-**  
5 **VIEW AND RESTORATION.**

6 (a) ASSESSMENT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
8 rior shall carry out an assessment of land under the  
9 administrative jurisdiction of the Department of the  
10 Interior, including fish and wildlife refuges and  
11 abandoned mine land, to evaluate—

12 (A) whether white oak is present on such  
13 land; and

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

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

21 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the  
22 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary  
23 shall submit to Congress, and make publicly avail-  
24 able on the website of the Department of the Inte-

rior, a report regarding the results of the assessment carried out under this subsection.

(b) PILOT PROJECTS.—After the date on which the report required under subsection (a)(3) is submitted, the Secretary shall establish and carry out 5 pilot projects in 6 different areas of land described in subsection (a)(1) to 7 restore and naturally regenerate white oak.

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

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

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

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

(b) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall—

(1) draw upon the best available science and management plans for species of white oak to iden-

1       tify, prioritize, and implement restoration and con-  
2       servation activities that will improve the growth of  
3       white oak within the United States;

4               (2) collaborate and coordinate with the White  
5       Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition to prioritize  
6       white oak restoration initiatives;

7               (3) adopt a white oak restoration strategy  
8       that—

9                       (A) supports the implementation of a  
10       shared set of science-based restoration and con-  
11       servation activities developed in accordance with  
12       paragraph (1);

13                      (B) targets cost effective projects with  
14       measurable results; and

15                      (C) maximizes restoration outcomes with  
16       no net gain of Federal full-time equivalent em-  
17       ployees; and

18               (4) establish the voluntary grant and technical  
19       assistance programs in accordance with subsection  
20       (e).

21       (c) COORDINATION.—In establishing the Program  
22       the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-  
23       ice, shall consult with—

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

1 (A) the Director of the United States Fish  
2 and Wildlife Service; and

3 (B) the Chief of the Natural Resources  
4 Conservation Service; and

5 (2) the Governor of each State in which res-  
6 toration efforts will be carried out pursuant to the  
7 Program.

8 (d) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program in-  
9 clude—

10 (1) coordinating restoration and conservation  
11 activities among Federal, State, local, and Tribal en-  
12 tities and conservation partners to address white oak  
13 restoration priorities;

14 (2) improving and regenerating white oak and  
15 upland oak forests and the wildlife habitat such for-  
16 ests provide;

17 (3) carrying out coordinated restoration and  
18 conservation activities that lead to the increased  
19 growth of species of white oak in native white oak  
20 regions on Federal, State, Tribal, and private land;

21 (4) facilitating strategic planning to maximize  
22 the resilience of white oak systems and habitats  
23 under changing climate conditions;

24 (5) engaging the public through outreach, edu-  
25 cation, and citizen involvement to increase capacity

1 and support for coordinated restoration and con-  
2 servation activities for species of white oak; and

3 (6) increasing scientific capacity to support the  
4 planning, monitoring, and research activities nec-  
5 essary to carry out such coordinated restoration and  
6 conservation activities.

7 (e) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that funds are  
9 available to carry out this section, the Secretary  
10 shall establish a voluntary grant and technical as-  
11 sistance program (in this section referred to as the  
12 “grant program”) to achieve the purposes of the  
13 Program described in subsection (d).

14 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
16 enter into a cooperative agreement with the Na-  
17 tional Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this  
18 subsection referred to as the “Foundation”) to  
19 manage and administer the grant program.

20 (B) FUNDING.—Subject to the availability  
21 of appropriations made in advance for such  
22 purpose, after the Secretary enters into a coop-  
23 erative agreement with the Foundation under  
24 subparagraph (A), the Foundation shall for  
25 each fiscal year, receive amounts to carry out

1           this subsection in an advance payment of the  
2           entire amount on October 1, or as soon as prac-  
3           ticable thereafter, of that fiscal year.

4           (3) APPLICATION OF NATIONAL FISH AND  
5       WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.—  
6       Amounts received by the Foundation to carry out  
7       the grant program shall be subject to the National  
8       Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16  
9       U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), excluding section 10(a) of that  
10      Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)).

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

14     **SEC. 315. TREE NURSERY SHORTAGES.**

15      (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
16     date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting  
17     through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

18           (1) develop and implement a national strategy  
19           to increase the capacity of Federal, State, Tribal,  
20           and private tree nurseries to address the nationwide  
21           shortage of tree seedlings; and

22           (2) coordinate such strategy with—

23                   (A) the national reforestation strategy of  
24                   the Forest Service; and

1 (B) each regional implementation plan for  
2 National Forests.

3 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-  
4 section (a) shall—

5 (1) be based on the best available science and  
6 data; and

7 (2) identify and address—

8 (A) regional seedling shortages of bareroot  
9 and container tree seedlings;

10 (B) regional reforestation opportunities  
11 and the seedling supply necessary to fulfill such  
12 opportunities;

13 (C) opportunities to enhance seedling di-  
14 versity and close gaps in seed inventories; and

15 (D) barriers to expanding, enhancing, or  
16 creating new infrastructure to increase nursery  
17 capacity.

18 **SEC. 316. WHITE OAK RESEARCH.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into a  
20 memorandum of understanding with an Indian Tribe or  
21 institution, including a covered land grant college, to col-  
22 laboratively conduct research on—

23 (1) white oak genes with resistance or tolerance  
24 to stress;



1           (2) white oak trees that exhibit vigor for the  
2           purpose of increasing survival and growth;

3           (3) establishing a genetically diverse white oak  
4           seeds bank capable of responding to stressors;

5           (4) providing a sustainable supply of white oak  
6           seedlings and genetic resources;

7           (5) improved methods for aligning seed sources  
8           with the future climate at planting sites;

9           (6) reforestation of white oak through natural  
10          and artificial regeneration;

11          (7) improved methods for retaining and increas-  
12          ing white oak trees in forests;

13          (8) improved methods for reforesting aban-  
14          doned mine land sites; and

15          (9) economic and social aspects of white oak  
16          forest management across land ownerships.

17       (b) CONSULT.—In carrying out the research under  
18       subsection (a), the Indian Tribe or institution, including  
19       a covered land grant college, that enters into the memo-  
20       randum of understanding under such subsection may con-  
21       sult with such States, nonprofit organizations, institutions  
22       of higher education, and other scientific bodies, as the en-  
23       tity subject to such memorandum determines appropriate.

1 (c) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
2 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
3 the enactment of this Act.

4 (d) COVERED LAND GRANT COLLEGE DEFINED.—  
5 In this section, the term “covered land grant college”  
6 means an 1862 Institution, an 1890 Institution, or a 1994  
7 Institution (as such terms are defined, respectively, in sec-  
8 tion 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Edu-  
9 cation Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)).

10 **SEC. 317. USDA FORMAL INITIATIVE.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the  
12 Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and  
13 in coordination with the Chief of the Forest Service, shall  
14 establish a formal initiative on white oak to—

15 (1) re-establish white oak forests where appro-  
16 priate;

17 (2) improve management of existing white oak  
18 forests to foster natural regeneration of white oak;

19 (3) provide technical assistance to private land-  
20 owners to re-establish, improve management of, and  
21 naturally regenerate white oak;

22 (4) improve and expand white oak nursery  
23 stock; and

24 (5) adapt and improve white oak seedlings.

1 (b) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
 2 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
 3 the enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 318. AUTHORITIES.**

5 To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary of  
 6 the Interior and the Secretary shall use the authorities  
 7 provided under this title in combination with other au-  
 8 thorities to carry out projects, including—

9 (1) good neighbor agreements entered into  
 10 under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014  
 11 (16 U.S.C. 2113) (as amended by this Act); and

12 (2) stewardship contracting projects entered  
 13 into under section 604 of the Healthy Forests Res-  
 14 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591) (as amended  
 15 by this Act).

16 **TITLE IV—ENSURING CASUALTY**  
 17 **ASSISTANCE FOR OUR FIRE-**  
 18 **FIGHTERS**

19 **SEC. 401. WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT CASUALTY AS-**  
 20 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

21 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later than 6  
 22 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
 23 Secretary of the Interior shall develop a Wildland Fire  
 24 Management Casualty Assistance Program (referred to in

1 this section as the “Program”) to provide assistance to  
2 the next-of-kin of—

- 3 (1) firefighters who, while in the line of duty,  
4 suffer illness or are critically injured or killed; and  
5 (2) wildland fire support personnel critically in-  
6 jured or killed in the line of duty.

7 (b) ASPECTS OF PROGRAM.—The Program shall ad-  
8 dress the following:

- 9 (1) The initial and any subsequent notifications  
10 to the next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire sup-  
11 port personnel who—

12 (A) are killed in the line of duty; or

13 (B) require hospitalization or treatment at  
14 a medical facility due to a line-of-duty injury or  
15 illness.

- 16 (2) The reimbursement of next-of-kin for ex-  
17 penses associated with travel to visit firefighters or  
18 wildland fire support personnel who—

19 (A) are killed in the line of duty; or

20 (B) require hospitalization or treatment at  
21 a medical facility due to a line-of-duty injury or  
22 illness.

- 23 (3) The qualifications, assignment, training, du-  
24 ties, supervision, and accountability for the perform-  
25 ance of casualty assistance responsibilities.

1           (4) The relief or transfer of casualty assistance  
2 officers, including notification to survivors of critical  
3 injury or illness in the line of duty and next-of-kin  
4 of the reassignment of such officers to other duties.

5           (5) Centralized, short-term and long-term case  
6 management procedures for casualty assistance, in-  
7 cluding rapid access by survivors of firefighters or  
8 wildland fire support personnel and casualty assist-  
9 ance officers to expert case managers and coun-  
10 selors.

11          (6) The provision, through a computer acces-  
12 sible website and other means and at no cost to sur-  
13 vivors and next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire  
14 support personnel, of personalized, integrated infor-  
15 mation on the benefits and financial assistance avail-  
16 able to such survivors from the Federal Government.

17          (7) The provision of information to survivors  
18 and next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire sup-  
19 port personnel on mechanisms for registering com-  
20 plaints about, or requests for, additional assistance  
21 related to casualty assistance.

22          (8) Liaison with the Department of the Inte-  
23 rior, the Department of Justice, and the Social Se-  
24 curity Administration to ensure prompt and accurate  
25 resolution of issues relating to benefits administered

1 by those agencies for survivors of firefighters or  
2 wildland fire support personnel.

3 (9) Data collection, in consultation with the  
4 United States Fire Administration and the National  
5 Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, re-  
6 garding the incidence and quality of casualty assist-  
7 ance provided to survivors of firefighters or wildland  
8 fire support personnel.

9 (c) LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH BENEFITS.—The Pro-  
10 gram shall not affect existing authorities for Line-of-Duty  
11 Death benefits for Federal firefighters and wildland fire  
12 support personnel.

13 (d) NEXT-OF-KIN DEFINED.—In this section, the  
14 term “next-of-kin” means a person or persons in the high-  
15 est category of priority as determined by the following list  
16 (categories appear in descending order of priority):

17 (1) Surviving legal spouse.

18 (2) Children (whether by current or prior mar-  
19 riage) age 18 years or older in descending order of  
20 precedence by age.

21 (3) Father or mother, unless custody has been  
22 vested, by court order, in another (adoptive parent  
23 takes precedence over natural parent).

24 (4) Siblings (whole or half) age 18 years or  
25 older in descending order of precedence by age.

1           (5) Grandfather or grandmother.

2           (6) Any other relative (order of precedence to  
3       be determined in accordance with the civil law of de-  
4       scent of the deceased former member's State of  
5       domicile at time of death).

Passed the House of Representatives January 23,  
2025.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R. 471**

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**AN ACT**

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.