

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8790

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 18, 2024

Mr. WESTERMAN (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. BERA, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mr. GOSAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

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

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

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.

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.

**TITLE III—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 testbed partner-  
ship.

Sec. 304. GAO study on Forest Service policies.

Sec. 305. Forest Service Western headquarters study.

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 “firedshed” means a  
7 landscape-scale area that faces similar wildfire  
8 threat where a response strategy could influence the  
9 wildfire outcome.

10 (3) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT.—The  
11 term “firedshed management project” means a  
12 project under section 106.

13 (4) FIRESHED REGISTRY.—The term “Firedshed  
14 Registry” means the firedshed registry established  
15 under section 103.

16 (5) FOREST PLAN.—The term “forest plan”  
17 means—

18 (A) a land use plan prepared by the Bu-  
19 reau of Land Management for public lands pur-  
20 suant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy  
21 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.  
22 1712);

23 (B) a land and resource management plan  
24 prepared by the Forest Service for a unit of the

1 National Forest System pursuant to section 6  
2 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-  
3 sources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.  
4 1604); or

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

9 (6) GOVERNOR.—The term “Governor” means  
10 the Governor or any other appropriate executive offi-  
11 cial of an affected State or Indian tribe or the Com-  
12 monwealth of Puerto Rico.

13 (7) HAZARDOUS FUELS MANAGEMENT ACTIVI-  
14 TIES.—The term “hazardous fuels management ac-  
15 tivities” means any vegetation management activities  
16 (or combination thereof) that reduce the risk of  
17 wildfire, including mechanical thinning, mastication,  
18 prescribed burning, cultural burning (as determined  
19 by the applicable Indian Tribe), timber harvest, and  
20 grazing.

21 (8) HFRA TERMS.—The terms “at-risk com-  
22 munity”, “community wildfire protection plan”, and  
23 “wildland-urban interface” have the meanings given  
24 such terms, respectively, in section 101 of the

1 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.  
2 6511).

3 (9) INDIAN FOREST LAND OR RANGELAND.—  
4 The term “Indian forest land or rangeland” means  
5 land that—

6 (A) is held in trust by, or with a restriction  
7 against alienation by, the United States for an  
8 Indian Tribe or a member of an Indian Tribe;  
9 and

10 (B)(i)(I) is Indian forest land (as defined  
11 in section 304 of the National Indian Forest  
12 Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103));  
13 or

14 (II) has a cover of grasses,  
15 brush, or any similar vegetation; or

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

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

22 (11) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.—The  
23 term “National Forest System lands” has the mean-  
24 ing given the term in section 11(a) of the Forest

1 and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act  
2 of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609).

3 (12) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”  
4 has the meaning given that term in section 103 of  
5 the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of  
6 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702), except that the term in-  
7 cludes Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands and Or-  
8 egon and California Railroad Grant lands.

9 (13) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
10 TEES.—The term “relevant Congressional Commit-  
11 tees” means—

12 (A) the Committees on Natural Resources  
13 and Agriculture of the House of Representa-  
14 tives; and

15 (B) the Committees on Energy and Nat-  
16 ural Resources and Agriculture, Nutrition, and  
17 Forestry of the Senate.

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

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

25 (A) the Secretary of the Interior; and

1 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

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

4 (17) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term  
5 “Secretary concerned” means—

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

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

10 (18) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
11 the several States, the District of Columbia, and  
12 each territory of the United States

13 **TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE**  
14 **RESTORATION**

15 **Subtitle A—Addressing Emergency**  
16 **Wildfire Risks in High Priority**  
17 **Firesheds**

18 **SEC. 101. DESIGNATION OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT**  
19 **AREAS.**

20 (a) DESIGNATION OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT  
21 AREAS.—

22 (1) INITIAL DESIGNATIONS.—For the period be-  
23 ginning on the date of enactment of this Act and  
24 ending on the date that is 5 years after the date of

1 enactment of this Act, there are designated fireshed  
2 management areas, which—

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

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

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

19 (ii) wildfire exposure and cor-  
20 responding risk to municipal watersheds;  
21 and

22 (iii) risk of forest conversion due to  
23 wildfire;

24 (C) shall not overlap with any other  
25 fireshed management areas;



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

4 (E) where the Secretary concerned shall  
5 carry out fireshed management projects.

6 (2) FURTHER FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREA  
7 DESIGNATIONS.—

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

16 (B) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 60  
17 days after submitting an updated fireshed map  
18 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall,  
19 based on such map, designate additional  
20 fireshed management areas that are identified  
21 as being in the top 20 percent of firesheds at  
22 risk for wildfire exposure based on the criteria  
23 specified in subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and  
24 (E) of paragraph (1).

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

5 **SEC. 102. FIRESHED CENTER.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
8 through the Chief of the Forest Service and the Sec-  
9 retary of the Interior, acting through the Director of  
10 the U.S. Geological Survey, shall jointly establish a  
11 Fireshed Center (hereinafter referred to as the  
12 “Center”) comprised of at least one career rep-  
13 resentative from each of the following:

14 (A) The Forest Service.

15 (B) The Bureau of Land Management.

16 (C) The National Park Service.

17 (D) The Bureau of Indian Affairs.

18 (E) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

19 (F) The U.S. Geological Survey.

20 (G) The Department of Defense.

21 (H) The Department of Homeland Secu-  
22 rity.

23 (I) The Department of Energy.

24 (J) The Federal Emergency Management  
25 Agency.

1 (K) The National Science Foundation.

2 (L) The National Oceanic and Atmos-  
3 pheric Administration.

4 (M) The National Aeronautics and Space  
5 Administration.

6 (N) The National Institute of Standards  
7 and Technology.

8 (2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary, acting through  
9 the Chief of the Forest Service and the Secretary of  
10 the Interior, acting through the Director of the U.S.  
11 Geological Survey, shall jointly appoint a Director of  
12 the Center, who—

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

15 (B) shall serve an initial term of not more  
16 than 7 years; and

17 (C) may serve one additional term of not  
18 more than 7 years after the initial term de-  
19 scribed in subparagraph (B).

20 (3) ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATION.—The Sec-  
21 retary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-  
22 ice and the Secretary of the Interior, acting through  
23 the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, may  
24 jointly appoint additional representatives of Federal

1 agencies to the Center, as the Secretaries determine  
2 necessary.

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

4 (1) comprehensively assess and predict fire in  
5 the wildland and built environment interface through  
6 data aggregation and science-based decision support  
7 services;

8 (2) reduce fragmentation and duplication across  
9 Federal land management agencies with respect to  
10 predictive service and decision support functions re-  
11 lated to wildland fire;

12 (3) promote interorganizational coordination  
13 and sharing of data regarding wildland fire decision  
14 making;

15 (4) streamline procurement processes and cy-  
16 bersecurity systems related to addressing wildland  
17 fire;

18 (5) provide publicly accessible data, models,  
19 technologies, assessments, and fire weather forecasts  
20 to support short- and long-term planning regarding  
21 wildland fire and post-fire recovery; and

22 (6) maintain the Fireshed Registry established  
23 under section 103.

24 (c) MEMORANDAS OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Cen-  
25 ter may enter into memorandums of understanding with

1 State governments, Indian Tribes, local governments, aca-  
2 demic or research institutions, and private entities to im-  
3 prove the information and operations of the Center.

4 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-  
5 ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—

6 (1) USGS SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the In-  
7 terior shall make personnel of the U.S. Geological  
8 Survey available to the Center for such administra-  
9 tive support, technical services, and development and  
10 dissemination of data as the Secretary determines  
11 necessary to carry out this section.

12 (2) USFS SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall  
13 make personnel of the Forest Service available to  
14 the Center for such administrative support, technical  
15 services, and the development and dissemination of  
16 information related to fireshed management and the  
17 Fireshed Registry as the Secretary determines nec-  
18 essary to carry out this section.

19 **SEC. 103. FIRESHED REGISTRY.**

20 (a) FIRESHED REGISTRY.—The Secretary, acting  
21 through the Director of the Fireshed Center appointed  
22 under section 102, shall maintain a Fireshed Registry on  
23 a publicly accessible website that provides interactive  
24 geospatial data on individual firesheds, including informa-  
25 tion on—

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

4           (2) any hazardous fuels management activities  
5 that have occurred within an individual fireshed in  
6 the past 10 years;

7           (3) wildfire exposure with respect to such  
8 fireshed delineated by—

9                   (A) wildfire exposure and corresponding  
10 risk to communities, including risk to structures  
11 and life;

12                   (B) wildfire exposure and corresponding  
13 risk to municipal watersheds; and

14                   (C) risk of forest conversion due to wild-  
15 fire;

16           (4) the percentage of the fireshed that has  
17 burned in wildfires in the past 10 years, including,  
18 to the extent practicable, delineations of acres that  
19 have burned at a high severity;

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

22           (6) any hazardous fuels management activities  
23 planned for the fireshed, including fireshed manage-  
24 ment projects under section 106 of this Act.

1 (b) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS.—

2 The Director shall make data from the Fireshed Registry  
3 available to local communities developing or updating com-  
4 munity wildfire protection plans.

5 (c) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN.—As part of the  
6 website containing the Fireshed Registry, the Director  
7 shall—

8 (1) publish fireshed assessments created under  
9 section 105; and

10 (2) maintain a searchable database to track—

11 (A) the status of Federal environmental re-  
12 views, permits, and authorizations for specific  
13 fireshed management projects conducted under  
14 section 106, including—

15 (i) a comprehensive permitting time-  
16 table;

17 (ii) the status of the compliance of  
18 each lead agency, cooperating agency, and  
19 participating agency with the permitting  
20 timetable with respect to such fireshed  
21 management projects;

22 (iii) any modifications of the permit-  
23 ting timetable required under clause (i), in-  
24 cluding an explanation as to why the per-  
25 mitting timetable was modified; and

1 (iv) information about project-related  
2 public meetings, public hearings, and pub-  
3 lic comment periods, which shall be pre-  
4 sented in English and the predominant  
5 language of the community or communities  
6 most affected by the project, as that infor-  
7 mation becomes available;

8 (B) the projected cost of such fireshed  
9 management projects; and

10 (C) in the case of fireshed management  
11 projects completed pursuant to section 106, the  
12 effectiveness of such projects in reducing the  
13 wildfire exposure within an applicable fireshed,  
14 including wildfire exposure described in sub-  
15 paragraphs (A) through (C) of subsection  
16 (a)(3).

17 **SEC. 104. SHARED STEWARDSHIP.**

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

24 (1) promote the reduction of wildfire exposure,  
25 based on the criteria in section 101(a)(1)(B), in



1       fireshed management areas across jurisdictional  
2       boundaries; and

3               (2) conduct fireshed assessments under section  
4       105.

5       (b) ADDITIONAL FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREAS.—

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

11             (1) designate additional fireshed management  
12      areas under such agreement; and

13             (2) update such agreement to address new wild-  
14      fire threats.

15      **SEC. 105. FIRESHED ASSESSMENTS.**

16      (a) FIRESHED ASSESSMENTS.—

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

25             (A) identifies—

1 (i) using the best available data, wild-  
2 fire exposure risks within each such  
3 firehed management area, including sce-  
4 nario planning and wildfire hazard map-  
5 ping and models; and

6 (ii) each at-risk community within  
7 each firehed management area;

8 (B) identifies potential firehed manage-  
9 ment projects to be carried out in such firehed  
10 management areas, giving priority—

11 (i) primarily, to projects with the pur-  
12 pose of reducing—

13 (I) wildfire exposure and cor-  
14 responding risk to communities, in-  
15 cluding risk to structures and life;

16 (II) wildfire exposure and cor-  
17 responding risk to municipal water-  
18 sheds;

19 (III) risk of forest conversion due  
20 to wildfire; or

21 (IV) any combination of purposes  
22 described in subclauses (I) through  
23 (III); and

24 (ii) secondarily, to projects with the  
25 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) Tribal resources; or

11 (V) any combination of purposes  
12 described in subclauses (I) through  
13 (IV);

14 (C) includes—

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

19 (ii) a timeline for the implementation  
20 of fireshed management projects;

21 (iii) long-term benchmark goals for  
22 the completion of fireshed management  
23 projects in the highest wildfire exposure  
24 areas so that such projects contribute to

1 the development and maintenance of  
2 healthy and resilient landscapes; and

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

7 (D) shall be regularly updated based on  
8 the best available data, as determined by the  
9 Secretary concerned; and

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

12 (2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION.—

13 Upon the written request of a local government, the  
14 Secretary concerned may allow such local govern-  
15 ment to participate in producing the fireshed assess-  
16 ment under paragraph (1) with the Governor of the  
17 State and for the State in which the local govern-  
18 ment is located.

19 (3) INFORMATION IMPROVEMENT.—

20 (A) MEMORANDUMS OF UNDER-  
21 STANDING.—In carrying out a fireshed assess-  
22 ment under this subsection, the Secretary con-  
23 cerned may enter into memorandums of under-  
24 standing with other Federal agencies or depart-  
25 ments, States, Indian Tribes, private entities,

1 or research or educational institutions to im-  
2 prove, with respect to such assessment, the use  
3 and integration of—

4 (i) advanced remote sensing and  
5 geospatial technologies;

6 (ii) statistical modeling and analysis;

7 or

8 (iii) any other technology or combina-  
9 tion of technologies and analyses that the  
10 Secretary concerned determines will benefit  
11 the quality of information of such an as-  
12 sessment.

13 (B) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In using  
14 the best available science for the firehed as-  
15 sements completed under subsection (a)(1),  
16 the Secretary concerned and Governor shall, to  
17 the maximum extent practicable, incorporate—

18 (i) traditional ecological knowledge  
19 from Indian Tribes;

20 (ii) data from State forest action  
21 plans and State wildfire risk assessments;

22 (iii) data from the Firehed Registry  
23 maintained under section 103; and

24 (iv) data from other Federal, State,  
25 Tribal, and local governments or agencies.

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

5 **SEC. 106. EMERGENCY FIRESHED MANAGEMENT.**

6 (a) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned,  
8 acting through a responsible official, shall carry out  
9 fireshed management projects in fireshed manage-  
10 ment areas designated under section 101 in accord-  
11 ance with this section.

12 (2) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—The  
13 responsible official shall carry out the following for-  
14 est and vegetation management activities as fireshed  
15 management projects under this section:

16 (A) Conducting hazardous fuels manage-  
17 ment activities.

18 (B) Creating fuel breaks and fire breaks.

19 (C) Removing hazard trees, dead trees,  
20 dying trees, or trees at risk of dying, as deter-  
21 mined by the responsible official.

22 (D) Developing, approving, or conducting  
23 routine maintenance under a vegetation man-  
24 agement, facility inspection, and operation and  
25 maintenance plan submitted under section

1 512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Man-  
2 agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(1)).

3 (E) Removing trees to address over-  
4 stocking or crowding in a forest stand, con-  
5 sistent with the appropriate basal area of the  
6 forest stand as determined by the responsible  
7 official.

8 (F) Using chemical or re-seeding and  
9 planting treatments to address insects and dis-  
10 ease and control vegetation competition or  
11 invasive species.

12 (G) Any activities recommended by the  
13 state-specific fireshed assessment carried out  
14 under section 105.

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

17 (I) Any combination of activities described  
18 in this paragraph.

19 (3) EMERGENCY FIRESHED MANAGEMENT.—

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

23 (i) Section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code  
24 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
25 date of enactment of this Act), with re-

1           spect to lands under the jurisdiction of the  
2           Secretary.

3           (ii) Section 46.150 of title 43, Code of  
4           Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
5           date of enactment of this Act), with re-  
6           spect to lands under the jurisdiction of the  
7           Secretary of the Interior.

8           (iii) Section 402.05 of title 50, Code  
9           of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
10          date of enactment of this Act).

11          (iv) Section 800.12 of title 36, Code  
12          of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
13          date of enactment of this Act).

14          (B) UTILIZATION OF EXISTING STREAM-  
15          LINED AUTHORITIES IN FIRESHED MANAGE-  
16          MENT AREAS.—

17           (i) IN GENERAL.—Fireshed manage-  
18           ment projects carried out under this sec-  
19           tion shall be considered authorized projects  
20           under the following categorical exclusions:

21           (I) Section 603(a) of the Healthy  
22           Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16  
23           U.S.C. 6591b(a)).



1 (II) Section 605(a) of the  
2 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
3 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(a)).

4 (III) Section 606(b) of the  
5 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
6 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e(b)).

7 (IV) Section 40806(b) of the In-  
8 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act  
9 (16 U.S.C. 6592b(b)).

10 (V) Section 4(c)(4) of the Lake  
11 Tahoe Restoration Act (Public Law  
12 106–506; 114 Stat. 2353).

13 (VI) Subject to subsection (d) of  
14 section 40807 of the Infrastructure  
15 Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C.  
16 6592c) in the same manner as author-  
17 ized emergency actions (as defined in  
18 subsection (a) of such section) are  
19 subject to such subsection.

20 (ii) USE OF EXPEDITED AUTHORI-  
21 TIES.—In carrying out fireshed manage-  
22 ment project, the Secretary shall apply a  
23 categorical exclusion under clause (i)—

1 (I) in a manner consistent with  
2 the statute establishing such categor-  
3 ical exclusion

4 (II) in any area—

5 (aa) designated as suitable  
6 for timber production within the  
7 applicable forest plan; or

8 (bb) where timber harvest  
9 activities are not prohibited.

10 (iii) FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT RE-  
11 QUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this sec-  
12 tion, the Secretary concerned shall ensure  
13 compliance with the amendments made to  
14 the National Environmental Policy Act (42  
15 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) by the Fiscal Respon-  
16 sibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5).

17 (iv) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—  
18 To the maximum extent practicable, the  
19 Secretary concerned shall use the authori-  
20 ties provided under this section in com-  
21 bination with other authorities to carry out  
22 fireshed management projects, including—

23 (I) good neighbor agreements en-  
24 tered into under section 8206 of the

1 Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C.  
2 2113a) (as amended by this Act);

3 (II) stewardship contracting  
4 projects entered into under section  
5 604 of the Healthy Forests Restora-  
6 tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c)  
7 (as amended by this Act);

8 (III) self-determination contracts  
9 and self-governance compact agree-  
10 ments entered into under the Indian  
11 Self-Determination and Education As-  
12 sistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);  
13 and

14 (IV) agreements entered into  
15 under the Tribal Forest Protection  
16 Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a et  
17 seq.).

18 (b) EXPANSION.—

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

21 (A) in section 603(c)(1) (16 U.S.C.  
22 6591b(c)(1)), by striking “3000 acres” and in-  
23 serting “10,000 acres”;

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

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

7 (D) in section 40806(d) of the Infrastruc-  
8 ture Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C.  
9 6592b(d)(1)), by striking “3,000 acres” and in-  
10 serting “10,000 acres”; and

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

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

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

19 **SEC. 107. SUNSET.**

20 The authority under this subtitle shall terminate on  
21 the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of  
22 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”; and

12 (2) in subsection (b)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “,  
14 Indian tribe,” after “Governor”;

15 (B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

16 (i) by striking clause (i) and inserting  
17 the following:

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Funds received  
19 from the sale of timber or forest product  
20 by a Governor, an Indian tribe, or a county  
21 under a good neighbor agreement shall be  
22 retained and used by the Governor, Indian  
23 tribe, or county, as applicable—

1           “(I) to carry out authorized res-  
2           toration services under the good  
3           neighbor agreement; and

4           “(II) if there are funds remain-  
5           ing after carrying out subclause (I),  
6           to carry out authorized restoration  
7           services under other good neighbor  
8           agreements and for the administration  
9           of a good neighbor authority program  
10          by a Governor, Indian tribe, or coun-  
11          ty.”; and

12          (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “2024”  
13          and inserting “2029”;

14          (C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, In-  
15          dian tribe,” after “Governor”; and

16          (D) by striking paragraph (4).

17          (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 8206(a)  
18          of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)) is  
19          amended—

20                 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “, Indian  
21                 tribe,” after “Governor”; and

22                 (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, Indian  
23                 tribe,” after “Governor”.

24          (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
25          this section apply to any project initiated pursuant to a

1 good neighbor agreement (as defined in section 8206(a)  
2 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a))—

3 (1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if  
4 the project was initiated after the date of enactment  
5 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public  
6 Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or

7 (2) on or after the date of enactment of this  
8 Act.

9 **SEC. 112. FIXING STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CON-**  
10 **TRACTING.**

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

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

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

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

20 “(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARD-  
21 SHIP CONTRACTS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A long-term agree-  
23 ment or contract entered into with an entity  
24 under subsection (b) by the Chief or the Direc-  
25 tor shall provide that in the case of the can-

1           cancellation or termination by the Chief or the Di-  
2           rector of such long-term agreement or contract,  
3           the Chief or the Director, as applicable, shall  
4           provide 10 percent of the agreement or contract  
5           amount to such entity as cancellation or termi-  
6           nation costs.

7           “(B) DEFINITION OF LONG-TERM AGREE-  
8           MENT OR CONTRACT.—In this paragraph, the  
9           term ‘long-term agreement or contract’ means  
10          an agreement or contract under subsection  
11          (b)—

12                       “(i) with a term of more than 5 years;  
13                       and  
14                       “(ii) entered into on or after the date  
15                       of the enactment of this paragraph.”.

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

17          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary concerned  
18 shall establish intra-agency strike teams to assist the Sec-  
19 retary concerned with—

20               (1) any reviews, including analysis under the  
21               National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
22               U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under the Na-  
23               tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C.  
24               470 et seq.), and consultations under the Endan-  
25               gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.),



1 with the intent to accelerate and streamline inter-  
2 agency consultation processes;

3 (2) the implementation of any necessary site  
4 preparation work in advance of or as part of a  
5 fireshed management project;

6 (3) the implementation of fireshed management  
7 projects under such section; and

8 (4) any combination of purposes under para-  
9 graphs (1) through (3).

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

13 (1) employees of the Department under the ju-  
14 risdiction of the Secretary concerned;

15 (2) employees of a different Federal agency,  
16 with the consent of that agency’s Secretary;

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

21 (4) volunteers from any nonprofit organization,  
22 State government, Indian Tribe, local government,  
23 quasi-governmental agency, academic institution, or  
24 private organization.

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

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

5 (a) THRESHOLD ADJUSTMENT.—Section 14(d) of the  
6 National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C.  
7 472a(d)) is amended by—

8 (1) striking “\$10,000” and inserting  
9 “\$55,000”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following: “Begin-  
11 ning on January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter,  
12 the amount in the first sentence of this subsection  
13 shall be adjusted by the Secretary for changes in the  
14 Consumer Price Index of All Urban Consumers pub-  
15 lished by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the De-  
16 partment of Labor.”.

17 (b) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—Begin-  
18 ning on the date that is 30 days after the date of enact-  
19 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall solicit bids under sec-  
20 tion 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976  
21 (16 U.S.C. 472a(d)) for fireshed management projects  
22 under section 106.

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

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

3           (a) IN GENERAL.—A court shall not enjoin a fireshed  
4 management project if the court determines that the plain-  
5 tiff is unable to demonstrate that the claim of the plaintiff  
6 is likely to succeed on the merits.

7           (b) BALANCING SHORT- AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS  
8 OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN CONSID-  
9 ERING INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—As part of its weighing the  
10 equities while considering any request for an injunction  
11 that applies to any agency action as part of a fireshed  
12 management project, the court reviewing the agency ac-  
13 tion shall balance the impact to the ecosystem likely af-  
14 fected by the fireshed management project of—

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

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

19           (c) LIMITATIONS FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND RE-  
20 MAND.—

21           (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
22 provision of law, a court shall not vacate or other-  
23 wise limit, delay, stay, or enjoin a fireshed manage-  
24 ment project unless the court determines that—

1 (A) the fireshed management project will  
2 pose a risk of a proximate and substantial envi-  
3 ronmental harm; and

4 (B) there is no other equitable remedy  
5 available as a matter of law.

6 (2) REMAND.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any  
8 other provision of law, if a court determines  
9 that a fireshed management project will not  
10 pose a risk of a proximate and substantial envi-  
11 ronmental harm—

12 (i) the court may remand the fireshed  
13 management project to the applicable  
14 agency with instruction to correct (includ-  
15 ing specific directions) the errors or defi-  
16 ciencies within 180 days; and

17 (ii) an activity under the fireshed  
18 management project may be carried out so  
19 long as such activity does not affect the er-  
20 rors or deficiencies described in clause (i).

21 (B) REVIEW.—Unless the court finds that  
22 the applicable agency entirely failed to prepare  
23 a required environmental assessment or envi-  
24 ronmental impact statement, on remand—

1 (i) the court shall not require such  
2 agency to prepare a new environmental as-  
3 sessment or environmental impact state-  
4 ment; and

5 (ii) such agency may use another for-  
6 mat, including a memorandum or errata  
7 sheet, to document any new analysis re-  
8 quired.

9 (d) LIMITATIONS ON CLAIMS.—Notwithstanding any  
10 other provision of law, a claim arising under Federal law  
11 seeking judicial review of a fireshed management project  
12 shall be barred unless—

13 (1) with respect to an agency document noticed  
14 in the Federal Register, such claim is filed not later  
15 than 120 days after the date of publication of a no-  
16 tice in the Federal Register of agency intent to carry  
17 out the fireshed management project, unless a short-  
18 er period is specified in such Federal law;

19 (2) in the case of an agency document not de-  
20 scribed in paragraph (1), such claim is filed not  
21 later than 120 days after the date that is the earlier  
22 of—

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

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

3 (3) in the case of an authorization or 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 such finished man-  
9 agement project; and

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

15 (B) is related to such comment.

16 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) AGENCY DOCUMENT.—The term “agency  
18 document” means, with respect to a finished man-  
19 agement project, a record of decision, categorical ex-  
20 clusion, environmental document, or programmatic  
21 environmental document.

22 (2) NEPA TERMS.—The terms “categorical ex-  
23 clusion”, “environmental document”, and “pro-  
24 grammatic environmental document” have the mean-  
25 ings given such terms, respectively, in section 111 of

1 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
2 U.S.C. 4336e).

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

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

8 “(2) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION RE-  
9 QUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Not-  
10 withstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-  
11 retary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation  
12 under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act  
13 of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of  
14 title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor  
15 regulation), on a land management plan approved,  
16 amended, or revised under this section when—

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

20 “(B) new information reveals effects of the  
21 land management plan that may affect a spe-  
22 cies listed or critical habitat designated under  
23 that Act in a manner or to an extent not pre-  
24 viously considered.”.

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

5           “(g) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED  
6 UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding  
7 any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be re-  
8 quired to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of  
9 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
10 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal  
11 Regulations (or a successor regulation), on a land use plan  
12 approved, amended, or revised under this section when—

13                   “(1) a new species is listed or critical habitat  
14 is designated under the Endangered Species Act of  
15 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

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



1 **TITLE II—PROTECTING COMMU-**  
2 **NITIES IN THE WILDLAND-**  
3 **URBAN INTERFACE**

4 **SEC. 201. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PRO-**  
5 **GRAM.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after  
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall  
8 jointly establish an interagency program to be known as  
9 the “Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program” that  
10 shall consist of at least one representative from each of  
11 the following:

12 (1) The Office of Wildland Fire of the Depart-  
13 ment of the Interior.

14 (2) The National Park Service.

15 (3) The Bureau of Land Management.

16 (4) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

17 (5) The Bureau of Indian Affairs.

18 (6) The Forest Service.

19 (7) The Federal Emergency Management Agen-  
20 cy.

21 (8) The U.S. Fire Administration.

22 (9) The National Institute of Standards and  
23 Technology.

24 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program estab-  
25 lished under subsection (a) is to support interagency co-

1 ordination in reducing the risk of, and the damages result-  
2 ing from, wildfires in communities (including tribal com-  
3 munities) in the wildland-urban interface through—

4 (1) advancing research and science in wildfire  
5 resilience and land management;

6 (2) supporting adoption by Indian Tribes and  
7 local governmental entities of fire-resistant building  
8 methods, codes, and standards;

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

13 (4) encouraging public-private partnerships to  
14 conduct hazardous fuels management activities in  
15 the wildland-urban interface;

16 (5) providing technical and financial assistance  
17 to communities through streamlined and unified  
18 mechanisms, including the portal and grant applica-  
19 tion established under subsection (c).

20 (c) PORTAL AND UNIFORM GRANT APPLICATION.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program es-  
22 tablished under subsection (a), the Secretaries and  
23 the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-  
24 agement Agency shall establish a portal through

1       which a person may submit a single, uniform appli-  
2       cation for any of the following:

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

6               (B) An emergency management perform-  
7               ance grant under section 662 of the Post-  
8               Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of  
9               2006 (6 U.S.C. 761).

10              (C) A grant under section 33 of the Fed-  
11              eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
12              (15 U.S.C. 2229).

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

16              (E) Financial or technical assistance or a  
17              grant under sections 203, 205, 404, 406, or  
18              420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
19              and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
20              5133, 5135, 5170c, 5172, 5187).

21              (2) SIMPLIFICATION OF APPLICATION.—In es-  
22              tablishing the portal and application under para-  
23              graph (1), the Secretaries and the Administrator  
24              shall seek to reduce the complexity and length of the

1 application process for the grants described in para-  
2 graph (1).

3 (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretaries  
4 shall provide technical assistance to communities or  
5 persons seeking to apply for financial assistance  
6 through the portal using the application established  
7 under paragraph (1).

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

11 **SEC. 202. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE RESEARCH PRO-**  
12 **GRAM.**

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

20 (b) PROGRAM PRIORITIES.—In carrying out the pro-  
21 gram established under subsection (a), the Secretaries  
22 shall evaluate opportunities to create wildfire-resistant  
23 structures and communities through—

24 (1) different affordable building materials, in-  
25 cluding mass timber;

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

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

5           (4) landscape architecture; and

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

8           (c) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE INNOVATION  
9           PRIZE.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           (c) REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—Section  
2 512(c)(4)(A)(iv) of such Act (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(4)(A))  
3 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 review; 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 grasses post-wildfire, particularly in the  
22           wildland-urban interface.

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

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

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 restores  
6 such plants to the native habitat of each such plant  
7 within the United States, giving priority to the  
8 building of such programs and partnerships in re-  
9 gions of the Bureau of Land Management where  
10 such partnerships and programs do not already exist  
11 as of the 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 **TITLE III—TRANSPARENCY AND**  
2 **TECHNOLOGY**

3 **SEC. 301. BIOCHAR INNOVATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES**  
4 **FOR CONSERVATION, HEALTH, AND AD-**  
5 **VANCEMENTS IN RESEARCH.**

6 (a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

7 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years  
9 after the date of enactment of this Act, the cov-  
10 ered Secretaries shall establish a program to  
11 enter into partnerships with eligible entities to  
12 carry out demonstration projects to support the  
13 development and commercialization of biochar  
14 in accordance with this subsection.

15 (B) LOCATION OF DEMONSTRATION  
16 PROJECTS.—In carrying out the program estab-  
17 lished under subparagraph (A), the covered  
18 Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent prac-  
19 ticable, enter into partnerships with eligible en-  
20 tities such that not fewer than one demonstra-  
21 tion project is carried out in each region of the  
22 Forest Service and each region of the Bureau  
23 of Land Management.

24 (2) PROPOSALS.—To be eligible to enter into a  
25 partnership to carry out a biochar demonstration

1 project under paragraph (1)(A), an eligible entity  
2 shall submit to the covered Secretaries a proposal at  
3 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
4 formation as the covered Secretaries may require.

5 (3) PRIORITY.—In selecting proposals under  
6 paragraph (2), the covered Secretaries shall give pri-  
7 ority to entering into partnerships with eligible enti-  
8 ties that submit proposals to carry out biochar dem-  
9 onstration projects that—

10 (A) have the most carbon sequestration po-  
11 tential;

12 (B) have the most potential to create new  
13 jobs and contribute to local economies, particu-  
14 larly in rural areas;

15 (C) have the most potential to dem-  
16 onstrate—

17 (i) new and innovative uses of biochar;

18 (ii) market viability for cost effective  
19 biochar-based products;

20 (iii) the ecosystem services created or  
21 supported by the use of biochar;

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

1 (v) any combination of purposes speci-  
2 fied in clauses (i) through (iv); and

3 (D) 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;

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

14 (iv) any combination of purposes spec-  
15 ified in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

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

23 (VI) other ecosystem services cre-  
24 ated or supported by the use of  
25 biochar;



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 shall establish or expand an existing applied  
25 biochar research and development grant program to

1 make competitive grants to eligible institutions to  
2 carry out the activities described in paragraph (3).

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (i) carbon sequestration benefits; and

23 (ii) the commercial viability and appli-  
24 cation of such products in forestry, agri-  
25 culture, environmental remediation, water

1                   quality improvement, and any other similar  
2                   uses, as determined by the Secretary;

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

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

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

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

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

14                  (c) REPORTS.—

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

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

22                   (B) identifies any area of research needed  
23                   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, or Tribal government;  
2 (B) an eligible institution; or  
3 (C) a private, non-private, or cooperative  
4 entity.

5 (3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-  
6 ble institution” means land-grant colleges and uni-  
7 versities, including institutions eligible for funding  
8 under the—

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting  
2 through the Chief of the Forest Service;

3 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting  
4 through the Director of the Bureau of Land  
5 Management; and

6 (C) the Secretary of Energy, acting  
7 through the Director of the Office of Science.

8 **SEC. 302. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**  
9 **PORTS.**

10 (a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION  
11 REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE  
12 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—

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

23 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of the re-  
24 port required under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
25 concerned shall—

1 (A) in determining the number of acres of  
2 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned  
3 carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities  
4 during the period covered by the report—

5 (i) record acres of Federal land on  
6 which hazardous fuels reduction activities  
7 were completed during such period; and

8 (ii) record each acre described in  
9 clause (i) once in the report, regardless of  
10 whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction  
11 activities were carried out on such acre  
12 during such period; and

13 (B) with respect to the acres of Federal  
14 land recorded in the report, include information  
15 on—

16 (i) which such acres are located in the  
17 wildland-urban interface;

18 (ii) the level of wildfire risk (high,  
19 moderate, or low) on the first and last day  
20 of the period covered by the report;

21 (iii) the types of hazardous fuels ac-  
22 tivities completed for such acres, delin-  
23 eating between whether such activities  
24 were conducted—

- 1 (I) in a wildfire managed for re-  
2 source benefits; or
- 3 (II) through a planned project;
- 4 (iv) the cost per acre of hazardous  
5 fuels activities carried out during the pe-  
6 riod covered by the report;
- 7 (v) the region or system unit in which  
8 the acres are located; and
- 9 (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous  
10 fuels reduction activities on reducing the  
11 risk of wildfire.

12 (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned  
13 shall make each report submitted under paragraph  
14 (1) publicly available on the websites of the Depart-  
15 ment of Agriculture and the Department of the Inte-  
16 rior, as applicable.

17 (b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

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

23 (2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures  
24 required under paragraph (1) shall include—



1 (A) regular, standardized data reviews of  
2 the accuracy and timely input of data used to  
3 track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

4 (B) verification methods that validate  
5 whether such data accurately correlates to the  
6 hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out  
7 by the Secretary concerned;

8 (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term  
9 effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction  
10 activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

11 (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities  
12 that occur partially within the wildland-urban  
13 interface, methods to distinguish which acres  
14 are located within the wildland-urban interface  
15 and which acres are located outside the  
16 wildland-urban interface.

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

21 (A) such standardized procedures; and

22 (B) program and policy recommendations  
23 to Congress to address any limitations in track-  
24 ing data related to hazardous fuels reduction  
25 activities under this subsection.

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

4 (1) conduct a study on the implementation of  
5 this section, including any limitations with respect  
6 to—

7 (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-  
8 tivities under subsection (a); or

9 (B) tracking data related to hazardous  
10 fuels reduction activities under subsection (b);  
11 and

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

14 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIV-  
16 ITY.—The term “hazardous fuels reduction activ-  
17 ity”—

18 (A) means any vegetation management ac-  
19 tivity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including  
20 mechanical treatments and prescribed burning;  
21 and

22 (B) does not include the awarding of con-  
23 tracts to conduct hazardous fuels reduction ac-  
24 tivities.

1           (2) FEDERAL LANDS.—The term “Federal  
2           lands” means lands under the jurisdiction of the  
3           Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agri-  
4           culture.

5           (e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No addi-  
6           tional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements  
7           of this section, and the activities authorized by this section  
8           are subject to the availability of appropriations made in  
9           advance for such purposes.

10 **SEC. 303. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DE-**  
11 **PLOYMENT AND TESTBED PARTNERSHIP.**

12           (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13           (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered  
14           agency” means—

15                   (A) each Federal land management agency  
16                   (as such term is defined in the Federal Lands  
17                   Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C.  
18                   6801));

19                   (B) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
20                   Administration;

21                   (C) the U.S. Fire Administration;

22                   (D) the Federal Emergency Management  
23                   Agency;

24                   (E) the National Aeronautics and Space  
25                   Administration;

1 (F) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;  
2 (G) the Department of Defense; and  
3 (H) any other Federal agency involved in  
4 wildfire response.

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

7 (A) a private entity;

8 (B) a nonprofit organization; or

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

12 (b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the  
13 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordina-  
14 tion with the heads of the covered agencies, shall establish  
15 a deployment and testbed pilot program (in this section  
16 referred to as “Pilot Program”) for new and innovative  
17 wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitiga-  
18 tion technologies.

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

21 (1) incorporate the Pilot Program into existing  
22 interagency coordinating groups on wildfires;

23 (2) in consultation with the heads of covered  
24 agencies, identify and advance key technology pri-  
25 ority areas with respect to wildfire prevention, detec-

1       tion, communication, and mitigation technologies, in-  
2       cluding—

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

5               (B) dispatch communications;

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

8               (D) safety equipment; and

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

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

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

23      (e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECH-  
24      NOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in  
25      the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to

1 covered entities developing and applying emerging tech-  
2 nologies, including artificial intelligence, quantum sensing,  
3 computing and quantum-hybrid applications, augmented  
4 reality, and 5G private networks and device-to-device com-  
5 munications supporting nomadic mesh networks, for wild-  
6 fire mitigation.

7 (f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination  
8 with the heads of covered agencies, shall make public the  
9 key technology priority areas identified pursuant to sub-  
10 section (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply under  
11 subsection (d) to test and demonstrate their technologies  
12 to address such priority areas.

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

22 (1) A list of participating covered entities.

23 (2) A brief description of the technologies test-  
24 ed by each such covered entity.

1           (3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring each  
2 such technology and applying the technology at  
3 scale.

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

6           (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-  
7 ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and  
8 application at-scale in Federal land management  
9 agencies' wildfire prevention, detection, communica-  
10 tion, and mitigation efforts.

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

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

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

18           (1) conduct a study evaluating—

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

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

24               (C) the suitability and feasibility of estab-  
25 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



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

○