

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8682

To codify the categorical exclusion proposed in the National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures for the Bureau of Land Management related to salvage harvesting published on April 6, 2026, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2026

Mr. DOWNING introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To codify the categorical exclusion proposed in the National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures for the Bureau of Land Management related to salvage harvesting published on April 6, 2026, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Accelerating Forest
5 Management Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CODIFICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Salvage harvesting activities de-
3 scribed in subsection (b) are a category of actions hereby
4 designated as being categorically excluded from the prepa-
5 ration of an environmental assessment or an environ-
6 mental impact statement under section 102 of the Na-
7 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
8 4332).

9 (b) SALVAGE HARVESTING ACTIVITIES DESIGNATED
10 FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The salvage harvesting ac-
12 tivities designated under this section for categorical
13 exclusion are—

14 (A) covered actions with respect to dead or
15 dying trees resulting from fire, insects, disease,
16 drought, or other disturbances within treatment
17 areas—

18 (i) not to exceed 1,000 acres where
19 the disturbance affects 3,000 acres of Bu-
20 reau-managed lands or less; and

21 (ii) not to exceed the lesser of 5,000
22 acres or 1/3 of the disturbance area where
23 the disturbance exceeds 3,000 acres of Bu-
24 reau-managed lands; and

25 (B) carried out in conformance with appli-
26 cable land use planning decisions.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—In addition to the covered actions under paragraph (1), salvage harvesting activities to which the categorical exclusion applies under this section—

(A) may include construction of up to 1 mile of new permanent road to facilitate covered actions, provided that all segments conform to applicable land use planning decisions with route-specific designations disclosed where travel management planning has been completed;

(B) may include maintenance and renovation of existing roads as needed;

(C) may include construction of temporary roads not to exceed a ratio of 2.25 miles per 1,000 acres of harvest area as needed, provided that the temporary roads—

(i) are not part of the permanent transportation system of the Bureau;

(ii) are designed to standards appropriate for their intended use (safety, erosion control, sedimentation prevention, and resource protection);

(iii) are not needed for long-term resource management; and

1 (iv) are decommissioned and stabilized
2 after use to minimize erosion and protect
3 water quality; and

4 (D) require the disclosure of design fea-
5 tures, in documentation of finding that an ac-
6 tion is excluded pursuant to the use of this cat-
7 egorical exclusion, that address the following re-
8 source considerations consistent with applicable
9 land use plan decisions, or, where no plan re-
10 quirements apply, specify how the following re-
11 source considerations are addressed:

12 (i) Snag and downed wood—amount
13 to be created or retained.

14 (ii) Erosion control—specifications or
15 measures (e.g., water bars, dispersed
16 slash).

17 (iii) Soil compaction—criteria for
18 avoidance, minimization, or remediation.

19 (iv) Logging systems—types and
20 scope of constraints (e.g., seasonal, loca-
21 tion, extent, etc.).

22 (v) Seasonal operations—purpose and
23 extent of operating restrictions.

24 (vi) Invasive species—measures to
25 prevent or limit spread.

1 (vii) Riparian areas—buffer widths
2 and/or operating restrictions.

3 (viii) Prescribed fire—operating con-
4 straints for underburning or pile burning.

5 (ix) Temporary roads—decommis-
6 sioning standards.

7 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) BUREAU.—The term “Bureau” means the
9 Bureau of Land Management.

10 (2) COVERED ACTIONS.—The term “covered ac-
11 tions” means the one or more of the following ac-
12 tions:

13 (A) Cutting, yarding, and removal of dead
14 or dying trees.

15 (B) Cutting, yarding, and removal of live
16 trees needed for operations, landings, skid
17 trails, or road clearing.

18 (C) Chipping/grinding or removal of resid-
19 ual slash.

20 (D) Jackpot burning, pile burning, and
21 underburning.

22 (E) Seeding or planting necessary to accel-
23 erate native species re-establishment.

24 (3) DYING TREE.—The term “dying tree”
25 means a standing tree severely damaged by disturb-

1 ance (such as fire, wind, insects, disease, drought)
2 and, in the judgment of a forestry professional or
3 someone technically trained for the work, is likely to
4 die within two years.

5 (4) PERMANENT ROAD.—The term “permanent
6 road” means a road constructed or reconstructed for
7 use, as part of the permanent transportation system
8 of the Bureau.

9 (5) TEMPORARY ROAD.—The term “temporary
10 road” means a road authorized by contract, permit,
11 lease, written authorization, or emergency operation,
12 not added to the permanent system, and decommis-
13 sioned after use.

14 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND**
15 **RECOVERY FUND.**

16 Title I of the Department of the Interior, Environ-
17 ment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010
18 (Public Law 111–88) is amended in the text under the
19 heading “FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND RE-
20 COVERY FUND” by striking “2020” each place it ap-
21 pears and inserting “2033”.

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