

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1462

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

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 10, 2025

Mr. CURTIS (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. PADILLA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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## A BILL

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

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

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

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

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

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

## TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE RESTORATION

### Subtitle A—Addressing Emergency Wildfire Risks in High-priority Firesheds

- Sec. 101. Designation of fireshed management areas.
- Sec. 102. Wildfire Intelligence 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 treatment of certain revenue and payments under good neighbor agreements.
- Sec. 112. Fixing stewardship end result contracting.
- Sec. 113. Fireshed management project 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.
- Sec. 120. Tribal forest protection management activities and projects.

### Subtitle C—Litigation Reform

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

### Subtitle D—Prescribed Fire

- Sec. 131. Prescribed fire eligible activities, policies, and practices.
- Sec. 132. Human resources.
- Sec. 133. Liability of prescribed fire managers.
- Sec. 134. Environmental review.
- Sec. 135. Cooperative agreements and contracts for prescribed fire.
- Sec. 136. Facilitating responsible use of prescribed fire.

## TITLE II—PROTECTING COMMUNITIES IN WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE

### Subtitle A—Community Wildfire Risk Reduction

- Sec. 201. Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program.
- Sec. 202. Community Wildfire Defense Research Program.
- Sec. 203. Community wildfire defense accountability.
- Sec. 204. Community wildfire defense grant program improvements.
- Sec. 205. Updated definition of at-risk community.

### Subtitle B—Vegetation Management, Reforestation, and Local Fire Suppression

- Sec. 211. Vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance relating to electric transmission and distribution facility rights-of-way.
- Sec. 212. Fire-safe electrical corridors.
- Sec. 213. Categorical exclusion for high-priority hazard trees.
- Sec. 214. Seeds of Success strategy.
- Sec. 215. Program to support priority reforestation and restoration projects.
- Sec. 216. Reforestation, nurseries, and genetic resources support.
- Sec. 217. 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. Keeping forest plans current and monitored.
- Sec. 306. Container Aerial Firefighting System.
- Sec. 307. Study on pine beetle infestation.

#### Subtitle B—White Oak Resilience

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

### TITLE IV—ENSURING CASUALTY ASSISTANCE FOR FIREFIGHTERS

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

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

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **END WATER USER.**—The term “end water  
4 user” has the meaning given the term in section  
5 303(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
6 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542(a)).

7 (2) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The term “Execu-  
8 tive Director” means the Executive Director of the

1 Wildfire Intelligence Center appointed under section  
2 102(g).

3 (3) FIRESHED.—The term “fireshed” means a  
4 landscape-scale area, as delineated using methods  
5 developed through research conducted by the Forest  
6 Service, that represents similar source levels of com-  
7 munity exposure to wildfire.

8 (4) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREA.—The term  
9 “fireshed management area” means a fireshed man-  
10 agement area designated under section 101(a).

11 (5) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT.—The  
12 term “fireshed management project” means any of  
13 the following forest or vegetation management activi-  
14 ties:

15 (A) A hazardous fuels management activi-  
16 ty.

17 (B) Creating a fuel break or fire break.

18 (C) Removing hazard trees, dead trees, or  
19 dying trees, as determined by a responsible offi-  
20 cial.

21 (D) Developing, approving, or conducting  
22 routine maintenance under a vegetation man-  
23 agement, facility inspection, and operation and  
24 maintenance plan under section 512(c) of the

1 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of  
2 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)).

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

8 (F) Using treatments to address insects or  
9 disease or to control vegetation competition or  
10 invasive species.

11 (G) A wet-meadow, floodplain, or riparian  
12 restoration activity that increases wildfire re-  
13 sistance.

14 (H) A forest stand improvement activity  
15 necessary to protect life and property from cat-  
16 astrophic wildfire, as determined by a respon-  
17 sible official.

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

20 (6) FIRESHED REGISTRY.—The term “Fireshed  
21 Registry” means the registry established under sec-  
22 tion 103(a).

23 (7) FOREST PLAN.—The term “forest plan”  
24 means—

1 (A) a land use plan prepared by the Bu-  
2 reau of Land Management for public land pur-  
3 suant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy  
4 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.  
5 1712);

6 (B) a land and resource management plan  
7 prepared by the Forest Service for a unit of the  
8 National Forest System pursuant to section 6  
9 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-  
10 sources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.  
11 1604); and

12 (C) a forest management plan (as defined  
13 in section 304 of the National Indian Forest  
14 Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103))  
15 with respect to Indian forest land or rangeland.

16 (8) GOVERNOR.—The term “Governor” means  
17 the Governor or other appropriate executive official  
18 of—

19 (A) a State; or

20 (B) an Indian Tribe.

21 (9) HAZARDOUS FUELS MANAGEMENT ACTIV-  
22 ITY.—The term “hazardous fuels management activ-  
23 ity” means a vegetation management activity, or any  
24 combination of such activities, that reduces the risk  
25 of wildfire, including mechanical thinning, mastica-

1 tion, prescribed burning, cultural burning (as deter-  
2 mined by an applicable Indian Tribe), timber har-  
3 vest, and grazing.

4 (10) HFRA TERMS.—The terms “at-risk com-  
5 munity”, “community wildfire protection plan”, and  
6 “wildland-urban interface” have the meanings given  
7 those terms in section 101 of the Healthy Forests  
8 Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

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

12 (A) is held in trust, or subject to a restric-  
13 tion against alienation, by the United States for  
14 an Indian Tribe or a member of an Indian  
15 Tribe; and

16 (B)(i) is Indian forest land (as defined in  
17 section 304 of the National Indian Forest Re-  
18 sources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103)); or

19 (ii)(I) has a cover of grasses, brush, or any  
20 similar vegetation; or

21 (II) formerly had a forest cover or vegeta-  
22 tive cover that is capable of restoration.

23 (12) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”  
24 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the

1 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
2 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

3 (13) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term  
4 “National Forest System” has the meaning given  
5 the term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-  
6 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16  
7 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

8 (14) PUBLIC LAND.—The term “public land”  
9 means—

10 (A) public lands (as defined in section 103  
11 of the Federal Land Policy and Management  
12 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702));

13 (B) the land reconveyed to the United  
14 States pursuant to the first section of the Act  
15 of February 26, 1919 (40 Stat. 1179, chapter  
16 47) (commonly known as “Coos Bay Wagon  
17 Road Grant lands”) under the jurisdiction of  
18 the Secretary of the Interior; and

19 (C) the land revested in the United States  
20 by the Act of June 9, 1916 (39 Stat. 218,  
21 chapter 137) (commonly known as “Oregon and  
22 California Railroad Grant lands”) under the ju-  
23 risdiction of the Secretary of the Interior.

1           (15) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—

2           The term “relevant committees of Congress”  
3           means—

4                   (A) in the Senate—

5                           (i) the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-  
6                           trition, and Forestry; and

7                           (ii) the Committee on Energy and  
8                           Natural Resources; and

9                   (B) in the House of Representatives—

10                           (i) the Committee on Agriculture; and

11                           (ii) the Committee on Natural Re-  
12                           sources.

13           (16) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”  
14           means—

15                   (A) the Secretary; and

16                   (B) the Secretary of the Interior.

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

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

21                   (A) the Secretary, with respect to National  
22                   Forest System land; and

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

1           (19) 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 established by, or pursuant to, the  
7 laws of the State for the purpose of performing  
8 a limited and specific governmental or propri-  
9 etary function primarily relating to land man-  
10 agement; and

11           (C) is distinct from any other unit of local  
12 government within the State.

13           (20) STATE.—The term “State” means—

14           (A) each of the several States;

15           (B) the District of Columbia; and

16           (C) each territory of the United States.

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

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

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

24           (a) DESIGNATIONS.—

1           (1) INITIAL DESIGNATIONS.—Subject to para-  
2 graph (4), for the 5-year period beginning on the  
3 date of enactment of this Act, the following firesheds  
4 are designated as fireshed management areas:

5           (A) Each landscape-scale fireshed identi-  
6 fied as a “high-risk fireshed” in the document  
7 published by the Forest Service entitled “Wild-  
8 fire Crisis Strategy” and dated January 2022.

9           (B) Of the 7,688 firesheds described in the  
10 report published by the Rocky Mountain Re-  
11 search Station of the Forest Service in 2019,  
12 each landscape-scale fireshed identified by the  
13 Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of  
14 the Interior, as being in the top 20 percent 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, critical infrastructure, and  
20 other structures.

21           (ii) Wildfire exposure and cor-  
22 responding risk to municipal watersheds,  
23 including Tribal water supplies and sys-  
24 tems.

1 (iii) Risk of vegetation type conversion  
2 due to wildfire, based on information from  
3 existing forest plans, State forest action  
4 plans, and best available science.

5 (2) DESIGNATIONS IN ALASKA, HAWAII, AND  
6 TERRITORIES.—Not later than 30 days after the  
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-  
8 sultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall  
9 designate in the States of Alaska and Hawaii and  
10 the territories of the United States such additional  
11 fireshed management areas as the Secretaries deter-  
12 mine to be appropriate, based on the criteria de-  
13 scribed in clauses (i) through (iii) of paragraph  
14 (1)(B).

15 (3) MAP-BASED UPDATED DESIGNATIONS.—

16 (A) MAP OF FIRESHEDS.—Not later than  
17 the date that is 5 years after the date of enact-  
18 ment of this Act, and not less frequently than  
19 once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, in  
20 consultation with the Secretary of the Interior,  
21 shall submit to the relevant committees of Con-  
22 gress an updated map of firesheds, which  
23 shall—

24 (i) be based on the Fireshed Registry;

25 and

1 (ii) include firesheds in the States of  
2 Alaska and Hawaii and the territories of  
3 the United States.

4 (B) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREAS.—Not  
5 later than 60 days after submitting an updated  
6 fireshed map under subparagraph (A), the Sec-  
7 retary shall designate as a fireshed manage-  
8 ment area each fireshed depicted on that map  
9 that the Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-  
10 retary of the Interior, identifies as being in the  
11 top 20 percent of firesheds at risk of wildfire  
12 exposure based on the criteria described in  
13 clauses (i) through (iii) of paragraph (1)(B)  
14 and in accordance with this section.

15 (C) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall  
16 make each updated map prepared under this  
17 paragraph publicly available on the Fireshed  
18 Registry.

19 (4) LAND LOCATION AND CONTENT.—A  
20 fireshed management area designated under this  
21 subsection—

22 (A) shall not overlap with any other  
23 fireshed management area; and

24 (B) may contain Federal and non-Federal  
25 land, including Indian forest land or rangeland.

1           (5) COMBINING MULTIPLE FIRESHEDS.—On re-  
2           ceipt of a request of an affected Governor, the Sec-  
3           retary, in consultation with the Secretary of the In-  
4           terior, may expand a fireshed management area des-  
5           ignated under this subsection to include more than  
6           1 fireshed.

7           (b) USE.—The Secretary concerned may carry out  
8           fireshed management projects on the fireshed manage-  
9           ment areas designated under this section.

10          (c) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.—The designation of  
11          a fireshed management area under this section shall not  
12          be subject to the requirements of the National Environ-  
13          mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

14       **SEC. 102. WILDFIRE INTELLIGENCE CENTER.**

15          (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16               (1) BOARD.—The term “Board” means the  
17               Board governing the Center appointed under sub-  
18               section (f).

19               (2) CENTER.—The term “Center” means the  
20               Wildfire Intelligence Center established under sub-  
21               section (b).

22          (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after  
23          the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the  
24          Secretary of the Interior shall establish a joint office, to  
25          be known as the “Wildfire Intelligence Center”, the duties

1 of which are to study, plan, coordinate, and implement  
2 issues of joint concern among the Department of Agri-  
3 culture and the Department of the Interior, including—

4           (1) serving as the development and operational  
5           center for the comprehensive assessment and pre-  
6           diction of wildfires and fires that move into the built  
7           environment to provide decision support services to  
8           inform land and fuels management, community out-  
9           reach and risk reduction, post-wildfire recovery and  
10          rehabilitation, and fire management and response  
11          activities carried out by entities, including—

12                   (A) the Federal Government;

13                   (B) State, Tribal, and local governments;

14                   (C) land managers;

15                   (D) incident management teams;

16                   (E) the National Interagency Coordination  
17          Center;

18                   (F) geographic coordination centers;

19                   (G) land, air, and water managers;

20                   (H) burned area rehabilitation teams;

21                   (I) public health entities; and

22                   (J) other entities identified by the Board;

23          (2) facilitating collaboration and information  
24          sharing across Federal and State departments and  
25          agencies, Tribal entities, academia, and the private

1 sector with respect to matters relating to wildfires;  
2 and

3 (3) addressing such other issues as the Sec-  
4 retary and the Secretary of the Interior may identify  
5 as issues of joint interest in support of the functions  
6 of the Center described in subsection (d).

7 (c) HEADQUARTERS.—Not later than 1 year after the  
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall select from  
9 within the United States a permanent location for the  
10 physical headquarters of the Center.

11 (d) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Center shall  
12 include the following:

13 (1) Providing real-time, science-based, and  
14 data-rich scientific and technical analytical services,  
15 decision support, and predictive services across all  
16 phases of fire to inform pre-fire land and fuels man-  
17 agement, pre-fire community and built environment  
18 risk reduction, active fire management and emer-  
19 gency response, and post-fire recovery in the built  
20 and natural environments.

21 (2) Assessing and monitoring wildfires and  
22 wildfire conditions across all phases of fire, including  
23 ignition, behavior, and spread, climate, weather,  
24 drought, soil moisture, fuel conditions, smoke,  
25 aerosols, fire severity, debris flows, and erosion.

1           (3) Comprehensive modeling of wildfire behav-  
2           ior and risks, including ignitions, wildfire intensity  
3           and spread inside the built and natural environ-  
4           ments, air quality, and dependence on burn history,  
5           vegetation conditions, climate, and weather.

6           (4) Providing and procuring, if commercially  
7           available, and combining existing data, mapping,  
8           technological, and consultation services to support  
9           pre-, active, and post-fire activities, including—

10                   (A) creating and maintaining a real-time  
11                   nationwide wildfire risk catalog by leveraging  
12                   existing risk mapping at land management  
13                   agencies;

14                   (B) assisting with the creation of evacu-  
15                   ation plans for at-risk communities;

16                   (C) assisting with the creation of public  
17                   safety power shutoff plans;

18                   (D) assisting with the creation and updat-  
19                   ing of wildfire response strategies, plans, and  
20                   treatment and mitigation measures, including  
21                   mitigation measures in the built environment  
22                   and the development of community wildfire pro-  
23                   tection plans;

24                   (E) providing decision support and gridded  
25                   and point data forecast and assessment prod-

1           ucts in support of operational and planning ac-  
2           tivities, including the pre-positioning of wildfire  
3           suppression personnel and assets based on real-  
4           time-risk; and

5                   (F) assisting with the safe and effective  
6           use of prescribed fire.

7           (5) Consolidating air quality monitoring and  
8           forecasting data to support health risk information  
9           to help inform risks to public health and protect the  
10          public from smoke impacts associated with wildfires,  
11          including providing planning guidance for safe and  
12          effective beneficial fire opportunities to prevent the  
13          risk of wildfires.

14          (6) Providing accessible tools and products that  
15          support emergency and land management decisions  
16          relating to wildfire prevention, preparedness, and re-  
17          sponse, including risk assessment and contingency  
18          planning, which shall include the development of a  
19          data interface to assist and inform, in real-time,  
20          firefighters, first responders, and approved contrac-  
21          tors in responding to wildfires, including the use of  
22          any observations by the civil, military, and intel-  
23          ligence communities of the Federal Government and  
24          commercial Earth observations.

1           (7) Establishing an interoperable information  
2           technology infrastructure accessible by Federal agen-  
3           cies, State government offices, units of local govern-  
4           ment, and Tribal governments.

5           (8) To the extent feasible, establishing data  
6           interoperability through—

7                   (A) the development of common data  
8                   standards;

9                   (B) the provision of comprehensive search-  
10                  able data inventories;

11                  (C) working with Tribal governments in  
12                  nation-to-nation partnership;

13                  (D) the integration and sharing of infor-  
14                  mation and resources of the Federal Govern-  
15                  ment and State and local governments to sup-  
16                  port the essential functions of the Center;

17                  (E) the development of data standards to  
18                  protect confidential information that may be es-  
19                  sential to the core functions of the Center;

20                  (F) regular updates and maintenance of  
21                  research and technology essential to achieving  
22                  the core functions of the Center; and

23                  (G) the development and maintenance of a  
24                  big-data architecture to compile, maintain,

1 standardize, and evaluate data associated with  
2 the core functions of the Center.

3 (9) In coordination with relevant Federal agen-  
4 cies and coordinating entities, as determined by the  
5 Board, and in consultation with State government  
6 agencies, units of local government, territories of the  
7 United States, and federally recognized Indian  
8 Tribes, developing, procuring where commercially  
9 available, and disseminating tools to support wildfire  
10 planning, risk reduction and response guidance,  
11 guidelines, maps, and training materials to help in-  
12 form State, territorial, local, and Tribal governments  
13 and decisionmakers with respect to—

14 (A) the use and implementations of wild-  
15 fire risk assessments;

16 (B) the applied use of the database and in-  
17 formation developed under paragraphs (7) and  
18 (8);

19 (C) reducing losses from wildfires;

20 (D) increasing benefits from wildfires;

21 (E) resources available for communities  
22 and responders working to improve wildfire pre-  
23 paredness; and

1 (F) enhancing communication management  
2 in emergency wildfire situations, land and re-  
3 source management, and scientific studies.

4 (10) Working with Federal, State, and Tribal  
5 agencies to develop and improve National Wildfire  
6 Coordinating Group wildfire preparedness curricula  
7 and training modules for—

8 (A) State, territorial, local, and Tribal offi-  
9 cials; and

10 (B) Federal, State, territorial, local, and  
11 Tribal emergency managers and responders.

12 (11) Maintaining the Fireshed Registry.

13 (12) Administering the pilot program estab-  
14 lished under section 303 and streamlining procure-  
15 ment processes for technologies identified under that  
16 pilot program and technology systems related to ad-  
17 dressing wildfire and smoke for purposes of scaling  
18 such technologies and systems across Federal agen-  
19 cies.

20 (e) ADMINISTRATION.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Sec-  
22 retary of the Interior shall cooperatively administer  
23 the Center.

24 (2) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
2 graph (B), the Secretary and the Secretary of  
3 the Interior may transfer funds provided to es-  
4 tablish, and carry out the duties of, the Center  
5 between—

6                     (i) the Forest Service; and

7                     (ii) the United States Geological Sur-  
8 vey.

9           (B) NOTICE REQUIRED.—Not later than  
10 15 days before transferring funds under sub-  
11 paragraph (A), the Secretary or the Secretary  
12 of the Interior, as applicable, shall submit to  
13 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate  
14 and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
15 House of Representatives a notice of the pro-  
16 posed transfer.

17 (f) BOARD.—

18           (1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Center shall be gov-  
19 erned by a Board, to be composed of 16 members,  
20 as follows:

21                     (A) 1 member who is a career employee of  
22 the Department of Agriculture, to be appointed  
23 by the Secretary.

24                     (B) 1 member who is a career employee of  
25 the research and development areas of the For-

1 est Service, to be appointed by the Chief of the  
2 Forest Service.

3 (C) 1 member who is a career employee in  
4 fire and aviation management of the Forest  
5 Service, to be appointed by the Chief of the  
6 Forest Service.

7 (D) 1 member who is a career employee of  
8 the Department of the Interior, to be appointed  
9 by the Secretary of the Interior.

10 (E) 1 member who is a career employee of  
11 the Bureau of Land Management, to be ap-  
12 pointed by the Director of the Bureau of Land  
13 Management.

14 (F) 1 member who is a career employee of  
15 the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to be appointed  
16 by the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

17 (G) 1 member who is a career employee of  
18 the National Park Service, to be appointed by  
19 the Director of the National Park Service.

20 (H) 1 member who is a career employee of  
21 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to  
22 be appointed by the Director of the United  
23 States Fish and Wildlife Service.

24 (I) 1 member who is a career employee of  
25 the United States Geological Survey, to be ap-

1 pointed by the Director of the United States  
2 Geological Survey.

3 (J) 1 member who is a career employee of  
4 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-  
5 istration, to be appointed by the Administrator  
6 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
7 ministration.

8 (K) 1 member who is a career employee of  
9 the National Weather Service, to be appointed  
10 by the Director of the National Weather Serv-  
11 ice.

12 (L) 1 member who is a career employee of  
13 the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to  
14 be appointed by the Administrator of the Fed-  
15 eral Emergency Management Agency.

16 (M) 1 member who is a career employee of  
17 the United States Fire Administration, to be  
18 appointed by the Administrator of the United  
19 States Fire Administration.

20 (N) 1 member who is a career employee of  
21 the Department of Defense, to be appointed by  
22 the Secretary of Defense.

23 (O) 1 member who is a career employee of  
24 the National Science Foundation, to be ap-

1 pointed by the Director of the National Science  
2 Foundation.

3 (P) 1 member who is a career employee of  
4 the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-  
5 tration, to be appointed by the Administrator of  
6 the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-  
7 tration.

8 (2) TERMS.—A member of the Board—

9 (A) shall be appointed for a term of 3  
10 years; and

11 (B) may be reappointed for not more than  
12 3 additional terms.

13 (3) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The  
14 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board  
15 shall—

16 (A) be selected by the members of the  
17 Board from among the members appointed  
18 under subparagraphs (B), (I), and (J) of para-  
19 graph (1); and

20 (B) serve for a term of 1 year.

21 (4) MAJORITY VOTE.—A voting consensus by  
22 the Board shall be not less than a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote  
23 of the members present.

1           (5) NONVOTING STATUS.—At the discretion of  
2 the Board, the Board may include nonvoting observ-  
3 ers to the Board.

4           (g) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall have an  
6 Executive Director, who shall be appointed by, and  
7 serve at the direction of, the Board.

8           (2) DROUGHT MONITORING.—The Executive  
9 Director shall engage with relevant Federal agencies,  
10 State agencies, and entities in the private sector to  
11 improve drought monitoring, forecasting, commu-  
12 nication, and response that may be essential to the  
13 core functions of the Center, if the Executive Direc-  
14 tor determines that the engagement is appropriate,  
15 beneficial, and cost-effective.

16           (3) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—

17           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Executive Director  
18 may enter into and perform contracts, agree-  
19 ments, memoranda of understanding, or other,  
20 similar transactions, as the Executive Director  
21 determines to be appropriate to carry out the  
22 functions of the Center described in subsection  
23 (d).

24           (B) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days  
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the

1 Board and the Executive Director shall submit  
2 to the relevant committees of Congress a report  
3 that provides—

4 (i) an assessment of existing con-  
5 tracting authorities of the Executive Direc-  
6 tor;

7 (ii) recommendations regarding  
8 whether any new contracting authorities or  
9 modifications of existing contracting au-  
10 thorities are needed; and

11 (iii) a description of technologies that  
12 may be commercially available to perform  
13 the functions of the Center, together with  
14 the costs and timelines of procuring those  
15 technologies or developing relevant capa-  
16 bilities.

17 (h) DETAILEES.—The Secretary and the Secretary of  
18 the Interior may detail or assign to the Center such em-  
19 ployees of the Department of Agriculture and the Depart-  
20 ment of the Interior, respectively, as the Secretaries deter-  
21 mine to be necessary to carry out the duties of the Center.

22 (i) INTERAGENCY FINANCING.—Notwithstanding  
23 section 708 of the Financial Services and General Govern-  
24 ment Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328;

1 136 Stat. 4706), or any other, similar provision of law,  
 2 interagency financing may be used to fund the Center.

3 (j) COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND EN-  
 4 TITIES.—To carry out the functions of the Center de-  
 5 scribed in subsection (d), the Board shall coordinate with  
 6 agencies represented on the Board and other relevant enti-  
 7 ties, including—

8 (1) the National Wildfire Coordinating Group;

9 (2) State and Tribal governments;

10 (3) any other agency that—

11 (A) is responsible for the management of  
 12 Federal or State land; or

13 (B) has data, science, and technology ex-  
 14 pertise relevant to the Center; and

15 (4) any other relevant Federal, State, Tribal, or  
 16 nongovernmental entity that is representative of an  
 17 element of the wildland fire community.

18 (k) OPERATIONAL PLAN.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
 20 after the appointment of the Executive Director, the  
 21 Executive Director shall submit to the relevant com-  
 22 mittees of Congress an operational plan describing—

23 (A) the structure of the Center;

24 (B) staffing and funding needs of the Cen-  
 25 ter;

1           (C) technological capabilities within the  
2           Department of Agriculture, the Department of  
3           the Interior, and the other Federal departments  
4           and agencies comprising the Board that are  
5           available to the Center;

6           (D) an assessment of the potential of com-  
7           mercially available technologies to perform the  
8           functions of the Center; and

9           (E) a timeline for full operational func-  
10          tioning of the Center.

11          (2) INCLUSIONS.—The plan under paragraph  
12          (1) shall include estimated costs, key milestones, co-  
13          ordination strategies with Federal, State, and pri-  
14          vate entities, and recommendations for ensuring the  
15          effective operation of the Center.

16          (3) UPDATES.—The Director shall update the  
17          plan not less frequently than annually to reflect  
18          progress, adjustments in funding, and the adoption  
19          of new technologies.

20          (l) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
21          tion affects the ownership of any data source.

22      **SEC. 103. FIRESHED REGISTRY.**

23          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretaries, acting  
24          through the Executive Director, shall establish and main-  
25          tain, on a publicly accessible website, a registry, to be

1 known as the “Fireshed Registry”, that provides inter-  
2 active geospatial data relating to individual firesheds, in-  
3 cluding information relating to—

4 (1) wildland fire exposure, delineated by owner-  
5 ship, including rights-of-way for utilities and other  
6 public or private purposes;

7 (2) any hazardous fuels management activities  
8 that have occurred within an individual fireshed dur-  
9 ing the preceding 10 years;

10 (3) wildland fire exposure with respect to a  
11 fireshed, delineated by—

12 (A) wildfire exposure and corresponding  
13 risk to communities, including risk to life, crit-  
14 ical infrastructure, and other structures;

15 (B) wildfire exposure and corresponding  
16 risk to municipal watersheds, including Tribal  
17 water supplies and systems; and

18 (C) risk of vegetation type conversion due  
19 to wildfire;

20 (4) the percentage of a fireshed burned in wild-  
21 fire during the preceding 10 years, including, to the  
22 extent practicable, delineations of acres that have  
23 burned at a high severity;

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

1           (6) any hazardous fuels management activities  
2           planned for a fireshed, including fireshed manage-  
3           ment projects.

4           (b) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS.—  
5           The Executive Director shall make data from the Fireshed  
6           Registry available to local communities developing or up-  
7           dating community wildfire protection plans.

8           (c) MAINTENANCE.—As part of the website con-  
9           taining the Fireshed Registry, the Executive Director  
10          shall—

11           (1) publish fireshed assessments conducted  
12          under section 105; and

13           (2) maintain a searchable database to track—  
14           (A) the status of Federal environmental re-  
15           views, permits, and authorizations for fireshed  
16           management projects, including—

17                   (i) a comprehensive permitting time-  
18                   table;

19                   (ii) the status of the compliance of  
20                   each lead agency, cooperating agency, and  
21                   participating agency with the permitting  
22                   timetable with respect to fireshed manage-  
23                   ment projects;

24                   (iii) any required modifications of the  
25                   permitting timetable under clause (i), in-

1 cluding an explanation regarding why the  
2 permitting timetable was modified; and

3 (iv) information regarding any public  
4 meetings, public hearings, and public com-  
5 ment periods relating to a fireshed man-  
6 agement project, as that information be-  
7 comes available, which shall be presented  
8 in—

9 (I) English; and

10 (II) the predominant language of  
11 each community that is most affected  
12 by the fireshed management project,  
13 as that information becomes available;

14 (B) the projected cost of fireshed manage-  
15 ment projects; and

16 (C) in the case of a completed fireshed  
17 management project, the estimated effectiveness  
18 of the fireshed management project in—

19 (i) reducing the wildfire exposure  
20 within the applicable fireshed, including  
21 wildfire exposure described in subpara-  
22 graphs (A) through (C) of subsection  
23 (a)(3); and

24 (ii) increasing the resilience of wildlife  
25 habitats, including habitat for species list-

1 ed as threatened or endangered under the  
2 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16  
3 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

4 (d) INCORPORATION OF EXISTING ASSESSMENTS  
5 AND DATA.—In carrying out this section, the Executive  
6 Director shall incorporate any assessments completed or  
7 data gathered through existing partnerships, to the extent  
8 practicable.

9 (e) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.—The establishment  
10 and maintenance of the Fireshed Registry under this sec-  
11 tion shall not be subject to the requirements of the Na-  
12 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321  
13 et seq.).

14 **SEC. 104. SHARED STEWARDSHIP.**

15 (a) JOINT AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary concerned  
16 shall seek to use an existing shared stewardship agree-  
17 ment, modify an existing shared stewardship agreement,  
18 or enter into a similar agreement with the Governor of  
19 each State and Indian Tribe that contains a fireshed man-  
20 agement area designated under section 101(a) to jointly—

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

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

3           (b) ADJUSTMENT OF BOUNDARIES AND UPDATES TO  
4 AGREEMENTS.—With respect to an agreement under sub-  
5 section (a), the Secretary concerned, on request of the ap-  
6 plicable Governor, may—

7           (1) adjust the boundaries of any applicable  
8 fireshed management area; and

9           (2) update the agreement to address any new  
10 wildfire threats.

11          (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary and  
12 the Secretary of the Interior may enter into cooperative  
13 agreements with units of local government, special dis-  
14 tricts, end water users, nongovernmental organizations,  
15 institutions of higher education, and other entities, at the  
16 discretion of the applicable Secretary to carry out the ac-  
17 tivities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection  
18 (a).

19 **SEC. 105. FIRESHED ASSESSMENTS.**

20          (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the  
21 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned,  
22 in cooperation with the Governor with whom the Secretary  
23 concerned enters into an agreement under section 104(a),  
24 if applicable, shall conduct a fireshed assessment in ac-  
25 cordance with this section with respect to each fireshed

1 management area designated in the applicable State or  
2 area of Tribal land.

3 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each fireshed assessment  
5 under subsection (a) shall—

6 (A) identify—

7 (i) using the best available science,  
8 wildfire exposure risks within the applica-  
9 ble fireshed management area, including  
10 scenario planning and wildfire hazard map-  
11 ping and models; and

12 (ii) each at-risk community within the  
13 fireshed management area;

14 (B) identify the types of fireshed manage-  
15 ment projects that could benefit the fireshed  
16 management area, with an emphasis on reduc-  
17 ing—

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

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

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

3 (iv) wildfire risk for wildlife habitats,  
4 including habitat for species listed as  
5 threatened or endangered under the En-  
6 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
7 1531 et seq.);

8 (v) wildfire risk to resources of an In-  
9 dian Tribe, as defined by the Indian Tribe;  
10 or

11 (vi) any combination of purposes de-  
12 scribed in clauses (i) through (v); and

13 (C) include, with respect to the applicable  
14 fireshed management area—

15 (i) a strategy for reducing the threat  
16 of wildfire—

17 (I) to protect at-risk communities  
18 in the wildland-urban interface on  
19 Federal and non-Federal land;

20 (II) to improve the effectiveness  
21 of wildfire firefighting, particularly  
22 the effectiveness of fuels treatments  
23 that would improve wildfire firefighter  
24 safety during wildfires; and

- 1 (III) to reduce risk to wildlife  
2 habitats, including habitat for species  
3 listed as threatened or endangered  
4 under the Endangered Species Act of  
5 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);
- 6 (ii) a timeline for the implementation  
7 of fireshed management projects;
- 8 (iii) long-term benchmark goals for  
9 the completion of fireshed management  
10 projects in the highest wildfire exposure  
11 areas to ensure that those fireshed man-  
12 agement projects contribute to the develop-  
13 ment and maintenance of healthy and re-  
14 siliant landscapes;
- 15 (iv) a strategy to ensure that fireshed  
16 management projects comply with applica-  
17 ble forest plans and incorporate the best  
18 available science; and
- 19 (v) a strategy for maximizing the re-  
20 tention of late-successional forests, to the  
21 extent that the trees promote stands that  
22 are resilient to insects and disease, and re-  
23 duce the risk or extent of, or increase resil-  
24 ience to, wildfires.

1           (2) EXISTING PLANS.—To the maximum extent  
2           practicable, a fireshed assessment shall incorporate  
3           and build on information, planning, and strategies  
4           contained in relevant forest plans, State forest ac-  
5           tion plans, watershed management plans, community  
6           wildfire protection plans, and similar locally led  
7           landscape-scale planning documents.

8           (3) PARTICIPATION.—

9           (A) STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL GOVERN-  
10          MENTS.—In addition to the parties to an appli-  
11          cable agreement described in subsection (a), the  
12          Secretary concerned shall coordinate with  
13          States, Indian Tribes, units of local govern-  
14          ment, and other entities that are parties to an  
15          agreement under section 104(c) within a  
16          fireshed management area in conducting the  
17          fireshed assessment under paragraph (1).

18          (B) PUBLIC.—In carrying out a fireshed  
19          assessment under this section, the Secretary  
20          concerned shall provide an opportunity for pub-  
21          lic participation during the 45-day period begin-  
22          ning on the date of initiation of the assessment,  
23          including—

24                  (i) publication of information regard-  
25                  ing the development of the assessment—

1 (I) on a website maintained by  
2 the Secretary concerned; and

3 (II) at convenient locations with-  
4 in the applicable fireshed management  
5 area; and

6 (ii) at least 1 public meeting.

7 (c) UPDATES AND AVAILABILITY.—Each fireshed as-  
8 sessment under subsection (a) shall be—

9 (1) regularly updated based on the best avail-  
10 able science, subject to the requirements of sub-  
11 section (d)(2); and

12 (2) made publicly available on 1 or more  
13 websites maintained by the Secretary concerned, in-  
14 cluding the Fireshed Registry.

15 (d) INFORMATION IMPROVEMENT.—

16 (1) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—In car-  
17 rying out a fireshed assessment under this section,  
18 the Secretary concerned may enter into memoranda  
19 of understanding with other Federal departments  
20 and agencies (including the National Oceanic and  
21 Atmospheric Administration), States, Indian Tribes,  
22 private entities, or research or educational institu-  
23 tions to improve, with respect to the assessment, the  
24 use and integration of—

1 (A) advanced remote sensing and  
2 geospatial technologies;

3 (B) statistical modeling and analysis; or

4 (C) any other technology or combination of  
5 technologies and analyses that the Secretary  
6 concerned determines will benefit the quality of  
7 information in the assessment.

8 (2) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In using the  
9 best available science for a fireshed assessment  
10 under this section, the Secretary concerned and the  
11 applicable Governor shall incorporate, to the max-  
12 imum extent practicable—

13 (A) traditional ecological knowledge from  
14 Indian Tribes;

15 (B) data from State forest action plans  
16 and State wildfire risk assessments;

17 (C) data from the Fireshed Registry; and

18 (D) data from other Federal, State, Tribal,  
19 and local governments or agencies.

20 (e) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.—A fireshed assess-  
21 ment under this section shall not be subject to the require-  
22 ments of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969  
23 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

24 **SEC. 106. EMERGENCY FIRESHED MANAGEMENT.**

25 (a) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
2 through a responsible official, shall carry out  
3 fireshed management projects on land under the ju-  
4 risdiction of the Secretary concerned in fireshed  
5 management areas in accordance with this section,  
6 the applicable forest plan, and the laws (including  
7 regulations) applicable to the Secretary concerned.

8           (2) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS.—

9           (A) IN GENERAL.—The following shall  
10 have the force and effect of law with respect to  
11 any fireshed management project carried out in  
12 a fireshed management area:

13           (i) Section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code  
14 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on  
15 April 9, 2025), with respect to land under  
16 the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

17           (ii) Section 46.150 of title 43, Code of  
18 Federal Regulations (as in effect on April  
19 9, 2025), with respect to land under the  
20 jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Inte-  
21 rior.

22           (iii) Section 402.05 of title 50, Code  
23 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on  
24 April 9, 2025).

1 (iv) Section 800.12 of title 36, Code  
2 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on  
3 April 9, 2025), except that any reference  
4 contained in that regulation to an “agency  
5 official” shall be considered to be a ref-  
6 erence to a responsible official.

7 (B) DETERMINATION OF EMERGENCY.—

8 (i) IN GENERAL.—A regulation re-  
9 ferred to in subparagraph (A) shall not  
10 apply pursuant to that subparagraph with  
11 respect to a fireshed management project  
12 unless, before carrying out the fireshed  
13 management project, a responsible offi-  
14 cial—

15 (I) determines, in accordance  
16 with the regulation, that an emer-  
17 gency or emergency circumstance ex-  
18 ists;

19 (II) completes any documentation  
20 or identification processes required  
21 under such regulation; and

22 (III) provides public notice of the  
23 determination of emergency and each  
24 related fireshed management project  
25 activity by publishing such determina-

1                   tion on a website maintained by the  
2                   Secretary concerned.

3                   (ii) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out  
4                   a fireshed management project under a  
5                   regulation referred to in subparagraph (A),  
6                   a responsible official shall ensure that such  
7                   fireshed management project is consistent  
8                   with the applicable forest plan and the  
9                   laws (including regulations) and policies  
10                  applicable to the Secretary concerned.

11                  (C) FURTHER CLARIFICATION.—A regula-  
12                  tion referred to in subparagraph (A) shall not  
13                  apply to any fireshed management project un-  
14                  less such fireshed management project will  
15                  achieve a land management goal described in  
16                  section 604(c) of the Healthy Forests Restora-  
17                  tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(c)).

18                  (D) UTILIZATION OF EXISTING STREAM-  
19                  LINED AUTHORITIES IN FIRESHED MANAGE-  
20                  MENT AREAS.—

21                  (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2  
22                  years after the date of enactment of this  
23                  Act, with respect to each fireshed manage-  
24                  ment area that contains Federal land, the  
25                  Secretary concerned, acting through a re-

1 sponsible official, shall use not fewer than  
2 1 of the following expedited authorities for  
3 environmental review to carry out fireshed  
4 management projects:

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 (ii) COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA.—In ap-  
18 plying expedited authorities for environ-  
19 mental review to carry out fireshed man-  
20 agement projects under clause (i), the Sec-  
21 retary concerned shall ensure—

22 (I) such project is carried out in  
23 accordance with the statute estab-  
24 lishing the categorical exclusion ap-  
25 plied by the Secretary concerned;

1 (II) compliance with the National  
2 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
3 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

4 (III) such project is carried out  
5 in accordance with the applicable for-  
6 est plan or resource management plan  
7 and the laws and policies applicable to  
8 the Secretary concerned.

9 (iii) ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY AC-  
10 TIONS.—The Secretary may declare an  
11 emergency pursuant to section 40807 of  
12 the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs  
13 Act (16 U.S.C. 6592c) for any firehed  
14 management project.

15 (iv) FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT RE-  
16 QUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this sec-  
17 tion, the Secretary concerned shall ensure  
18 compliance with the amendments made to  
19 the National Environmental Policy Act of  
20 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) by the Fis-  
21 cal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law  
22 118–5; 137 Stat. 38).

23 (v) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—  
24 To the maximum extent practicable, the  
25 Secretary concerned shall use the authori-

1 ties provided under this section in com-  
2 bination with other authorities to carry out  
3 fireshed management projects, including—

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

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

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

19 (IV) agreements entered into  
20 under the Tribal Forest Protection  
21 Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–278;  
22 118 Stat. 868).

23 (b) EXPANSION.—

24 (1) HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT  
25 AMENDMENTS.—

1 (A) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the  
2 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16  
3 U.S.C. 6502) is amended—

4 (i) in paragraph (2), by striking  
5 “450b” and inserting “5304”; and

6 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-  
7 lowing:

8 “(3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘local  
9 government’ means—

10 “(A) a county;

11 “(B) a municipality; and

12 “(C) a special district.

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

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

17 “(B) was established by, or pursuant to,  
18 the laws of the State for the purpose of per-  
19 forming a limited and specific governmental or  
20 proprietary function primarily relating to forest  
21 or rangeland management; and

22 “(C) is distinct from any other unit of  
23 local government within the State.”.

1 (B) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—Section  
2 603(c) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act  
3 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591b(c)) is amended—

4 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking  
5 “3000 acres” and inserting “10,000  
6 acres”; and

7 (ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking  
8 “Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III” and in-  
9 sserting “Fire Regime I, Fire Regime II,  
10 Fire Regime III, or Fire Regime IV”.

11 (C) WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROJECTS.—  
12 Section 605(c) of the Healthy Forests Restora-  
13 tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(c)) is  
14 amended—

15 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking  
16 “3000 acres” and inserting “10,000  
17 acres”; and

18 (ii) in paragraph (4), by striking  
19 “code of Federal regulations (or successor  
20 regulations)” and inserting “Code of Fed-  
21 eral regulations (or a successor regula-  
22 tion)”.

23 (D) GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND MULE  
24 DEER HABITAT.—Section 606 of the Healthy

1 Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.  
2 6591e) is amended—

3 (i) in subsection (a)(1)(A)—  
4 (I) by striking clause (ii);  
5 (II) by redesignating clauses (iii)  
6 through (vii) as clauses (ii) through  
7 (vi), respectively; and

8 (III) in clause (iii) (as so redesign-  
9 nated), in the matter preceding sub-  
10 clause (I), by striking “in a sagebrush  
11 steppe ecosystem”;

12 (ii) in subsection (c), by striking “con-  
13 currently for both greater sage-grouse  
14 and” and inserting “for greater sage-  
15 grouse or”; and

16 (iii) in subsection (g)(1), by striking  
17 “4,500 acres” and inserting “7,500 acres”.

18 (2) INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS  
19 ACT AMENDMENT.—Section 40806(d)(1) of the In-  
20 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C.  
21 6592b(d)(1)) is amended by striking “3,000 acres”  
22 and inserting “10,000 acres”.

1 **SEC. 107. SUNSET.**

2 The authority under this subtitle terminates on the  
3 date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this  
4 Act.

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

8 **SEC. 111. MODIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF CERTAIN REV-**  
9 **ENUE AND PAYMENTS UNDER GOOD NEIGH-**  
10 **BOR AGREEMENTS.**

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

14 (1) in subsection (a)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “ei-  
16 ther the Secretary or a Governor or county”  
17 and inserting “the Secretary, a Governor, an  
18 Indian tribe, a special district, or a county”;

19 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking “Gov-  
20 ernor or” and inserting “Governor, an Indian  
21 tribe, a special district, or a”;

22 (C) in paragraph (6), by striking “or In-  
23 dian tribe”; and

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

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

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

6           “(B) was established by, or pursuant to,  
7 the laws of the State for the purpose of per-  
8 forming a limited and specific governmental or  
9 proprietary function primarily relating to forest  
10 or rangeland management; and

11           “(C) is distinct from any other unit of  
12 local government within the State.”; and

13 (2) in subsection (b)—

14           (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “or  
15 county” and inserting “, an Indian tribe, a spe-  
16 cial district, or a county”;

17           (B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

18           (i) in clause (i)—

19           (I) in the matter preceding sub-  
20 clause (I), by inserting “special dis-  
21 trict,” after “Indian Tribe,” each  
22 place it appears;

23           (II) in subclause (I)—

24           (aa) by striking “on”; and

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

3 (III) in subclause (II)—

4 (aa) in the matter preceding  
5 item (aa), by striking “clause  
6 (i)” and inserting “subclause  
7 (I)”; and

8 (bb) in item (bb), by strik-  
9 ing “the Good Neighbor Author-  
10 ity for Recreation Act.” and in-  
11 serting “section 351 of the EX-  
12 PLORE Act (16 U.S.C. 8571);”;  
13 and

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

16 “(III) if there are funds remain-  
17 ing after carrying out subclause (II)—

18 “(aa) to carry out author-  
19 ized restoration services under  
20 other good neighbor agreements;  
21 and

22 “(bb) for the administration  
23 of a good neighbor authority pro-  
24 gram by a Governor, Indian

1 tribe, special district, or county.”;

2 and

3 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “2028”

4 and inserting “2030”;

5 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “or coun-

6 ty” and inserting “, an Indian tribe, a special

7 district, or a county”; and

8 (D) by striking paragraph (4).

9 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 443 of division E of

11 Public Law 118–42 (138 Stat. 297) is amended, in

12 the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking

13 “Agriculture Act of 2014” and inserting “Agricul-

14 tural Act of 2014”.

15 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made

16 by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of en-

17 actment of Public Law 118–42 (138 Stat. 25).

18 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by

19 subsection (a) shall apply to any project initiated pursuant

20 to a good neighbor agreement (as defined in section

21 8206(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C.

22 2113a(a))—

23 (1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if

24 the project was initiated after the date of enactment

1 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public  
2 Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or

3 (2) on or after the date of enactment of this  
4 Act.

5 **SEC. 112. FIXING STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CON-**  
6 **TRACTING.**

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

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

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

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

16 “(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARD-  
17 SHIP CONTRACTS.—

18 “(A) DEFINITION OF LONG-TERM CON-  
19 TRACT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘long-term  
20 contract’ means an agreement or contract  
21 under subsection (b) that—

22 “(i) has a term of longer than 5  
23 years; and

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

1           “(B) SPECIAL RULE.—A long-term con-  
2           tract entered into under subsection (b) by the  
3           Chief or the Director with an entity shall pro-  
4           vide that, in the case of cancellation or termi-  
5           nation of the long-term contract by the Chief or  
6           the Director, the Chief or the Director, as ap-  
7           plicable, shall provide to the entity an amount  
8           equal to 10 percent of the long-term contract  
9           amount as cancellation or termination costs.”.

10 **SEC. 113. FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT STRIKE**  
11 **TEAMS.**

12           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary concerned  
13 shall establish intra-agency strike teams to assist the Sec-  
14 retary concerned with—

15           (1) any reviews, including analysis under the  
16 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
17 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under division A  
18 of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code (for-  
19 merly known as the “National Historic Preservation  
20 Act”), and consultations under the Endangered Spe-  
21 cies Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), with the  
22 intent to accelerate and streamline interagency con-  
23 sultation processes;

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

4           (3) the implementation of fireshed management  
5 projects; and

6           (4) any combination of purposes described in  
7 paragraphs (1) through (3).

8 (b) MEMBERS.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned  
10 may appoint not more than 10 individuals to serve  
11 on an intra-agency strike team under this section, to  
12 be composed of—

13           (A) employees of the department under the  
14 jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned;

15           (B) employees of a different Federal de-  
16 partment or agency, with the consent of the  
17 head of that department or agency; and

18           (C) private contractors or volunteers from  
19 any nonprofit organization, State government,  
20 Indian Tribe, local government, quasi-govern-  
21 mental agency, academic institution, or private  
22 organization.

23           (2) REQUIREMENT.—In appointing individuals  
24 under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall  
25 appoint not fewer than 1 employee of the Federal

1 agency with jurisdiction over the applicable Federal  
2 land.

3 (c) REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY.—The Secretary con-  
4 cerned shall—

5 (1) determine the sufficiency of the documents  
6 prepared by an intra-agency strike team under this  
7 section; and

8 (2) retain responsibility for any authorizing de-  
9 cision relating to such a document.

10 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section ter-  
11 minates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enact-  
12 ment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 114. LOCALLY LED RESTORATION.**

14 Section 14(d) of the National Forest Management  
15 Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a(d)) is amended, in the first  
16 sentence, by striking “\$10,000” and inserting “\$55,000”.

17 **SEC. 115. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PART-**  
18 **nership Program.**

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

21 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

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

1 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the  
 2 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;  
 3 and

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

5 “(D) to recover from wildfire; or

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

8 (2) in subsection (d)(1)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
 10 “and post-wildfire impacts” after “wildfire  
 11 risk”; and

12 (B) in subparagraph (F), by inserting “,  
 13 as identified in the corresponding State forest  
 14 action plan or similar priority plan (such as a  
 15 State wildlife or water plan)” before the semi-  
 16 colon;

17 (3) in subsection (g), by striking paragraph (2)  
 18 and inserting the following:

19 “(2) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—For each of fiscal  
 20 years 2022 and 2023, and not less frequently than  
 21 once every 2 fiscal years thereafter, the Chiefs shall  
 22 submit a report describing projects for which fund-  
 23 ing is provided under the Program, including the  
 24 status and outcomes of those projects, to—

25 “(A) in the Senate—

1 “(i) the Committee on Agriculture,  
2 Nutrition, and Forestry;

3 “(ii) the Committee on Energy and  
4 Natural Resources; and

5 “(iii) the Committee on Appropria-  
6 tions; and

7 “(B) in the House of Representatives—

8 “(i) the Committee on Agriculture;

9 “(ii) the Committee on Natural Re-  
10 sources; and

11 “(iii) the Committee on Appropria-  
12 tions.”; and

13 (4) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “and  
14 2023” and inserting “through 2031”.

15 **SEC. 116. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORA-**  
16 **TION PROGRAM.**

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

19 (1) in subsection (b)—

20 (A) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), by striking  
21 “500 note” and inserting “7125”; and

22 (B) in paragraph (3)—

23 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
24 graph (A), by striking “plans to—” and  
25 inserting “plans—”;

- 1           (ii) in each of subparagraphs (A)  
2           through (H), by inserting “to” after the  
3           subparagraph designation; and
- 4           (iii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting  
5           “or pathogens” before the semicolon;
- 6       (2) in subsection (c)(3)(A)—
- 7           (A) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the  
8           end;
- 9           (B) in clause (ii), by adding “and” after  
10          the semicolon at the end; and
- 11          (C) by adding at the end the following:
- 12               “(iii) include a Federal Government  
13               staffing plan for providing staff to support  
14               collaborative processes established under  
15               subsection (b)(2);”;
- 16       (3) in subsection (d)—
- 17           (A) in paragraph (2)—
- 18               (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
19               “and” at the end;
- 20               (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
21               the period at the end and inserting a semi-  
22               colon; and
- 23               (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
24               lowing:

1           “(G) proposals that seek to use innovative  
2           implementation mechanisms, including good  
3           neighbor agreements entered into under section  
4           8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16  
5           U.S.C. 2113a);

6           “(H) proposals that seek to reduce the risk  
7           of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase ecologi-  
8           cal restoration activities—

9                   “(i) within areas across land owner-  
10                  ships, including State, Tribal, and private  
11                  land; and

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

16           “(I) proposals that seek to enhance water-  
17           shed health and drinking water sources.”; and  
18           (B) in paragraph (3)—

19                   (i) by striking subparagraph (A) and  
20                  inserting the following:

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

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

- 1 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph  
2 (C) as subparagraph (B);  
3 (4) in subsection (e)(3), by inserting “conflict  
4 resolution or collaborative governance,” before “and  
5 woody”; and  
6 (5) in subsection (f)—  
7 (A) in paragraph (4)(B)(ii), by striking  
8 “\$4,000,000” and inserting “\$8,000,000”; and  
9 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking “2023”  
10 and inserting “2031”.

11 **SEC. 117. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK REDUC-**  
12 **TION.**

13 (a) STRATEGY.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months  
15 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
16 retary concerned, in coordination with the holders of  
17 permits to graze livestock on Federal land under the  
18 jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned and in con-  
19 sultation with other relevant stakeholders, shall de-  
20 velop a strategy to utilize livestock grazing as a wild-  
21 fire risk reduction tool on Federal land, consistent  
22 with the laws applicable to the Secretary concerned.

23 (2) INCLUSIONS.—The strategy under para-  
24 graph (1) shall include—

1 (A) the completion of any reviews required  
2 under the National Environmental Policy Act of  
3 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to allow per-  
4 mitted grazing on vacant grazing allotments  
5 during instances of drought, wildfire, or other  
6 natural disasters that disrupt grazing on allot-  
7 ments already permitted;

8 (B) the use of targeted grazing to reduce  
9 hazardous fuels;

10 (C) an increased use of temporary permits  
11 to promote targeted fuels reduction and reduc-  
12 tion of invasive annual grasses;

13 (D) an increased use of livestock grazing—

14 (i) to eradicate invasive annual  
15 grasses; and

16 (ii) as a post-fire restoration and re-  
17 covery strategy, as appropriate;

18 (E) an integrated use of advanced tech-  
19 nologies to dynamically adjust livestock place-  
20 ment;

21 (F) an increased use of any authorities ap-  
22 plicable to livestock grazing, including modifica-  
23 tions to grazing permits or leases to allow  
24 variances;

1 (G) the utilization of grazing on Federal  
2 land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary  
3 concerned in a manner that—

4 (i) avoids conflicts with other uses of  
5 that Federal land; and

6 (ii) is consistent with any applicable  
7 land management plan; and

8 (H) the use of any other means determined  
9 to be appropriate by the Secretary concerned.

10 (b) EFFECT ON EXISTING GRAZING PROGRAMS.—

11 Nothing in this section affects—

12 (1) any livestock grazing program carried out  
13 by the Secretary concerned as of the date of enact-  
14 ment of this Act; or

15 (2) any statutory authority for any program de-  
16 scribed in paragraph (1).

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

18 Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act  
19 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)  
22 through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), re-  
23 spectively;

24 (B) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as  
25 so redesignated) the following:

1           “(1) ADJACENT LAND.—The term ‘adjacent  
2 land’ means non-Federal land, including State, local,  
3 and private land, that is adjacent to, and within the  
4 same watershed as, National Forest System land on  
5 which a watershed protection and restoration project  
6 is carried out under this section.”; and

7           (C) in paragraph (2) (as so redesign-  
8 nated)—

9           (i) by redesignating subparagraphs  
10 (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (K) and  
11 (L), respectively; and

12           (ii) by inserting after subparagraph  
13 (F) the following:

14           “(G) an acequia association;

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

18           “(I) a land-grant mercedes; and

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

21           (2) in subsection (b)—

22           (A) by inserting “and adjacent land” be-  
23 fore the period at the end;

24           (B) by striking “The Secretary” and in-  
25 serting the following:

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

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

3 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A watershed protection  
4 and restoration project under the Program shall be  
5 designed—

6 “(A) to protect and restore watershed  
7 health, water supply and quality, a municipal or  
8 agricultural water supply system, and water-re-  
9 lated infrastructure;

10 “(B) to protect and restore forest health  
11 from insect infestation and disease or wildfire;  
12 or

13 “(C) to advance any combination of the  
14 purposes described in subparagraphs (A) and  
15 (B).

16 “(3) PRIORITIES.—In selecting watershed pro-  
17 tection and restoration projects under the Program,  
18 the Secretary shall give priority to projects that  
19 would—

20 “(A) provide risk management benefits as-  
21 sociated with drought, wildfire, post-wildfire  
22 conditions, extreme weather events, flooding, re-  
23 siliance to climate change, and watershed and  
24 fire resilience, including minimizing risks to wa-  
25 tershed health, water supply and quality, and

1 water-related infrastructure, including munic-  
2 ipal and agricultural water supply systems;

3 “(B) support aquatic restoration and con-  
4 servation efforts that complement existing or  
5 planned forest restoration or wildfire risk re-  
6 duction efforts;

7 “(C) provide quantifiable benefits to water  
8 supply or quality and include the use of nature-  
9 based solutions, such as restoring wetland and  
10 riparian ecosystems;

11 “(D) include—

12 “(i) partners with demonstrated ca-  
13 pacity to, and success in, designing and  
14 implementing ecological restoration  
15 projects, wildfire risk-reduction efforts, or  
16 post-wildfire restoration projects; or

17 “(ii) in the case of communities that  
18 have historically lacked access to adequate  
19 resources, partners with a strong likelihood  
20 of success in designing and implementing a  
21 watershed protection and restoration  
22 project; and

23 “(E) include—

24 “(i) a contribution of funds or in-kind  
25 support from non-Federal partners in an

1 amount greater than the amount required  
2 under subsection (g)(2); or

3 “(ii) such other characteristics as the  
4 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

5 “(4) CONDITIONS FOR PROJECTS ON ADJACENT  
6 LAND.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—No project or activity  
8 may be carried out under this section on adja-  
9 cent land, unless the owner of the adjacent land  
10 provides express support for, and is a willing  
11 and engaged partner in, carrying out that  
12 project or activity.

13 “(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section  
14 authorizes any change in—

15 “(i) the ownership of adjacent land on  
16 which a project or activity is carried out  
17 under this section; or

18 “(ii) the management of adjacent land  
19 on which a project or activity is carried out  
20 under this section, except during the car-  
21 rying out of that project or activity.”;

22 (3) in subsection (c)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “agree-  
24 ments with” and all that follows through the  
25 period at the end and inserting the following:

1 “agreements with end water users to protect  
2 and restore the condition of National Forest  
3 watersheds and adjacent land that provide  
4 water to—

5 “(A) end water users; or

6 “(B) end water users to protect and re-  
7 store the condition of National Forest water-  
8 sheds and adjacent land that provide water for  
9 the benefit of another end water user.”;

10 (B) in paragraph (2)—

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

13 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph  
14 (D) as subparagraph (E); and

15 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph  
16 (C) the following:

17 “(D) in the case of an agreement with a  
18 State, a county, or an Indian tribe for a project  
19 carried out on National Forest System land, a  
20 good neighbor agreement entered into under  
21 section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014  
22 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); or”; and

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

24 “(3) COOPERATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PART-  
25 NERS.—The Secretary shall cooperate with non-Fed-

1 eral partners in carrying out assessments, planning,  
2 project design, and project implementation under  
3 this section.”;

4 (4) in subsection (d)—

5 (A) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-  
6 ing the following:

7 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A water source manage-  
8 ment plan shall be—

9 “(A) designed to protect and restore eco-  
10 logical integrity (as defined in section 219.19 of  
11 title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in ef-  
12 fect on the date of enactment of this subpara-  
13 graph));

14 “(B) based on the best available scientific  
15 information; and

16 “(C) conducted in a manner consistent  
17 with the forest plan applicable to the National  
18 Forest System land on which the watershed  
19 protection and restoration project is carried  
20 out.”; and

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

22 “(4) REDUCING REDUNDANCY.—An existing  
23 watershed plan, such as a watershed protection and  
24 restoration action plan developed under section  
25 304(a)(3), or other applicable watershed planning

1 documents approved by the Secretary may be used  
2 as the basis for a water source management plan  
3 under this subsection.”;

4 (5) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “purpose  
5 of” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and  
6 all that follows through the period at the end and  
7 inserting “purpose of advancing any of the purposes  
8 described in subsection (b)(2).”; and

9 (6) in subsection (g)—

10 (A) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) by striking “at least equal to” and  
12 inserting “not less than 20 percent of”;

13 (ii) by striking “The Secretary” and  
14 inserting the following:

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
16 graph (B), the Secretary”; and

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

19 “(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive  
20 the requirement under subparagraph (A) at the  
21 discretion of the Secretary.”;

22 (B) in paragraph (4)—

23 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
24 “fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-  
25 serting “fiscal years 2025 through 2031”;

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

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

5 “(C) SET-ASIDE FOR PARTNER PARTICIPA-  
6 TION IN PLANNING AND CAPACITY.—Of the  
7 amounts made available under subparagraphs  
8 (A) and (B) to carry out this section for each  
9 fiscal year, the Secretary shall use not less than  
10 10 percent for non-Federal partner technical  
11 assistance participation and capacity-building  
12 efforts in developing or implementing a water  
13 source management plan under subsection  
14 (d).”; and

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

16 “(5) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary  
17 may include the value of forest restoration and wa-  
18 tershed improvement work implemented on adjacent  
19 land in the project area in determining in-kind con-  
20 tributions to a project from non-Federal partners  
21 under paragraph (4)(A).”.

22 **SEC. 119. WATERSHED CONDITION FRAMEWORK TECH-**  
23 **NICAL CORRECTIONS.**

24 Section 304(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration  
25 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6543(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (3)(A), by inserting “protec-  
2 tion and” before “restoration”;

3 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the  
4 end;

5 (3) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at  
6 the end and inserting “; and”; and

7 (4) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(7) to ensure that management activities and  
9 authorizations do not result in long-term degrada-  
10 tion of watershed health or lower the classification  
11 under paragraph (1) of any watershed in a National  
12 Forest.”.

13 **SEC. 120. TRIBAL FOREST PROTECTION MANAGEMENT AC-**  
14 **TIVITIES AND PROJECTS.**

15 Section 8703 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of  
16 2018 (25 U.S.C. 3115b) is amended—

17 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**MAN-**  
18 **AGEMENT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**” and in-  
19 sserting “**PROTECTION MANAGEMENT ACTIVI-**  
20 **TIES AND PROJECTS**”;

21 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
22 section (c);

23 (3) in subsection (a)—

24 (A) by striking “demonstration”;

25 (B) by striking “federally recognized”;

1 (C) by striking “programs of” and insert-  
2 ing “activities and projects under”;

3 (D) by striking “5304 et seq.” and insert-  
4 ing “5301 et seq.”; and

5 (E) by striking the subsection designation  
6 and heading and all that follows through “and  
7 the Secretary” and inserting the following:

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’  
10 means an Indian Tribe included on the list published  
11 by the Secretary of the Interior under section 104  
12 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of  
13 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

14 “(2) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Tribal  
15 organization’ has the meaning given the term in sec-  
16 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-  
17 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

18 “(b) ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS.—The Secretary  
19 and the Secretary of the Interior”;

20 (4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

21 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
22 by striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “sub-  
23 section (b)”;

24 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “5304 et  
25 seq.” and inserting “5301 et seq.”; and

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

2 “(d) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-  
3 retary and the Secretary of the Interior shall—

4 “(1) not later than 180 days after the date of  
5 enactment of this subsection, make available, in an  
6 easily accessible format and location, on the website  
7 of the Department of Agriculture and the Depart-  
8 ment of the Interior, respectively, a list of the types  
9 of activities and projects that Indian Tribes and  
10 Tribal organizations may enter into contracts to per-  
11 form under subsection (b); and

12 “(2) update the list under paragraph (1) as  
13 necessary.”.

## 14 **Subtitle C—Litigation Reform**

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

16 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) AGENCY DOCUMENT.—The term “agency  
18 document”, with respect to a fireshed management  
19 project, means a record of decision, decision memo-  
20 randum, environmental document, or programmatic  
21 environmental document.

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

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

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

3 (C) the preparation of any agency docu-  
4 ment for a fireshed management project; and

5 (D) any other agency action as part of a  
6 fireshed management project.

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

13 (b) LIMITATIONS ON JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

14 (1) LIMITATIONS ON INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—

15 (A) TEMPORARY DELAY OF COVERED  
16 AGENCY ACTION.—Notwithstanding any other  
17 provision of law, in the case of a claim arising  
18 under Federal law seeking judicial review of a  
19 covered agency action, a court shall not issue a  
20 preliminary injunction against such covered  
21 agency action unless the court determines  
22 that—

23 (i) subject to subparagraph (C), such  
24 preliminary injunction is in the public in-  
25 terest;

1 (ii) the balance of equities favors the  
2 plaintiff;

3 (iii) the plaintiff is likely to succeed  
4 on the merits; and

5 (iv) the plaintiff is likely to suffer ir-  
6 reparable injury in the absence of prelimi-  
7 nary relief.

8 (B) PERMANENT LIMIT ON AGENCY AC-  
9 TION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of  
10 law, in the case of a claim arising under Fed-  
11 eral law seeking judicial review of a covered  
12 agency action, a court shall not issue a perma-  
13 nent injunction against such covered agency ac-  
14 tion, or an order to otherwise permanently limit  
15 such covered agency action, unless a court de-  
16 termines that—

17 (i) subject to subparagraph (C), such  
18 permanent injunction or order is in the  
19 public interest;

20 (ii) the balance of equities favors the  
21 plaintiff;

22 (iii) the plaintiff has suffered or will  
23 suffer irreparable injury; and

24 (iv) no adequate remedy is available  
25 at law.

1 (C) PUBLIC INTEREST DETERMINATION.—

2 (i) IN GENERAL.—In determining  
3 under subparagraphs (A) and (B) whether  
4 a preliminary or permanent injunction  
5 against, or other order with respect to, a  
6 covered agency action is in the public in-  
7 terest, the considerations of the court shall  
8 include—

9 (I) the purpose for which an  
10 agency is undertaking the fireshed  
11 management project relating to such  
12 covered agency action;

13 (II) the likelihood that the  
14 fireshed management project will  
15 achieve the stated purpose of the  
16 fireshed management project; and

17 (III) the short- and long-term ef-  
18 fects of proceeding with the covered  
19 agency action, as compared to delay-  
20 ing or limiting such covered agency  
21 action, including the potential for sig-  
22 nificant increases in wildfire risk or  
23 severity and significant threats to the  
24 health of the ecosystem.

1 (ii) WEIGHT OF PUBLIC INTEREST  
2 FACTOR.—In determining whether to issue  
3 any injunction or order under subpara-  
4 graph (A) or (B), a court shall give signifi-  
5 cant, but not necessarily dispositive, weight  
6 to its consideration of whether such order  
7 is in the public interest.

8 (2) REMAND.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any  
10 other provision of law, in the case of a claim  
11 arising under Federal law seeking judicial re-  
12 view of a covered agency action, if the court re-  
13 mands the matter to the agency, the court shall  
14 remand with instructions to carry out, during  
15 the 180-day period beginning on the date of  
16 such remand, such additional actions as may be  
17 necessary to redress any cognizable harm giving  
18 rise to such claim.

19 (B) VACATUR.—

20 (i) IN GENERAL.—In remanding a  
21 matter to an agency under subparagraph  
22 (A), the court shall remand with vacatur  
23 only if—

1 (I) the seriousness of any defi-  
2 ciencies in the covered agency action  
3 weigh in favor of vacatur; and

4 (II) the court determines that  
5 any disruptive consequences of  
6 vacatur, including the short- and long-  
7 term effects of vacating the covered  
8 agency action or any part of such cov-  
9 ered agency action, do not outweigh  
10 the justification for vacatur.

11 (ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making the  
12 determination described in clause (i)(II),  
13 the court shall consider whether vacatur  
14 would cause—

15 (I) any significant increases in  
16 wildfire risk or severity, and

17 (II) any significant threats to the  
18 health of the ecosystem.

19 (C) EFFECT OF REMAND ON AGENCY.—In  
20 the case of a covered agency action subject to  
21 remand without vacatur, or with partial  
22 vacatur, pursuant to this paragraph, the agency  
23 may—

24 (i) continue to carry out such covered  
25 agency action, or such parts of the covered

1 agency action as are not vacated, to the ex-  
2 tent that doing so does not interfere with  
3 any additional actions required pursuant to  
4 subparagraph (A); and

5 (ii) use any format, as appropriate, to  
6 correct an agency document (including a  
7 supplemental environmental document,  
8 memorandum, or errata sheet), provided  
9 that such format is appropriate to the na-  
10 ture of the deficiency.

11 (3) PRESERVATION OF AUTHORITY.—Nothing  
12 in this section alters, limits, or displaces the author-  
13 ity of a court to review a covered agency action  
14 under section 706(2) of title 5, United States Code.

15 (c) LIMITATIONS ON CLAIMS.—Notwithstanding any  
16 other provision of law, a claim arising under Federal law  
17 seeking judicial review of a covered agency action shall be  
18 barred unless—

19 (1) with respect to an agency document or the  
20 application of a categorical exclusion noticed in the  
21 Federal Register, such claim is filed not later than  
22 150 days after the date of publication of a notice in  
23 the Federal Register of agency intent to carry out  
24 the finished management project relating to such

1 covered agency document or application, unless a  
2 shorter period is specified in such Federal law; or

3 (2) in the case of an agency document or the  
4 application of a categorical exclusion not described  
5 in paragraph (1), if such agency document or appli-  
6 cation is otherwise published or noticed, such claim  
7 is filed not later than 150 days after the date that  
8 is the earlier of—

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

11 (B) the date on which such agency docu-  
12 ment or application is noticed.

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

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

18 “(2) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION RE-  
19 QUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Not-  
20 withstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-  
21 retary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation  
22 under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act  
23 of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of  
24 title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor

1 regulation), on a land management plan approved,  
 2 amended, or revised under this section when—

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

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

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

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

23 “(1) a new species is listed or critical habitat  
 24 is designated under the Endangered Species Act of  
 25 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

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

## 5           **Subtitle D—Prescribed Fire**

### 6   **SEC. 131. PRESCRIBED FIRE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES, POLI-** 7           **CIES, AND PRACTICES.**

#### 8           (a) DEFINITION OF PRESCRIBED FIRE.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term  
10 “prescribed fire” means a fire deliberately ignited to  
11 burn wildland fuels in a natural or modified state—

12           (A) under specified environmental condi-  
13 tions that are intended to allow the fire—

14           (i) to be confined to a predetermined  
15 area; and

16           (ii) to produce the fireline intensity  
17 and rate of spread required to attain  
18 planned resource management objectives;  
19 and

20           (B) in accordance with applicable law (in-  
21 cluding regulations).

22           (2) EXCLUSION.—In this section, the term  
23 “prescribed fire” does not include a fire that is ig-  
24 nited for the primary purpose of pile burning.

#### 25           (b) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned  
2 may carry out eligible activities described in para-  
3 graph (2) for hazardous fuels management with re-  
4 spect to land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary  
5 concerned.

6           (2) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES.—The activi-  
7 ties referred to in paragraph (1) are—

8           (A) with respect to prescribed fires on  
9 Federal land, or on non-Federal land if the Sec-  
10 retary concerned determines that such activities  
11 would benefit resources on Federal land—

12           (i) entering into procurement con-  
13 tracts or cooperative agreements for pre-  
14 scribed fire activities;

15           (ii) issuing grants from an existing  
16 grant program to a State, Tribal govern-  
17 ment, local government, prescribed fire  
18 council, prescribed burn association, or  
19 nonprofit organization for the implementa-  
20 tion of prescribed fires, including—

21           (I) carrying out necessary envi-  
22 ronmental reviews;

23           (II) carrying out any site prepa-  
24 ration necessary for implementing  
25 prescribed fires; and

- 1 (III) conducting any required  
2 pre-ignition cultural and environ-  
3 mental surveys; and
- 4 (iii) conducting outreach to the public,  
5 Indian Tribes and beneficiaries, and adja-  
6 cent landowners;
- 7 (B) implementing prescribed fires on non-  
8 Federal land, if the Secretary concerned deter-  
9 mines that the prescribed fire would benefit  
10 Federal land, including—
- 11 (i) carrying out necessary environ-  
12 mental reviews;
- 13 (ii) carrying out any site preparation  
14 necessary for implementing prescribed  
15 fires; and
- 16 (iii) conducting any required pre-igni-  
17 tion cultural and environmental surveys;
- 18 (C) providing training for prescribed fire  
19 and basic smoke management practices to Fed-  
20 eral employees and cooperators;
- 21 (D) conducting post-prescribed fire activi-  
22 ties, such as monitoring for hazard trees or re-  
23 ignitions and invasive species management; and
- 24 (E) providing technical or financial assist-  
25 ance to a State, Tribal government, local gov-

1           ernment, prescribed fire council, prescribed  
2           burn association, or nonprofit organization for  
3           the purpose of providing training for prescribed  
4           fire or basic smoke management practices, con-  
5           sistent with any standards developed by the Na-  
6           tional Wildfire Coordinating Group or State-  
7           prescribed fire standards.

8           (3) PRIORITIZATION.—

9                   (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
10                  graph (B), the Secretary concerned shall coordi-  
11                  nate with the other Secretary concerned, State  
12                  and local government agencies, Indian Tribes,  
13                  and applicable nongovernmental organizations  
14                  to establish prioritization criteria for carrying  
15                  out the activities described in paragraph (2).

16                  (B) REQUIREMENT.—In establishing cri-  
17                  teria under subparagraph (A), the Secretary  
18                  concerned shall give priority to a project that  
19                  is—

20                          (i) implemented across a large contig-  
21                          uous area;

22                          (ii) cross-boundary in nature;

23                          (iii) located in an area that is—

24    (I) within or adjacent to the  
25    wildland-urban interface and identi-

1                   fied as a priority area in a statewide  
2                   forest action plan, firehatched assess-  
3                   ment, or community wildfire protec-  
4                   tion plan; or

5                   (II) identified as important to  
6                   the protection of a Tribal trust re-  
7                   source or the reserved or treaty rights  
8                   of an Indian Tribe;

9                   (iv) on land that is at high or very  
10                  high risk of experiencing a wildfire that  
11                  would be difficult to suppress;

12                  (v) in an area that is designated as  
13                  critical habitat and in need of ecological  
14                  restoration or enhancement that can be  
15                  achieved with the aid of prescribed fire; or

16                  (vi) supportive of potential operational  
17                  delineations or strategic response zones.

18                  (c) POLICIES AND PRACTICES.—The Secretary con-  
19                  cerned, in coordination with State, local, and Tribal gov-  
20                  ernments, shall develop a prescribed fire operational strat-  
21                  egy for each region of the National Forest System or the  
22                  Department of the Interior, as applicable, that describes—

23                         (1) the fire deficit, by region; and

24                         (2) staffing and funding needs to address the  
25                  fire deficit described in paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 132. HUMAN RESOURCES.**

2 (a) **COMPETENCIES FOR FIREFIGHTERS.**—The Sec-  
3 retaries, in coordination with the Fire Executive Council,  
4 shall task the National Wildfire Coordinating Group with  
5 the duty to adjust training requirements to obtain a cer-  
6 tification to serve in a supervisory role for a prescribed  
7 fire and any other positions determined to be necessary  
8 by the Secretaries—

9 (1) in order to reduce the time required to ob-  
10 tain such a certification; and

11 (2) such that significant experience, gained ex-  
12 clusively during a prescribed fire, is required to ob-  
13 tain such a certification.

14 (b) **ENHANCING INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN FED-  
15 ERAL AND NON-FEDERAL PRACTITIONERS.**—

16 (1) **QUALIFICATION DATABASES AND DISPATCH  
17 SYSTEMS.**—The Secretaries shall establish, to the  
18 extent practicable, a collaborative process to create  
19 mechanisms for non-Federal fire practitioners to be  
20 included in prescribed fire and wildfire resource or-  
21 dering and reimbursement processes.

22 (2) **PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS.**—The Secre-  
23 taries may—

24 (A) develop partnership agreements for  
25 prescribed fire with all relevant State, Federal,  
26 Tribal, university, and nongovernmental entities

1 that choose to be included in resource ordering  
2 and reimbursement processes under paragraph  
3 (1);

4 (B) create agreements and structures nec-  
5 essary to include non-Federal and other non-  
6 traditional partners in direct work with Federal  
7 agencies to address prescribed fires; and

8 (C) treat any prescribed fire practitioner  
9 meeting the National Wildfire Coordinating  
10 Group standards as eligible to be included in  
11 statewide participating agreements.

12 **SEC. 133. LIABILITY OF PRESCRIBED FIRE MANAGERS.**

13 (a) TRAINING COURSE.—The Secretaries, in coordi-  
14 nation with the Attorney General of the United States,  
15 shall develop a voluntary training course for employees in-  
16 volved in any activity carried out on Federal land that is  
17 directly related to a prescribed fire in the course of exe-  
18 cuting a Federal action.

19 (b) REQUIREMENT.—The training course developed  
20 under subsection (a) shall include a description of—

21 (1) liability protections afforded to the employ-  
22 ees described in that subsection when acting within  
23 the scope of their employment;

24 (2) the limits on any liability protections under  
25 paragraph (1); and

1           (3) any reimbursement available for qualified  
2 employees for professional liability insurance under  
3 section 636 of division A of Public Law 104–208 (5  
4 U.S.C. prec. 5941 note).

5 **SEC. 134. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.**

6           (a) SMOKE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.—

7           (1) POLICY.—The Secretaries shall ensure that  
8 policies, training, and programs of the Secretaries  
9 are consistent with this subsection—

10                   (A) to facilitate greater use of prescribed  
11 fire in a safe and responsible manner, with ap-  
12 propriate monitoring to prevent prescribed fires  
13 from exceeding containment; and

14                   (B) to address public health and safety, in-  
15 cluding impacts from smoke from wildfires and  
16 prescribed fires.

17           (2) COORDINATION AMONG FEDERAL, TRIBAL,  
18 AND STATE AIR QUALITY AGENCIES AND FEDERAL,  
19 TRIBAL, AND STATE LAND MANAGEMENT AGEN-  
20 CIES.—To facilitate the use of prescribed fire on  
21 Federal, State, Tribal, and private land, the Execu-  
22 tive Director, in cooperation with the Environmental  
23 Protection Agency, Federal and State land manage-  
24 ment agencies, shall coordinate with State, Tribal,

1 and local air quality agencies that regulate smoke  
2 under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.)—

3 (A) to the maximum extent practicable, to  
4 provide State, Tribal, and local air quality  
5 agencies with guidance, data, imagery, or mod-  
6 eling to support the development of exceptional  
7 event demonstrations in accordance with sec-  
8 tions 50.14 and 51.930 of title 40, Code of  
9 Federal Regulations (or successor regulations);

10 (B) to develop archives and automated  
11 tools to provide State, Tribal, and local air  
12 quality agencies with the data, imagery, and  
13 modeling under subparagraph (A);

14 (C) to provide technical assistance, best  
15 practices, or templates to States, Indian Tribes,  
16 and local governments for the use of the State,  
17 Indian Tribe, or local government in approving  
18 the use of prescribed fire under a State, Tribal,  
19 or local government smoke management pro-  
20 gram;

21 (D)(i) to promote basic smoke manage-  
22 ment practices and other best practices to pro-  
23 tect the public from wildfire smoke;

24 (ii) to disseminate information about basic  
25 smoke management practices;

1 (iii) to educate landowners that use pre-  
2 scribed fire about the importance of—

3 (I) using basic smoke management  
4 practices; and

5 (II) including basic smoke manage-  
6 ment practices as a component of a pre-  
7 scribed fire plan; and

8 (iv) to share with the public information,  
9 in coordination with other public health agen-  
10 cies, about measures that individuals can take  
11 to protect themselves from wildfire smoke; and

12 (E) to develop guidance and tools to  
13 streamline the demonstration of a clear causal  
14 relationship between prescribed fire smoke and  
15 a related exceedance of a national ambient air  
16 quality standard.

17 (3) PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH.—To address  
18 the public health and safety risk of the expanded use  
19 of prescribed fire under this subtitle, the Secretaries,  
20 in coordination with the Administrator of the Envi-  
21 ronmental Protection Agency and the Director of the  
22 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall  
23 conduct research to improve or develop—

24 (A) wildfire smoke prediction models;

1 (B) smoke impact display tools for the  
2 public and decisionmakers;

3 (C) appropriate, cost-effective, and con-  
4 sistent strategies to mitigate the impacts of  
5 smoke from prescribed fire on nearby commu-  
6 nities;

7 (D) consistent nationally and scientifically  
8 supported messages regarding personal protec-  
9 tion equipment for the public; and

10 (E) prescribed fire activity tracking and  
11 emission inventory systems for planning and  
12 post-treatment accountability.

13 (b) DEVELOPMENT OF LANDSCAPE-SCALE FEDERAL  
14 PRESCRIBED FIRE PLANS.—

15 (1) INCLUSION OF LANDSCAPE-SCALE PRE-  
16 SCRIBED FIRE PLANS.—The Secretary concerned,  
17 with respect to units of the National Forest System  
18 and Bureau of Land Management districts with ex-  
19 isting prescribed fire programs—

20 (A) not later than 1 year after the date of  
21 enactment of this Act, shall determine which of  
22 those units or districts have landscape-scale  
23 prescribed fire plans;

24 (B) not later than 2 years after the date  
25 of enactment of this Act, shall—

1 (i) determine whether each plan de-  
2 scribed in subparagraph (A) requires revi-  
3 sion; and

4 (ii) establish a schedule for the revi-  
5 sion of each plan described in subpara-  
6 graph (A) that requires revision; and

7 (C) may develop landscape-scale prescribed  
8 fire plans for any units or districts that do not  
9 have landscape-scale prescribed fire plans, as  
10 determined appropriate by the Secretary con-  
11 cerned.

12 (2) ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.—In car-  
13 rying out paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned  
14 shall—

15 (A) comply with—

16 (i) the National Environmental Policy  
17 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

18 (ii) the Endangered Species Act of  
19 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

20 (iii) division A of subtitle III of title  
21 54, United States Code; and

22 (iv) any other applicable laws; and

23 (B) consider the site-specific environmental  
24 consequences of the landscape-scale prescribed  
25 fire decisions under this subsection.

1           (3) COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT.—In car-  
2       rying out paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned  
3       shall collaborate with diverse actors from academia,  
4       the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management  
5       research and development offices, nongovernmental  
6       organizations, cultural fire practitioners, and other  
7       entities, as determined appropriate by the Secretary  
8       concerned.

9           (4) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the  
10      date of enactment of this Act, and annually there-  
11      after, the Secretary concerned shall submit to Con-  
12      gress a report describing the progress of the Sec-  
13      retary concerned in carrying out this subsection.

14 **SEC. 135. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS**  
15                                   **FOR PRESCRIBED FIRE.**

16       (a) AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS.—

17           (1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this  
18      subsection, the term “eligible entity” means a State,  
19      an Indian Tribe, a unit of local government, a fire  
20      district, a nongovernmental organization, and a pri-  
21      vate entity.

22           (2) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary and the  
23      Secretary of the Interior may each enter into a coop-  
24      erative agreement or contract with an eligible entity,

1 for a period of not longer than 10 years, that au-  
2 thorizes the eligible entity—

3 (A) to coordinate, plan, or conduct a pre-  
4 scribed fire on Federal land; or

5 (B) to conduct a prescribed fire training  
6 event.

7 (3) SUBCONTRACTS.—A State, Indian Tribe,  
8 county, or eligible entity that enters into a coopera-  
9 tive agreement or contract under paragraph (1) may  
10 enter into a subcontract, in accordance with applica-  
11 ble contracting procedures of the State, Indian  
12 Tribe, county, or eligible entity—

13 (A) to conduct a prescribed fire on Federal  
14 land; or

15 (B) to conduct a prescribed fire training  
16 event pursuant to that cooperative agreement or  
17 contract.

18 (4) APPLICABLE LAW.—A prescribed fire con-  
19 ducted pursuant to this subsection shall be carried  
20 out on a project-by-project basis under existing au-  
21 thorities of the applicable Federal agency responsible  
22 for the management of the applicable Federal land.

23 (5) PRESERVATION OF DECISION AUTHORITY.—  
24 An eligible entity may not carry out a project under  
25 this subsection pursuant to a cooperative agreement

1 or contract without the prior written approval of  
2 each Secretary that entered into the cooperative  
3 agreement or contract.

4 (b) TRIBAL FOREST PROTECTION ACT OF 2004  
5 AMENDMENTS.—The Tribal Forest Protection Act of  
6 2004 (Public Law 108–278; 118 Stat. 868) is amended  
7 by adding at the end the following:

8 **“SEC. 4. TRIBAL PRESCRIBED BURN DEMONSTRATION**  
9 **PROJECT.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into a  
11 contract or agreement with an Indian Tribe under this Act  
12 that provides for prescribed burns on Federal land pursu-  
13 ant to this section.

14 “(b) SCOPE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of  
15 law, a contract or agreement entered into under this sec-  
16 tion may—

17 “(1) use a burn plan that, on approval by the  
18 Secretary, allows multiple prescribed burns to be  
19 conducted in accordance with the burn plan to elimi-  
20 nate the need for individual burn plans for each pre-  
21 scribed burn and enable forest managers to have the  
22 flexibility to conduct prescribed burns when condi-  
23 tions allow; and

24 “(2) include terms that—

1           “(A) authorize the Secretary to delegate  
2           their authority to an Indian Tribe to plan, co-  
3           ordinate, and execute prescribed burns on the  
4           behalf of the Secretary within the scope of the  
5           burn plan including applying the National Wild-  
6           fire Coordinating Group standards for pre-  
7           scribed fire planning and implementation, to  
8           the extent authorized by Federal law;

9           “(B) any applicable Federal standard that  
10          requires a certain number of personnel to be  
11          on-hand during prescribed burns may be satis-  
12          fied by regional Federal, State, or Tribal re-  
13          sources and personnel; and

14          “(C) where appropriate, the Secretary shall  
15          work with other Federal agencies and Tribal,  
16          State, and local governments to coordinate and  
17          communicate the shared objectives of the pre-  
18          scribed burn and ensure activities comply with  
19          applicable law and regulations.”.

20          (e) COOPERATIVE FUNDS AND DEPOSITS ACT  
21 AMENDMENTS.—Public Law 94–148 (commonly known as  
22 the “Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act”) is amended—

23                 (1) in the first sentence of the first section (16  
24                 U.S.C. 565a–1), by inserting “prescribed fire and

1 prescribed fire training events,” after “including fire  
2 protection,”; and

3 (2) in section 2 (16 U.S.C. 565a–2), by insert-  
4 ing “, section 4 of the Tribal Forest Protection Act  
5 of 2004 (Public Law 108–278; 118 Stat. 868) or  
6 section 135(a) of the Fix Our Forests Act” after  
7 “authorized by section 1”.

8 **SEC. 136. FACILITATING RESPONSIBLE USE OF PRE-**  
9 **SCRIBED FIRE.**

10 The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest  
11 Service, shall—

12 (1) use all available resources to ensure pre-  
13 scribed burns conducted by the Forest Service are  
14 extinguished; and

15 (2) update the prescribed burn policies of the  
16 Forest Service to reflect the findings and rec-  
17 ommendations included in the report of the Forest  
18 Service entitled “National Prescribed Fire Program  
19 Review” and dated September 2022.

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

4 **Subtitle A—Community Wildfire**  
5 **Risk Reduction**

6 **SEC. 201. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PRO-**  
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after  
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall  
10 jointly establish an interagency program, to be known as  
11 the “Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program” (re-  
12 ferred to in this section as the “Program”), which shall  
13 consist of at least 1 representative from each of the fol-  
14 lowing:

15 (1) The Office of Wildland Fire of the Depart-  
16 ment of the Interior.

17 (2) The National Park Service.

18 (3) The Bureau of Land Management.

19 (4) The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-  
20 ice.

21 (5) The Bureau of Indian Affairs.

22 (6) The Forest Service.

23 (7) The Federal Emergency Management Agen-  
24 cy.

25 (8) The United States Fire Administration.

1           (9) The National Institute of Standards and  
2           Technology.

3           (10) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
4           Administration.

5           (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Program is to  
6           support interagency coordination in reducing the risk of,  
7           and the damages resulting from, wildland fires in commu-  
8           nities (including Tribal communities) in the wildland-  
9           urban interface through—

10           (1) advancing research and science in wildland  
11           fire resilience, land management, and risk reduction  
12           in the built environment, including support for non-  
13           Federal research partnerships;

14           (2) supporting the development of fire-resistant  
15           building methods, codes, and standards for commu-  
16           nity wildland fire risk reduction, including by pro-  
17           moting ignition-resistant construction, defensible  
18           space, and other measures demonstrated to effec-  
19           tively reduce wildland fire risks, as informed by the  
20           best available science;

21           (3) supporting adoption by Indian Tribes and  
22           local governmental entities of fire-resistant building  
23           methods, codes, and standards;

24           (4) supporting efforts by Indian Tribes and  
25           local governmental entities to address the effects of

1 wildland fire on those communities, including prop-  
2 erty damages, air quality, and water quality;

3 (5) encouraging public-private partnerships to  
4 conduct hazardous fuels management activities in  
5 the wildland-urban interface, including creating or  
6 improving defensible space around structures;

7 (6) providing technical and financial assistance  
8 targeted towards communities (including Tribal  
9 communities) through streamlined and unified tech-  
10 nical assistance and grant management mechanisms,  
11 including the portal and uniform grant application  
12 established under subsection (c)—

13 (A) to encourage critical risk-reduction  
14 measures on private property with high  
15 wildland fire risk exposure in those commu-  
16 nities; and

17 (B) to mitigate costs for, and improve ca-  
18 pacity among, those communities;

19 (7) reducing risk in the built environment by  
20 encouraging increased mitigation measures, such as  
21 the use of ignition-resistant construction and retro-  
22 fitting materials;

23 (8) coordinating budgets among the agencies  
24 described in subsection (a) to identify gaps and re-  
25 duce overlap;

1           (9) supporting the integration of wildland fire  
2 risk reduction measure and technical assistance into  
3 existing Federal programs, where practicable; and

4           (10) advancing the development of early wild-  
5 fire detection and warning systems for rapid re-  
6 sponse and community alerts.

7 (c) PORTAL AND UNIFORM GRANT APPLICATION.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the Program, the  
9 Secretaries and the Administrator of the Federal  
10 Emergency Management Agency shall establish a  
11 portal through which a person may submit a single,  
12 uniform application for any of the following:

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

16           (B) An emergency management perform-  
17 ance grant under section 662 of the Post-  
18 Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of  
19 2006 (6 U.S.C. 762).

20           (C) A grant under section 33 of the Fed-  
21 eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
22 (15 U.S.C. 2229).

23           (D) A grant under section 34 of the Fed-  
24 eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
25 (15 U.S.C. 2229a).

1           (E) Financial or technical assistance or a  
2           grant under section 203, 205, 404, 406, or 420  
3           of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
4           Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133,  
5           5135, 5170c, 5172, 5187).

6           (2) SIMPLIFICATION OF APPLICATION.—In es-  
7           tablishing the portal and application under para-  
8           graph (1), the Secretaries and the Administrator  
9           shall seek to reduce the complexity and length of the  
10          application process for the forms of assistance de-  
11          scribed in paragraph (1).

12          (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretaries  
13          shall provide technical assistance to communities or  
14          persons seeking to apply for financial assistance  
15          through the portal using the application established  
16          under paragraph (1).

17          (d) DUTIES.—In carrying out this section, the rep-  
18          resentatives described in subsection (a) shall—

19                 (1) meet not less frequently than once per year;

20                 (2) ensure coordination, as appropriate, with  
21                 other Federal agencies not identified in that sub-  
22                 section; and

23                 (3) seek to gather feedback, as appropriate,  
24                 from States, Indian Tribes, local governments, aca-  
25                 demic or research institutions, private entities, and

1 such other entities as the Secretaries determine to  
2 be appropriate, to improve the function and oper-  
3 ation of the Program.

4 (e) COORDINATION.—The Secretaries shall seek to  
5 ensure that States and Indian Tribes are invited and rep-  
6 resented in meetings and other activities under this sec-  
7 tion.

8 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date  
9 of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall jointly sub-  
10 mit to the relevant committees of Congress a report that—

11 (1) describes and itemizes the total amount of  
12 funding relating to community wildfire risk reduc-  
13 tion that was obligated during the 2 preceding fiscal  
14 years by the agencies described in subsection (a);

15 (2) describes the activities carried out under the  
16 Program since the date of enactment of this Act;

17 (3) describes any feedback incorporated from  
18 non-Federal stakeholders to improve the function  
19 and operation of the Program; and

20 (4) includes an evaluation of the Program in  
21 achieving the purposes described in subsection (b).

22 (g) SUNSET.—The Program terminates on the date  
23 that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 202. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE RESEARCH PRO-**  
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries, acting jointly,  
4 shall expand the Joint Fire Science Program to include  
5 a performance-driven research and development program,  
6 to be known as the “Community Wildfire Defense Re-  
7 search Program” (referred to in this section as the “Pro-  
8 gram”), for the purpose of testing and advancing innova-  
9 tive designs to establish or improve the wildfire resistance  
10 of structures and communities.

11 (b) PROGRAM PRIORITIES.—In carrying out the Pro-  
12 gram, the Secretaries shall evaluate opportunities to estab-  
13 lish wildfire-resistant structures and communities  
14 through—

15 (1) different affordable building materials, in-  
16 cluding mass timber;

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

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

21 (4) landscape architecture; and

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

24 (c) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE INNOVATION  
25 PRIZE.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Pro-  
2           gram, the Secretaries shall carry out a competition  
3           through which a person may submit to the Secre-  
4           taries innovative designs for the establishment or  
5           improvement of an ignition-resistant structure or  
6           fire-adapted community.

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

13          (3) SCALE.—In awarding a prize under para-  
14          graph (2), the Secretaries shall prioritize for an  
15          award designs with the greatest potential to scale to  
16          existing infrastructure.

17          (d) COLLABORATION AND NONDUPLICATION.—In  
18          carrying out the Program, the Secretaries shall ensure col-  
19          laboration and nonduplication of activities with the Build-  
20          ing Technologies Office of the Department of Energy.

21          (e) SUNSET.—The Program terminates on the date  
22          that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 203. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE ACCOUNT-**  
2 **ABILITY.**

3 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment  
4 of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 2 years  
5 thereafter, the Secretaries, acting through the United  
6 States Fire Administration, shall submit to the relevant  
7 committees of Congress an assessment of the Community  
8 Wildfire Risk Reduction Program established under sec-  
9 tion 201(a) that—

10 (1) assesses the management, coordination, im-  
11 plementation, and effectiveness of program activities;

12 (2) suggests improvements for improving the  
13 coordination and engagement of the program with  
14 States, Indian Tribes, units of local government, and  
15 at-risk communities;

16 (3) assesses trends and developments in science  
17 and engineering relating to wildfire risk reduction in  
18 the built environment, land use planning, and vege-  
19 tation management that could be used to improve  
20 the effectiveness or efficiency of the program;

21 (4) provides recommendations to improve the  
22 ability of the program to provide financial or tech-  
23 nical assistance to States, Indian Tribes, units of  
24 local government, and at-risk communities;

25 (5) identifies opportunities to modify existing  
26 requirements for Federal assistance or programs

1 that support community wildfire risk reduction to  
2 improve the delivery, effectiveness, or availability of  
3 those assistance or programs; and

4 (6) includes policy and program recommenda-  
5 tions to improve that program, as determined by the  
6 United States Fire Administration.

7 **SEC. 204. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE GRANT PRO-**  
8 **GRAM IMPROVEMENTS.**

9 Section 40803(f) of the Infrastructure Investment  
10 and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(f)) is amended—

11 (1) by striking paragraph (1)(B), and inserting  
12 the following:

13 “(B) to carry out projects including—

14 “(i) landscape and hazardous fuels re-  
15 duction treatments;

16 “(ii) the retrofit, modification, or  
17 maintenance of a structure to improve re-  
18 sistance to fire;

19 “(iii) creating defensible space around  
20 structures to improve resistance to fire;

21 “(iv) hardening infrastructure, includ-  
22 ing evacuation routes, to improve resist-  
23 ance to fire;

1 “(v) any other project described in a  
2 community wildfire protection plan that is  
3 not more than 10 years old; and

4 “(vi) deployment of wildfire tech-  
5 nologies determined to be successful under  
6 section 303 of the Fix Our Forests Act.”;

7 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

10 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the  
11 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

13 “(D) located in a fireshed management  
14 area (as defined in section 2 of the Fix Our  
15 Forests Act).”; and

16 (3) in paragraph (3)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking  
18 “continental”; and

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

20 “(D) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EX-  
21 PENSES.—Not more than 7 percent of funds  
22 obligated under this section may be used for ad-  
23 ministrative expenses incurred by the Secretary  
24 of Agriculture or an at-risk community.”.

1 **SEC. 205. UPDATED DEFINITION OF AT-RISK COMMUNITY.**

2 Section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act  
3 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511) is amended by striking para-  
4 graph (1) and inserting the following:

5 “(1) **AT-RISK COMMUNITY.**—The term ‘at-risk  
6 community’ means an area that is composed of—

7 “(A) an interface community (as defined in  
8 the notice entitled ‘Wildland Urban Interface  
9 Communities Within the Vicinity of Federal  
10 Lands That Are at High Risk From Wildfire’  
11 (66 Fed. Reg. 753 (January 4, 2001)) issued  
12 by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Sec-  
13 retary of the Interior in accordance with title  
14 IV of the Department of the Interior and Re-  
15 lated Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (114  
16 Stat. 1009));

17 “(B) a group of homes and other struc-  
18 tures with basic infrastructure and services  
19 (such as utilities and collectively maintained  
20 transportation routes) at risk from wildfire, as  
21 recognized in a fireshed, State, Tribal, local, re-  
22 gional, territorial, or national wildfire risk as-  
23 sessment; or

24 “(C) a group of homes and other struc-  
25 tures with basic infrastructure and services  
26 (such as utilities and collectively maintained

1 transportation routes) located inside, or within  
 2 5 miles of, a Wildfire Crisis Strategy landscape,  
 3 as determined by the Secretary of Agri-  
 4 culture.”.

5 **Subtitle B—Vegetation Manage-**  
 6 **ment, Reforestation, and Local**  
 7 **Fire Suppression**

8 **SEC. 211. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, FACILITY INSPEC-**  
 9 **TION, AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**  
 10 **RELATING TO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND**  
 11 **DISTRIBUTION FACILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**

12 (a) HAZARD TREES WITHIN 150 FEET OF ELECTRIC  
 13 POWER LINE.—Section 512(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Land  
 14 Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.  
 15 1772(a)(1)(B)) is amended—

16 (1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by strik-  
 17 ing “likely to—” and inserting “likely—”;

18 (2) in clause (i), by inserting “to” after the  
 19 clause designation; and

20 (3) in clause (ii), by striking “come within 10”  
 21 and inserting “to come within 150”.

22 (b) CONSULTATION WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS.—  
 23 Section 512(c)(3)(E) of the Federal Land Policy and  
 24 Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(3)(E)) is  
 25 amended—

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

2 (2) in clause (ii), by striking the period and in-  
3 sserting “; and”; and

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

5 “(iii) consulting with a private land-  
6 owner with respect to any hazard trees  
7 identified for removal from land owned by  
8 the private landowner.”.

9 (c) REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—Section  
10 512(c)(4)(A) of the Federal Land Policy and Management  
11 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(4)(A)) is amended by  
12 striking clause (iv) and inserting the following:

13 “(iv) ensures that—

14 “(I) a plan submitted without a  
15 modification under clause (iii) shall be  
16 automatically approved by the date  
17 that is 120 days after the date of sub-  
18 mission; and

19 “(II) for a plan submitted with a  
20 modification under clause (iii), if the  
21 plan is not approved by the date that  
22 is 120 days after the date of submis-  
23 sion, the Secretary concerned shall de-  
24 velop and submit to the owner and op-  
25 erator a letter describing—

1           “(aa) a detailed timeline (to  
2           conclude by the date that is 165  
3           days after the date of submission  
4           of the plan) for completing re-  
5           view of the plan;

6           “(bb) any identified defi-  
7           ciencies in the plan and specific  
8           opportunities for the owner or  
9           operator to address each defi-  
10          ciency; and

11          “(cc) any other relevant in-  
12          formation, as determined by the  
13          Secretary concerned.”.

14          (d) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section 512 of the  
15          Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43  
16          U.S.C. 1772) is amended—

17                 (1) in the section heading, by striking  
18                 “**MANAGMENT**” and inserting “**MANAGEMENT**”;  
19                 and

20                 (2) in subsection (c)(4)(A)(ii), by striking  
21                 “and” at the end.

22          (e) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW.—Not  
23          later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this  
24          Act, the Secretaries shall submit to the relevant commit-  
25          tees of Congress a report describing, with respect to vege-

1 tation management plans submitted under section 512 of  
2 the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976  
3 (43 U.S.C. 1772)—

4 (1) the extent to which those vegetation man-  
5 agement plans under are reviewed and approved  
6 within the 120-day period required under subsection  
7 (c)(4)(A)(iv) of that section;

8 (2) for any vegetation management plan not re-  
9 viewed and approved by the applicable deadline de-  
10 scribed in paragraph (1), the reason for any delay  
11 in review or approval; and

12 (3) for any vegetation management plan sub-  
13 mitted for review and approval for which the Sec-  
14 retary concerned requested a modification, the  
15 timeline for reviewing the modification on resubmis-  
16 sion.

17 **SEC. 212. FIRE-SAFE ELECTRICAL CORRIDORS.**

18 Section 512 of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-  
19 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772) is amended—

20 (1) by redesignating subsections (j) and (k) as  
21 subsections (k) and (l), respectively; and

22 (2) by inserting after subsection (i) the fol-  
23 lowing:

1       “(j) PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH OWNERS AND  
2 OPERATORS OF ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES.—

3               “(1) IN GENERAL.—In any special use permit  
4 or easement on National Forest System land or land  
5 under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Man-  
6 agement provided to the owner or operator of an  
7 electric transmission or distribution facility, the Sec-  
8 retary concerned may provide permission to cut and  
9 remove trees or other vegetation from within the vi-  
10 cinity of the electric transmission or distribution fa-  
11 cility without requiring a separate timber sale, if  
12 that cutting and removal is consistent with—

13                       “(A) the applicable plan;

14                       “(B) the applicable land and resource  
15 management plan or land use plan; and

16                       “(C) other applicable environmental laws  
17 (including regulations).  
18

19       “(2) USE OF PROCEEDS.—A special use permit  
20 or easement that includes permission for cutting and  
21 removal described in paragraph (1) shall include a  
22 requirement that, if the owner or operator of the  
23 electric transmission or distribution facility sells any  
24 portion of the material removed under the permit or  
25 easement, the owner or operator shall provide to the

1 Secretary concerned any proceeds received from the  
2 sale, less any transportation costs incurred in the  
3 sale.

4 “(3) EFFECT.—Nothing in paragraph (2) shall  
5 require the sale of any material removed under a  
6 permit or easement that includes permission for cut-  
7 ting and removal described in paragraph (1).”.

8 **SEC. 213. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR HIGH-PRIORITY**  
9 **HAZARD TREES.**

10 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE.—The term  
12 “high-priority hazard tree” means a standing tree  
13 that—

14 (A) presents a visible hazard to people or  
15 Federal property due to conditions such as de-  
16 terioration of, or damage to, the root system,  
17 trunk, stem, or limbs of the tree, or the direc-  
18 tion or lean of the tree, as determined by the  
19 Secretary;

20 (B) is determined by the Secretary to be  
21 highly likely to fail and, on failure, would be  
22 highly likely to cause injury to people or dam-  
23 age to Federal property; and

24 (C) is located—

1 (i) within 300 feet of a National For-  
2 est System road with a maintenance level  
3 of 3, 4, or 5;

4 (ii) along a National Forest System  
5 trail; or

6 (iii) in a developed recreation site on  
7 National Forest System land that is oper-  
8 ated and maintained by the Secretary.

9 (2) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE ACTIVITY.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “high-pri-  
11 ority hazard tree activity” means a forest man-  
12 agement activity that mitigates the risks associ-  
13 ated with high-priority hazard trees, including  
14 pruning, felling, and disposal of a high-priority  
15 hazard tree.

16 (B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “high-pri-  
17 ority hazard tree activity” does not include any  
18 activity—

19 (i) conducted in a wilderness area or  
20 wilderness study area;

21 (ii) for the construction of a perma-  
22 nent road or permanent trail;

23 (iii) conducted on Federal land on  
24 which, by Act of Congress or Presidential

1 proclamation, the removal of vegetation is  
2 restricted or prohibited;

3 (iv) conducted in an area in which ac-  
4 tivities described in subparagraph (A)  
5 would be inconsistent with the applicable  
6 land and resource management plan; or

7 (v) conducted in an inventoried  
8 roadless area.

9 (b) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
11 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
12 shall develop a categorical exclusion (as defined in  
13 111 of the National Environmental Policy Act of  
14 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e)) for high-priority hazard  
15 tree activities.

16 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—In developing and ad-  
17 ministering the categorical exclusion under para-  
18 graph (1), the Secretary shall—

19 (A) comply with the National Environ-  
20 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et  
21 seq.); and

22 (B) apply the extraordinary circumstances  
23 procedures under section 220.6 of title 36, Code  
24 of Federal Regulations (or successor regula-

1           tions), in determining whether to use the cat-  
2           egorical exclusion.

3           (3) PROJECT SIZE LIMITATION.—A project car-  
4           ried out using the categorical exclusion developed  
5           under paragraph (1) may not exceed 6,000 acres.

6 **SEC. 214. SEEDS OF SUCCESS STRATEGY.**

7           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after  
8           the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall  
9           jointly develop and implement a strategy, to be known as  
10          the “Seeds of Success strategy”, to enhance the domestic  
11          supply chain of seeds.

12          (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy developed under sub-  
13          section (a) shall include a plan for each of the following:

14               (1) Facilitating sustained interagency coordina-  
15               tion in, and a comprehensive approach to, native  
16               plant materials development and restoration.

17               (2) Promoting the re-seeding of native or fire-  
18               resistant vegetation post-wildfire, particularly in the  
19               wildland-urban interface.

20               (3) Creating and consolidating information re-  
21               lating to native or fire-resistant vegetation and shar-  
22               ing that information with Indian Tribes and State  
23               and local governments.

24               (4) Building regional programs and partner-  
25               ships to promote the development of materials made

1 from plants native to the United States and restore  
2 those plants to their respective, native habitats with-  
3 in the United States, giving priority to the building  
4 of those programs and partnerships in regions of the  
5 Bureau of Land Management where the partner-  
6 ships and programs do not exist on the date of en-  
7 actment of this Act.

8 (5) Expanding workforce and infrastructure ca-  
9 pacity to locally collect, process, and store seed as  
10 necessary to implement revegetation and reforest-  
11 ation projects on priority land (as defined in section  
12 215(b)(1)).

13 (6) Expanding the warehouse system of the Bu-  
14 reau of Land Management, particularly the cold  
15 storage capacity of the system.

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

19 (8) Coordinating with the other Federal agen-  
20 cies, States, Indian Tribes, and private entities, as  
21 appropriate, for the purpose of seed collection.

22 (c) REPORT.—The Secretaries shall submit to the rel-  
23 evant committees of Congress the strategy developed  
24 under subsection (a).

1 (d) COORDINATION.—In implementing the strategy  
 2 developed under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Inte-  
 3 rior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land  
 4 Management, shall coordinate with the heads of other ap-  
 5 plicable Federal agencies, including the Department of  
 6 Defense, for the purpose of collecting seeds from land  
 7 under the jurisdiction under those Federal agencies.

8 **SEC. 215. PROGRAM TO SUPPORT PRIORITY REFOREST-**  
 9 **ATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS.**

10 (a) REFORESTATION REPORTS SUBMITTED TO ADDI-  
 11 TIONAL COMMITTEES.—Section 70303 of the Infrastruc-  
 12 ture Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 1601 note; Pub-  
 13 lic Law 117–58) is amended, in the matter preceding  
 14 paragraph (1), by striking inserting “, the Committee on  
 15 Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Com-  
 16 mittee on Natural Resources of the House of Representa-  
 17 tives,” after “Senate”.

18 (b) INTERIOR REFORESTATION PROGRAM.—

19 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

20 (A) COVERED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER  
 21 EDUCATION.—The term “covered institution of  
 22 higher education” means a land-grant college or  
 23 university, including—

24 (i) an 1862 Institution (as defined in  
 25 section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Ex-

1           tension, and Education Reform Act of  
2           1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601));

3           (ii) an 1890 Institution (as defined in  
4           that section);

5           (iii) an institution that is eligible to  
6           receive funding under Public Law 87–788  
7           (commonly known as the “McIntire-Sten-  
8           nis Act of 1962”); and

9           (iv) a 1994 Institution (as defined in  
10          section 532 of the Equity in Educational  
11          Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.  
12          301 note; Public Law 103–382)).

13          (B) NATURAL REGENERATION; REFOREST-  
14          ATION; UNPLANNED EVENT.—The terms “nat-  
15          ural regeneration”, “reforestation”, and “un-  
16          planned event” have the meanings given those  
17          terms in section 3(e)(4)(A) of the Forest and  
18          Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act  
19          of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(e)(4)(A)).

20          (C) PRIORITY LAND.—The term “priority  
21          land” means historically forested land under  
22          the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned that,  
23          due to an unplanned event—

1 (i) requires reforestation to meet the  
2 objectives described in an applicable land  
3 use plan; and

4 (ii) is unlikely to experience natural  
5 regeneration.

6 (2) PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later  
7 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,  
8 the Secretary of the Interior shall establish a pro-  
9 gram to implement reforestation projects on priority  
10 land identified under paragraph (4)(A), in accord-  
11 ance with this section.

12 (3) SUPPORT.—In carrying out the program es-  
13 tablished under paragraph (2), the Secretary may  
14 enter into—

15 (A) cooperative agreements in accordance  
16 with processes established by the Secretary; and

17 (B) contracts, including contracts entered  
18 into pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination  
19 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301  
20 et seq.).

21 (4) ANNUAL IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY  
22 PROJECTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of  
23 enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the  
24 Secretary of the Interior shall—

1 (A) identify priority land within the United  
2 States;

3 (B) establish a list of reforestation projects  
4 on priority land for the upcoming year, which  
5 may include activities to ensure adequate and  
6 appropriate seed and seedling availability to  
7 further the objectives of other priority projects;  
8 and

9 (C) estimate the costs necessary to imple-  
10 ment the list established under subparagraph  
11 (B).

12 (5) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the pro-  
13 gram under this subsection, the Secretary shall con-  
14 sult or coordinate with, as appropriate—

15 (A) applicable State and local govern-  
16 ments;

17 (B) applicable Indian Tribes;

18 (C) covered institutions of higher edu-  
19 cation;

20 (D) Federal agencies that administer Fed-  
21 eral land that adjoins, or is adjacent to, land  
22 that is the subject of a project identified under  
23 paragraph (4)(B); and

24 (E) other stakeholders, at the discretion of  
25 the Secretary.

1           (6) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year  
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually  
3 thereafter for each of the following 6 years, the Sec-  
4 retary of the Interior shall submit to the relevant  
5 committees of Congress, the Committee on Appro-  
6 priations of the Senate, and the Committee on Ap-  
7 propriations of the House of Representatives a re-  
8 port that includes the following, with respect to the  
9 period covered by the report:

10                   (A) An accounting of all priority land.

11                   (B) A list of projects identified under  
12 paragraph (4)(B).

13                   (C) An accounting of any progress made  
14 on projects identified in any previous report  
15 under this paragraph.

16                   (D) An accounting of each contract and  
17 cooperative agreement established under the  
18 program under this subsection.

19                   (E) The amounts necessary to be appro-  
20 priated, in addition to amounts available from  
21 other sources, to implement reforestation  
22 projects on all priority land by not later than  
23 10 years after the date of submission of the re-  
24 port.

1           (7) NONDUPLICATION.—In carrying out this  
2 section, the Secretary of the Interior shall collabo-  
3 rate with the Secretary and the Secretary of Defense  
4 to ensure the nonduplication of activities carried out  
5 under section 214.

6 **SEC. 216. REFORESTATION, NURSERIES, AND GENETIC RE-**  
7 **SOURCES SUPPORT.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9           (1) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible  
10 recipient” means—

11                   (A) a State forestry agency;

12                   (B) an Indian Tribe; and

13                   (C) a private nursery that has experience,  
14 as determined by the Secretary, in growing  
15 high-quality native trees of appropriate genetic  
16 sources in bareroot or container stocktypes spe-  
17 cific for reforestation, restoration, or conserva-  
18 tion, including native plants and seeds that are  
19 of cultural significance to Indian Tribes.

20           (2) NURSERY.—The term “nursery” means a  
21 tree or native plant nursery.

22           (3) SEED ORCHARD.—The term “seed orchard”  
23 means a tree or native plant seed orchard.

24           (4) STATE.—The term “State” means—

25                   (A) each of the several States;

1 (B) the District of Columbia;  
2 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;  
3 and  
4 (D) any territory or possession of the  
5 United States.

6 (b) PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATION, AND OTHER  
7 ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF NURSERIES AND SEED OR-  
8 CHARDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the  
9 Forest Service, shall—

10 (1) partner with Federal and State agencies,  
11 Indian Tribes, institutions of higher education, and  
12 private nurseries to provide training, technical as-  
13 sistance, and research to nursery and tree establish-  
14 ment programs that support natural regeneration,  
15 reforestation, agroforestry, and afforestation;

16 (2) promote information-sharing to improve  
17 technical knowledge and practices and understand  
18 demands, climate change impacts, and other issues  
19 as necessary to address all facets of the reforestation  
20 supply chain;

21 (3) provide technical and financial assistance to  
22 international nursery and tree establishment pro-  
23 grams through the Forest Service International Pro-  
24 grams, the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, and  
25 the International Institute of Tropical Forestry;

1           (4) collaborate with other relevant Federal de-  
2           partments and agencies, including the Foreign Agri-  
3           cultural Service, the United States Agency for Inter-  
4           national Development, and the United States Fish  
5           and Wildlife Service, and international organiza-  
6           tions, including the Food and Agriculture Organiza-  
7           tion of the United Nations, to provide technical and  
8           financial assistance relating to nurseries and refor-  
9           estation;

10           (5) coordinate the efforts of the Department of  
11           Agriculture—

12                   (A) to address the challenges associated  
13                   with the reforestation supply chain; and

14                   (B) to leverage economic development as-  
15                   sistance for work with private nurseries; and

16           (6) expand reforestation supply chains through  
17           science and research, seed collection and storage,  
18           and nursery infrastructure and operations.

19           (c) NURSERY AND SEED ORCHARD GRANTS.—

20                   (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after  
21                   the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
22                   shall establish or expand an existing program to pro-  
23                   vide grants to eligible recipients to support nurseries  
24                   and seed orchards.

1           (2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—An eligible recipient  
2 that receives a grant under paragraph (1) shall  
3 carry out a project that comprises 1 or more of the  
4 following activities:

5           (A) The development, expansion, enhance-  
6 ment, or improvement of nursery production ca-  
7 pacity or other infrastructure—

8           (i) to improve seed collection and stor-  
9 age;

10           (ii) to increase seedling production,  
11 storage, and distribution; or

12           (iii) to enhance seedling survival and  
13 properly manage tree genetic resources.

14           (B) The establishment or expansion of a  
15 nursery or seed orchard, including by acquiring  
16 equipment for a nursery or seed orchard.

17           (C) The development or implementation of  
18 quality control measures at nurseries or seed  
19 orchards.

20           (D) The promotion of workforce develop-  
21 ment within any facet of the reforestation pipe-  
22 line.

23           (E) Such other activities as the Secretary  
24 determines to be appropriate.

1 **SEC. 217. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPAYMENT.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD OPERATING  
3 PROCEDURES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of  
4 enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall—

5 (1) establish standard operating procedures re-  
6 lating to payment timelines for fire suppression cost-  
7 share agreements established under section 2 of the  
8 Act of May 27, 1955 (42 U.S.C. 1856a) (commonly  
9 known as the “Reciprocal Fire Protection Act”); and

10 (2) with respect to each fire suppression cost-  
11 share agreement in operation on that date—

12 (A) review the agreement; and

13 (B) modify the agreement as necessary to  
14 comply with the standard operating procedures  
15 established under paragraph (1).

16 (b) ALIGNMENT OF AGREEMENTS.—The standard  
17 operating procedures under subsection (a)(1) shall include  
18 a requirement that each fire suppression cost-share agree-  
19 ment shall be aligned with each cooperative fire protection  
20 agreement applicable to the entity subject to the fire sup-  
21 pression cost-share agreement.

22 (c) PAYMENTS.—With respect to payments made  
23 pursuant to a fire suppression cost-share agreement, the  
24 standard operating procedures under subsection (a)(1)  
25 shall require that the Federal paying entity shall reim-  
26 burse a local fire department or a State wildland fire-

1 fighter agency if that entity submits to the Federal paying  
 2 entity an invoice in accordance with applicable cost settle-  
 3 ment procedures.

4 (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
 5 gress that the Secretaries should carry out reciprocal fire  
 6 suppression cost-share agreement repayments to local fire  
 7 suppression organizations and State wildland firefighting  
 8 agencies as soon as practicable, but not later than 1 year,  
 9 after the date on which the applicable fire suppression oc-  
 10 curs.

11 **TITLE III—TRANSPARENCY,**  
 12 **TECHNOLOGY, AND PARTNER-**  
 13 **SHIPS**  
 14 **Subtitle A—Transparency and**  
 15 **Technology**

16 **SEC. 301. BIOCHAR INNOVATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES**  
 17 **FOR CONSERVATION, HEALTH, AND AD-**  
 18 **VANCEMENTS IN RESEARCH.**

19 (a) 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 a nonfuel  
 23 use.

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

1 (A) a unit of State, Tribal, or local govern-  
2 ment;

3 (B) a special district;

4 (C) an eligible institution;

5 (D) a public, private, or cooperative entity  
6 or organization;

7 (E) a National Laboratory (as defined in  
8 section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42  
9 U.S.C. 15801)); and

10 (F) a partnership or consortium of 2 or  
11 more entities described in subparagraphs (A)  
12 through (E).

13 (3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-  
14 ble institution” means a land-grant college or uni-  
15 versity, including—

16 (A) an 1862 Institution (as defined in sec-  
17 tion 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,  
18 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.  
19 7601));

20 (B) an 1890 Institution (as defined in that  
21 section);

22 (C) an institution that is eligible to receive  
23 funding under Public Law 87–788 (commonly  
24 known as the “McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962”);  
25 and

1 (D) a 1994 Institution (as defined in sec-  
2 tion 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-  
3 Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note;  
4 Public Law 103–382)).

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

9 (5) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”  
10 means—

11 (A) the Secretary, acting through the Chief  
12 of the Forest Service;

13 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting  
14 through the Director of the Bureau of Land  
15 Management; and

16 (C) the Secretary of Energy, acting  
17 through the Director of the Office of Science.

18 (b) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

19 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the avail-  
21 ability of appropriations made in advance for  
22 that purpose, not later than 2 years after the  
23 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries  
24 shall establish a program under which the Sec-  
25 retaries shall enter into partnerships with eligi-

1           ble entities to carry out demonstration projects  
2           to support the development and commercializa-  
3           tion of biochar in accordance with this sub-  
4           section.

5           (B) LOCATION.—In carrying out the pro-  
6           gram established under subparagraph (A), the  
7           Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent prac-  
8           ticable, enter into partnerships with eligible en-  
9           tities in a manner that ensures that—

10                   (i) at least 1 demonstration project is  
11                   carried out in each region of the Forest  
12                   Service; and

13                   (ii) at least 1 demonstration project is  
14                   carried out in each region of the Bureau of  
15                   Land Management.

16           (2) PROPOSALS.—To be eligible to enter into a  
17           partnership under paragraph (1)(A), an eligible enti-  
18           ty shall submit to the Secretaries a proposal at such  
19           time, in such manner, and containing such informa-  
20           tion as the Secretaries may require.

21           (3) PRIORITY.—In selecting proposals under  
22           paragraph (2), the Secretaries shall give priority to  
23           entering into partnerships with eligible entities that  
24           submit proposals to carry out biochar demonstration  
25           projects that—

1 (A) have the most potential to improve for-  
2 est health and resiliency;

3 (B) have the most potential to create new  
4 jobs and contribute to local economies, particu-  
5 larly in rural areas;

6 (C) have the most potential to dem-  
7 onstrate—

8 (i) new and innovative uses of biochar;

9 (ii) market viability for cost-effective  
10 biochar-based products;

11 (iii) the restorative benefits of biochar  
12 with respect to forest health and resiliency,  
13 including forest soils and watersheds; or

14 (iv) any combination of the purposes  
15 described in clauses (i) through (iii);

16 (D) are located in areas that have a high  
17 need for biochar production, as determined by  
18 the Secretaries, due to—

19 (i) nearby land identified as having  
20 high, very high, or extreme risk of wildfire;

21 (ii) availability of sufficient quantities  
22 of feedstocks; or

23 (iii) a high level of demand for  
24 biochar or other commercial byproducts of  
25 biochar; or

1           (E) satisfy any combination of the pur-  
2           poses described in subparagraphs (A) through  
3           (D).

4           (4) USE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the pro-  
5           gram established under paragraph (1)(A), the Secre-  
6           taries may enter into partnerships and provide fund-  
7           ing to the partnerships to carry out demonstration  
8           projects—

9                   (A) to acquire and test various feedstocks  
10                  and the efficacy of those feedstocks;

11                  (B) to develop and optimize commercially  
12                  and technologically viable biochar production  
13                  units, including mobile and permanent units;

14                  (C) to demonstrate—

15                          (i) the production of biochar from for-  
16                          est residue; and

17                          (ii) the use of biochar to restore forest  
18                          health and resiliency;

19                  (D) to build, expand, or establish biochar  
20                  facilities;

21                  (E) to conduct research relating to new  
22                  and innovative uses of biochar;

23                  (F) to demonstrate cost-effective market  
24                  opportunities for biochar and biochar-based  
25                  products;

1 (G) to carry out any other activities the  
2 Secretaries determine to be appropriate; or

3 (H) to achieve any combination of the pur-  
4 poses described in subparagraphs (A) through  
5 (G).

6 (5) FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS.—To the max-  
7 imum extent practicable, an eligible entity that car-  
8 ries out a biochar demonstration project under this  
9 subsection shall derive not less than 50 percent of  
10 the feedstock used under the project from forest  
11 thinning and management activities, including mill  
12 residues, conducted on National Forest System land  
13 or public land.

14 (6) REVIEW.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall  
16 conduct regionally specific research, including  
17 economic analyses and lifecycle assessments, re-  
18 lating to any biochar produced from a dem-  
19 onstration project carried out under the pro-  
20 gram established under paragraph (1)(A), in-  
21 cluding—

22 (i) the effects of that biochar on—

23 (I) forest health and resiliency;

- 1 (II) carbon capture and seques-  
2 tration, including increasing soil car-  
3 bon in the short-term and long-term;
- 4 (III) productivity, reduced input  
5 costs, and water retention in agricul-  
6 tural practices;
- 7 (IV) the health of soil and grass-  
8 lands used for grazing activities, in-  
9 cluding grazing activities on National  
10 Forest System land and public land;  
11 and
- 12 (V) environmental remediation  
13 activities, including abandoned mine  
14 land remediation;
- 15 (ii) the effectiveness of biochar as a  
16 coproduct of biofuels or in biochemicals;  
17 and
- 18 (iii) the effectiveness of other poten-  
19 tial uses of biochar to determine if any  
20 such use is technologically and commer-  
21 cially viable.
- 22 (B) COORDINATION.—The Secretaries, to  
23 the maximum extent practicable, shall provide  
24 data, analyses, and other relevant information

1 collected under subparagraph (A) to recipients  
2 of grants under subsection (c).

3 (7) LIMITATION ON FUNDING FOR ESTAB-  
4 LISHING BIOCHAR FACILITIES.—The amount pro-  
5 vided by the Secretaries under this subsection to an  
6 eligible entity for establishing a biochar facility may  
7 not exceed 35 percent of the total capital cost of es-  
8 tablishing that facility.

9 (c) BIOCHAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT  
10 PROGRAM.—

11 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the In-  
12 terior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy,  
13 shall establish, or expand an existing, applied  
14 biochar research and development grant program to  
15 provide to eligible institutions grants, on a competi-  
16 tive basis, to carry out the activities described in  
17 paragraph (3).

18 (2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
19 grant under this subsection, an eligible institution  
20 shall submit to the Secretary of the Interior a pro-  
21 posal at such time, in such manner, and containing  
22 such information as the Secretary of the Interior  
23 may require.

24 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution  
25 that receives a grant under this subsection shall use

1 the grant funds to conduct applied research relating  
2 to—

3 (A) the effect of biochar on forest health  
4 and resiliency, taking into account variations in  
5 biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

6 (B) the effect of biochar on soil health and  
7 water retention, taking into account variations  
8 in biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

9 (C) the long-term carbon sequestration po-  
10 tential of biochar;

11 (D) best management practices with re-  
12 spect to biochar and biochar-based products  
13 that maximize—

14 (i) carbon sequestration benefits; and

15 (ii) the commercial viability and appli-  
16 cation of those products in forestry, agri-  
17 culture, environmental remediation, water  
18 quality improvement, and any other similar  
19 uses, as determined by the Secretary of the  
20 Interior;

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

23 (i) uses in agriculture and environ-  
24 mental remediation; and

1 (ii) use as a coproduct in fuel produc-  
2 tion;

3 (F) new and innovative uses for biochar  
4 byproducts; and

5 (G) opportunities to expand markets for  
6 biochar and create related jobs, particularly in  
7 rural areas.

8 (d) REPORTS.—

9 (1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2  
10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
11 Secretaries shall submit to Congress a report that—

12 (A) includes policy and program rec-  
13 ommendations to improve the widespread use of  
14 biochar;

15 (B) identifies any area of research needed  
16 to advance biochar commercialization; and

17 (C) identifies barriers to advancing biochar  
18 commercialization, including permitting and  
19 siting considerations.

20 (2) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF  
21 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—Beginning with the second  
22 fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment  
23 of this Act, and annually thereafter until the date  
24 described in subsection (e), the Secretaries shall in-  
25 clude in the materials submitted to Congress in sup-

1 port of the President’s budget pursuant to section  
 2 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a report de-  
 3 scribing, for the fiscal year covered by the report,  
 4 the status of—

5 (A) each demonstration project carried out  
 6 under subsection (b); and

7 (B) each research and development grant  
 8 provided under subsection (c).

9 (e) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section  
 10 terminates on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
 11 enactment of this Act.

12 **SEC. 302. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**  
 13 **PORTS.**

14 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”  
 16 means any land under the jurisdiction of—

17 (A) the Secretary; or

18 (B) the Secretary of the Interior.

19 (2) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIV-  
 20 ITY.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “hazardous  
 22 fuels reduction activity” means any vegetation  
 23 management activity to reduce the risk of wild-  
 24 fire, including mechanical treatments, grazing,  
 25 and prescribed burning.

1           (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “hazardous  
2           fuels reduction activity” does not include the  
3           provision or execution of a contract to carry out  
4           an activity described in subparagraph (A).

5           (b) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF PRESI-  
6           DENT’S BUDGET.—

7           (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fis-  
8           cal year that begins after the date of enactment of  
9           this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary con-  
10          cerned shall include in the materials submitted to  
11          Congress in support of the President’s budget pursu-  
12          ant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code,  
13          a report describing the number of acres of Federal  
14          land on which the Secretary concerned carried out  
15          hazardous fuels reduction activities during the pre-  
16          ceding fiscal year, as determined using—

17                  (A) the methodology of the Secretary con-  
18                  cerned in effect on the day before the date of  
19                  enactment of this Act; and

20                  (B) the methodology described in para-  
21                  graph (2).

22          (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of a report  
23          required under paragraph (1), the Secretary con-  
24          cerned 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 that 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 that acre  
12 during the applicable period; and

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

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

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

22 (iii) the types of hazardous fuels re-  
23 duction activities completed with respect to  
24 the acres, including a description of wheth-

1 er those hazardous fuels reduction activi-  
2 ties were conducted—

3 (I) in a wildfire managed for re-  
4 source benefits; or

5 (II) through a planned hazardous  
6 fuels reduction project;

7 (iv) the cost per-acre of the hazardous  
8 fuels reduction activities carried out during  
9 the period covered by the report;

10 (v) the region or System unit in which  
11 the acres are located; and

12 (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous  
13 fuels reduction activities with respect to re-  
14 ducing the risk of wildfire.

15 (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned  
16 shall make each report submitted under paragraph  
17 (1) publicly available on the website of the Depart-  
18 ment of Agriculture or the Department of the Inte-  
19 rior, as applicable.

20 (c) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

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

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

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

6           (B) verification methods that validate  
7 whether those data accurately correlate to the  
8 hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out  
9 by the Secretary concerned;

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

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

19          (3) REPORT.—Not later than 14 days after im-  
20 plementing the standardized procedures required  
21 under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall  
22 submit to Congress a report that describes—

23           (A) the standardized procedures; and

24           (B) any programmatic or policy rec-  
25 ommendations to Congress to address limita-

1           tions in tracking data relating to hazardous  
2           fuels reduction activities under this subsection.

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

6           (1) conduct a study regarding the implementa-  
7 tion of this section, including any limitations with  
8 respect to—

9                   (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-  
10 tivities under subsection (b); or

11                   (B) tracking data relating to hazardous  
12 fuels reduction activities under subsection (c);  
13 and

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

16       (e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—

17           (1) IN GENERAL.—No additional funds are au-  
18 thorized to carry out this section.

19           (2) SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—The activi-  
20 ties authorized by this section are subject to the  
21 availability of appropriations made in advance for  
22 those purposes.

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

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered  
6 agency” means—

7 (A) each Federal land management agency  
8 (as defined in section 802 of the Federal Lands  
9 Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C.  
10 6801));

11 (B) the Department of Defense;

12 (C) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

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

15 (E) the Federal Emergency Management  
16 Agency;

17 (F) the National Aeronautics and Space  
18 Administration;

19 (G) the United States Fire Administration;

20 (H) a State, Tribal, county, or municipal  
21 fire department or district operating through  
22 the United States Fire Administration or pur-  
23 suant to an agreement with a Federal agency;  
24 and

25 (I) any other Federal agency involved in  
26 wildfire response.

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

3                   (A) a private entity;

4                   (B) a nonprofit organization; and

5                   (C) an institution of higher education (as  
6           defined in section 101 of the Higher Education  
7           Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

8           (3) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “Pilot Pro-  
9           gram” means the deployment and demonstration  
10          pilot program established under subsection (b).

11          (4) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”  
12          means the Secretary and the Secretary of the Inte-  
13          rior, acting jointly.

14          (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after  
15          the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in co-  
16          ordination with the heads of the covered agencies, shall  
17          establish a deployment and demonstration pilot program  
18          for new and innovative wildfire prevention, detection, com-  
19          munication, and mitigation technologies.

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

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

24                   (2) in consultation with the heads of the cov-  
25                  ered agencies, identify and advance the demonstra-

1       tion and deployment of key technology priority areas  
2       with respect to the deployment of wildfire preven-  
3       tion, detection, communication, and mitigation tech-  
4       nologies, including—

5               (A) hazardous fuels reduction activities or  
6       treatments;

7               (B) dispatch communications;

8               (C) remote sensing, detection, and track-  
9       ing;

10              (D) safety equipment;

11              (E) common operating pictures or oper-  
12       ational dashboards; and

13              (F) interoperable commercial data; and

14              (3) connect each covered entity selected to par-  
15       ticipate in the Pilot Program with the appropriate  
16       covered agency to coordinate real-time and on-the-  
17       ground testing of technology during wildfire mitiga-  
18       tion activities and training.

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

1 (e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECH-  
2 NOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in  
3 the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to  
4 covered entities that—

5 (1) have participated in the Fire Weather  
6 Testbed of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
7 Administration; or

8 (2) propose in the application under subsection  
9 (d) to develop and apply emerging technologies for  
10 wildfire mitigation, including artificial intelligence,  
11 quantum sensing, computing and quantum-hybrid  
12 applications, satellite detection, augmented reality,  
13 5G private networks, and device-to-device commu-  
14 nications supporting nomadic mesh networks and de-  
15 tection.

16 (f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination  
17 with the heads of the covered agencies, shall make publicly  
18 available the key technology priority areas identified under  
19 subsection (e)(2) and invite covered entities to apply under  
20 subsection (d) to deploy and demonstrate technologies to  
21 address those priority areas.

22 (g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later  
23 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and  
24 annually thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Program,  
25 the Secretaries shall submit to the Committee on Com-

1 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the  
2 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the  
3 House of Representatives, and the relevant committees of  
4 Congress a report that includes the following with respect  
5 to the Pilot Program:

6 (1) A list of participating covered entities.

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

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

13 (4) Outreach efforts by covered agencies to cov-  
14 ered entities developing wildfire technologies.

15 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-  
16 ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and  
17 application at-scale in the wildfire prevention, detec-  
18 tion, communication, and mitigation efforts of Fed-  
19 eral land management agencies (as defined in sec-  
20 tion 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhance-  
21 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 6801)).

22 (6) A description of the relationship and coordi-  
23 nation between the Pilot Program and the activities  
24 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-  
25 tration, including the Fire Weather Testbed.

1 (h) SUNSET.—The Pilot Program terminates on the  
2 date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this  
3 Act.

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

5 Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment  
6 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
7 shall—

8 (1) conduct a study evaluating—

9 (A) the effectiveness of Forest Service  
10 wildland firefighting operations;

11 (B) transparency and accountability meas-  
12 ures in the budget and accounting process of  
13 the Forest Service; and

14 (C) the suitability and feasibility of estab-  
15 lishing a new Federal agency with responsibility  
16 for responding to, and suppressing, wildfires on  
17 Federal land; and

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

20 **SEC. 305. KEEPING FOREST PLANS CURRENT AND MON-**  
21 **ITORED.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

23 (1) to the maximum extent practicable and sub-  
24 ject to the availability of appropriations—

1 (A) ensure that each forest plan for a unit  
2 of the National Forest System is in compliance  
3 with the applicable requirements of section  
4 6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland Renew-  
5 able Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16  
6 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5)(A)); and

7 (B) prioritize revising any forest plan not  
8 in compliance with that section;

9 (2) not be considered to be in violation of sec-  
10 tion 6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland Renew-  
11 able Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.  
12 1604(f)(5)(A)) solely because more than 15 years  
13 have passed without revision of the plan for a unit  
14 of the National Forest System;

15 (3) not later than 120 days after the date of  
16 enactment of this Act, submit to the relevant com-  
17 mittees of Congress a notice describing the date on  
18 which each forest plan referred to in paragraph  
19 (1)(A) was most recently revised, amended, or modi-  
20 fied;

21 (4) seek to publish a new, complete version of  
22 any forest plan that the Secretary has been directed  
23 by court order to amend, revise, or modify by not  
24 later than 60 days after the date of the amendment,  
25 revision, or modification, subject to the availability

1 of appropriations made in advance for that purpose;  
2 and

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

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

8 (B) the most recently published forest plan  
9 monitoring report for the unit.

10 (b) GOOD FAITH UPDATES.—If the Secretary fails  
11 to act expeditiously and in good faith using available fund-  
12 ing to revise, amend, or modify a plan for a unit of the  
13 National Forest System as required by an applicable law  
14 or court order—

15 (1) subsection (a) shall be void with respect to  
16 the plan; and

17 (2) a court of competent 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 enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to  
21 the relevant committees of Congress a report summarizing  
22 the implementation of this section.

23 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section ter-  
24 minates on September 30, 2031.

1 **SEC. 306. CONTAINER AERIAL FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM.**

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

9 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date  
10 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Secretary  
11 of the Interior, in consultation with the National Inter-  
12 agency Aviation Committee and the Interagency Airtanker  
13 Board, shall jointly submit to the relevant committees of  
14 Congress a report that describes the results of the evalua-  
15 tion under subsection (a).

16 **SEC. 307. STUDY ON PINE BEETLE INFESTATION.**

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

20 (1) carry out a study relating to the causes and  
21 effects of, and solutions for, the infestation of pine  
22 beetles in the Northeastern region of the United  
23 States; and

24 (2) submit to the relevant committees of Con-  
25 gress a report that describes the results of the study  
26 under paragraph (1).

## 1     **Subtitle B—White Oak Resilience**

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

4           (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a coalition,  
5 to be known as the “White Oak Restoration Initiative Coa-  
6 lition” (referred to in this section as the “Coalition”)—

7                 (1) as a voluntary collaborative group of Fed-  
8 eral, State, Tribal, and local governments and pri-  
9 vate and nongovernmental organizations the purpose  
10 of which is to carry out the duties described in sub-  
11 section (b); and

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

16           (b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in  
17 the charter referred to in subsection (a)(2), the duties of  
18 the Coalition are—

19                 (1) to coordinate Federal, State, Tribal, local,  
20 private, and nongovernmental activities for the res-  
21 toration of white oak trees in the United States; and

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

1 (A) changes necessary to address Federal  
2 and State policies that impede activities to im-  
3 prove the health, resiliency, and natural regen-  
4 eration of white oak trees;

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

9 (C) options to enhance communication, co-  
10 ordination, and collaboration among forest land  
11 owners, particularly with respect to cross-  
12 boundary projects, to improve the health, resil-  
13 iency, and natural regeneration of white oak  
14 trees;

15 (D) research gaps that should be ad-  
16 dressed to improve the best available science on  
17 white oaks;

18 (E) outreach to forest landowners the land  
19 of which possesses white oak trees or white oak  
20 regeneration potential, as determined by the  
21 Coalition; and

22 (F) options and policies necessary to im-  
23 prove the quality and quantity of white oak  
24 trees in tree nurseries.

1 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE, STAFFING, AND TECHNICAL  
2 SUPPORT.—The Secretary and the Secretary of the Inte-  
3 rior shall make available to the Coalition such personnel  
4 for administrative support, technical services, and the de-  
5 velopment and dissemination of educational materials as  
6 those Secretaries determine to be necessary to carry out  
7 this section.

8 (d) PRIVATE FUNDING.—Subject to the availability  
9 of appropriations made in advance for that purpose, the  
10 Secretary may make funds available to the Coalition to  
11 carry out this section from the account established pursu-  
12 ant to section 1241(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985  
13 (16 U.S.C. 3841(f)).

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

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the  
16 Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out  
17 5 pilot projects in units of the National Forest System  
18 to restore white oak trees in those units through white  
19 oak restoration and natural regeneration practices that  
20 are consistent with applicable forest management plans.

21 (b) REQUIREMENT.—Of the pilot projects carried out  
22 under subsection (a), not fewer than 3 shall be carried  
23 out on units of the National Forest System that are re-  
24 served or withdrawn from the public domain.

1 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary  
2 may enter into cooperative agreements to carry out the  
3 pilot projects under this section.

4 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section ter-  
5 minates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enact-  
6 ment of this Act.

7 **SEC. 313. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WHITE OAK RE-**  
8 **VIEW AND RESTORATION.**

9 (a) ASSESSMENT.—

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

15 (A) whether white oak trees are present on  
16 the land; and

17 (B) the potential to restore white oak for-  
18 ests on the land.

19 (2) USE OF INFORMATION.—In carrying out the  
20 assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary of  
21 the Interior may use information from sources other  
22 than the Department of the Interior, including the  
23 White Oak Initiative and the Forest Service.

24 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the  
25 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the

1 Interior shall submit to Congress, and make publicly  
2 available on the website of the Department of the  
3 Interior, a report describing the results of the as-  
4 sessment carried out under this subsection.

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

10 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of  
11 the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements to  
12 carry out the pilot projects under subsection (b).

13 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section ter-  
14 minates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enact-  
15 ment of this Act.

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

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
19 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-  
20 tablish a nonregulatory program, to be known as the  
21 “White Oak and Upland Oak Habitat Regeneration Pro-  
22 gram” (referred to in this section as the “Program”).

23 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program shall  
24 include—

1           (1) coordinating restoration and conservation  
2 activities among Federal, State, local, and Tribal en-  
3 tities and conservation partners to address white oak  
4 restoration priorities;

5           (2) improving and regenerating white oak and  
6 upland oak forests and the wildlife habitat such for-  
7 ests provide;

8           (3) carrying out coordinated restoration and  
9 conservation activities that lead to the increased  
10 growth of species of white oak in native white oak  
11 regions on Federal, State, Tribal, and private land;

12           (4) facilitating strategic planning to maximize  
13 the resilience of white oak systems and habitats  
14 under changing climate conditions;

15           (5) engaging the public through outreach, edu-  
16 cation, and citizen involvement to increase capacity  
17 and support for coordinated restoration and con-  
18 servation activities for species of white oak; and

19           (6) increasing scientific capacity to support the  
20 planning, monitoring, and research activities nec-  
21 essary to carry out such coordinated restoration and  
22 conservation activities.

23           (c) CONSULTATION.—In establishing the Program,  
24 the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-  
25 ice, shall consult with—

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

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

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

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

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

11 (1) draw on the best available science and man-  
12 agement plans for species of white oak to identify,  
13 prioritize, and implement restoration and conserva-  
14 tion activities that will improve the growth of white  
15 oak trees in the United States;

16 (2) collaborate and coordinate with the White  
17 Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition established by  
18 section 311(a) to prioritize white oak restoration ini-  
19 tiatives;

20 (3) adopt a white oak restoration strategy  
21 that—

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

1 (B) targets cost-effective projects with  
2 measurable results; and

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

6 (4) establish voluntary grant and technical as-  
7 sistance programs in accordance with subsection (e).

8 (e) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—

9 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

10 (A) FOUNDATION.—The term “Founda-  
11 tion” means the National Fish and Wildlife  
12 Foundation.

13 (B) GRANT PROGRAM.—The term “grant  
14 program” means the voluntary grant and tech-  
15 nical assistance program established under  
16 paragraph (2).

17 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—To the extent that  
18 funds are available to carry out this section, the Sec-  
19 retary shall establish a voluntary grant and technical  
20 assistance program to achieve the purposes of the  
21 Program described in subsection (b).

22 (3) ADMINISTRATION.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
24 offer to enter into a cooperative agreement with

1 the Foundation to manage and administer the  
2 grant program.

3 (B) FUNDING.—Subject to the availability  
4 of appropriations made in advance for that pur-  
5 pose, on entering into a cooperative agreement  
6 with the Foundation under subparagraph (A),  
7 the Secretary shall pay to the Foundation to  
8 carry out this subsection for each fiscal year an  
9 advance payment of the entire amount for the  
10 applicable fiscal year—

- 11 (i) on October 1 of that fiscal year; or  
12 (ii) as soon as practicable thereafter.

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

20 (f) SUNSET.—The authority under this section termi-  
21 nates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enact-  
22 ment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 315. TREE NURSERY SHORTAGES.**

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

5 (1) develop and implement a national strategy  
6 to increase the capacity of Federal, State, Tribal,  
7 and private tree nurseries to address the nationwide  
8 shortage of tree seedlings; and

9 (2) coordinate the strategy under paragraph (1)  
10 with—

11 (A) the national reforestation strategy of  
12 the Forest Service; and

13 (B) each regional implementation plan for  
14 National Forests.

15 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-  
16 section (a) shall—

17 (1) be based on the best available science and  
18 data; and

19 (2) identify and address—

20 (A) regional seedling shortages of bareroot  
21 and container tree seedlings;

22 (B) regional reforestation opportunities  
23 and the seedling supply necessary to fulfill  
24 those opportunities;

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

1 (D) barriers to expanding, enhancing, or  
2 creating new infrastructure to increase nursery  
3 capacity.

4 **SEC. 316. WHITE OAK RESEARCH.**

5 (a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—In this  
6 section, the term “eligible institution” means an institu-  
7 tion of higher education, including an 1862 Institution,  
8 an 1890 Institution, and a 1994 Institution (as those  
9 terms are defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Re-  
10 search, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7  
11 U.S.C. 7601)).

12 (b) RESEARCH.—The Secretary may enter into a  
13 memorandum of understanding with an Indian Tribe or  
14 an eligible institution to collaboratively conduct research  
15 relating to—

16 (1) white oak genes with resistance or tolerance  
17 to stress;

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

20 (3) establishing a genetically diverse white oak  
21 seed bank capable of responding to stressors;

22 (4) providing a sustainable supply of white oak  
23 seedlings and genetic resources;

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

1           (6) reforestation of white oak trees through  
2           natural and artificial regeneration;

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

5           (8) improved methods for reforesting aban-  
6           doned mine land sites; and

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

9           (c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out research under  
10          subsection (b), an Indian Tribe or eligible institution may  
11          consult with such States, nonprofit organizations, and  
12          other institutions of higher education and scientific enti-  
13          ties as the Indian Tribe or eligible institution determines  
14          to be appropriate.

15          (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section ter-  
16          minates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enact-  
17          ment of this Act.

18          **SEC. 317. USDA FORMAL INITIATIVE.**

19          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the  
20          Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and  
21          in coordination with the Chief of the Forest Service, shall  
22          establish a formal initiative on white oak trees—

23                  (1) to reestablish white oak forests where ap-  
24                  propriate;

1           (2) to improve the management of existing  
2 white oak forests to foster natural regeneration of  
3 white oak trees;

4           (3) to provide technical assistance to private  
5 landowners to reestablish, improve the management  
6 of, and naturally regenerate white oak trees;

7           (4) to improve and expand white oak nursery  
8 stock; and

9           (5) to adapt and improve white oak seedlings.

10       (b) SUNSET.—The authority under this section ter-  
11 minates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enact-  
12 ment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 318. USE OF AUTHORITIES.**

14       To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary  
15 and the Secretary of the Interior shall use the authorities  
16 provided under this title in combination with other au-  
17 thorities to carry out projects, including—

18           (1) good neighbor agreements entered into  
19 under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014  
20 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) (as amended by this Act); and

21           (2) stewardship contracting projects entered  
22 into under section 604 of the Healthy Forests Res-  
23 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e) (as amend-  
24 ed by this Act).

1 **TITLE IV—ENSURING CASUALTY**  
2 **ASSISTANCE FOR FIREFIGHTERS**

3 **SEC. 401. WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT CASUALTY AS-**  
4 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) NEXT-OF-KIN.—The term “next-of-kin”,  
7 with respect to an individual, means a person in the  
8 highest category of priority in relation to that indi-  
9 vidual, as determined in accordance with the fol-  
10 lowing (in descending order of priority):

11 (A) A legal spouse of the individual.

12 (B) A child (whether by current or prior  
13 marriage) aged 18 years or older of the indi-  
14 vidual, in descending order of precedence by  
15 age.

16 (C) The father or mother of the individual,  
17 unless custody has been vested by court order  
18 in another individual, with an adoptive parent  
19 taking precedence over a natural parent.

20 (D) A sibling (whether whole or half) aged  
21 18 years or older of the individual, in descend-  
22 ing order of precedence by age.

23 (E) A grandfather or grandmother of the  
24 individual.

1           (F) Any other relative of the individual,  
2           with the order of precedence to be determined  
3           in accordance with the civil laws of descent of  
4           the State of domicile of the individual at time  
5           of death.

6           (2) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means  
7           the Wildland Fire Management Casualty Assistance  
8           Program established under subsection (b).

9           (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
10          the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the  
11          Interior shall establish a program, to be known as the  
12          “Wildland Fire Management Casualty Assistance Pro-  
13          gram”, to provide assistance to the next-of-kin of—

14               (1) firefighters who, while in the line of duty—

15                       (A) are killed;

16                       (B) are critically injured; or

17                       (C) suffer illness as a result of an exposure

18                       or incident occurring during that line of duty;

19                       and

20               (2) wildland fire support personnel who are  
21               killed or critically injured in the line of duty.

22           (c) ELEMENTS.—The program shall address each of  
23          the following:

1           (1) The initial, and any subsequent, notification  
2 to the next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire sup-  
3 port personnel who—

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

5                   (B) require hospitalization or treatment at  
6 a medical facility due to a line-of-duty injury or  
7 illness.

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

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

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

15           (3) The qualifications, assignment, training, du-  
16 ties, supervision, and accountability for the perform-  
17 ance of casualty assistance responsibilities.

18           (4) The relief or transfer of casualty assistance  
19 officers, including notification to survivors of critical  
20 injury or illness in the line of duty of the reassign-  
21 ment of those officers to other duties.

22           (5) Centralized short-term and long-term case  
23 management procedures for casualty assistance, in-  
24 cluding rapid access to expert case managers and  
25 counselors by—

1 (A) survivors of firefighters or wildland  
2 fire support personnel; and

3 (B) casualty assistance officers.

4 (6) The provision, through a computer-acces-  
5 sible website and other means and at no cost to sur-  
6 vivors or next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire  
7 support personnel, of personalized, integrated infor-  
8 mation relating to Federal benefits and Federal fi-  
9 nancial assistance available to those survivors and  
10 next-of-kin.

11 (7) The provision to survivors and next-of-kin  
12 of firefighters or wildland fire support personnel of  
13 information relating to mechanisms for registering  
14 complaints about, or requests for, additional assist-  
15 ance related to casualty assistance.

16 (8) Liaison with the Department of Agriculture,  
17 the Department of Justice, and the Social Security  
18 Administration to ensure prompt and accurate reso-  
19 lution of issues relating to benefits administered by  
20 those agencies for survivors of firefighters or  
21 wildland fire support personnel.

22 (9) Data collection, in consultation with the  
23 United States Fire Administration and the National  
24 Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, re-  
25 garding the incidence and quality of casualty assist-

1       ance provided to survivors and next-of-kin of fire-  
2       fighters or wildland fire support personnel.

3       (d) NO EFFECT ON OTHER LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH  
4 BENEFITS.—The program shall not affect any existing au-  
5 thority for line-of-duty death benefits for Federal fire-  
6 fighters or wildland fire support personnel.

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