

**Calendar No. 212**119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> 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

OCTOBER 27, 2025

Reported by Mr. BOOZMAN, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

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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,*

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

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

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

**TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE RESTORATION**

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

Sec. 101. Designation of fireshed management areas.

Sec. 102. 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:**

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

5           (2) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The term “Execu-  
6 tive Director” means the Executive Director of the  
7 Wildfire Intelligence Center appointed under section  
8 102(g).

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

14           (4) **FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREA.**—The term  
15 “fireshed management area” means a fireshed man-  
16 agement area designated under section 101(a).

17           (5) **FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT.**—The  
18 term “fireshed management project” means any of  
19 the following forest or vegetation management activi-  
20 ties:

21                   (A) A hazardous fuels management activ-  
22 ity.

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

1           (C) Removing hazard trees, dead trees, or  
2           dying trees, as determined by a responsible offi-  
3           cial.

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

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

15          (F) Using treatments to address insects or  
16          disease or to control vegetation competition or  
17          invasive species.

18          (G) A wet-meadow, floodplain, or riparian  
19          restoration activity that increases wildfire re-  
20          sistance.

21          (H) A forest stand improvement activity  
22          necessary to protect life and property from cat-  
23          astrophic wildfire, as determined by a respon-  
24          sible official.

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

3           (6) FIRESHED REGISTRY.—The term “Fireshed  
4           Registry” means the registry established under sec-  
5           tion 103(a).

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

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

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

19                   (C) a forest management plan (as defined  
20                  in section 304 of the National Indian Forest  
21                  Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103))  
22                  with respect to Indian forest land or rangeland.

23           (8) GOVERNOR.—The term “Governor” means  
24           the Governor or other appropriate executive official  
25           of—

1 (A) a State; or

2 (B) an Indian Tribe.

3 (9) HAZARDOUS FUELS MANAGEMENT ACTIV-  
 4 ITY.—The term “hazardous fuels management activ-  
 5 ity” means a vegetation management activity, or any  
 6 combination of such activities, that reduces the risk  
 7 of wildfire, including mechanical thinning, mastic-  
 8 tion, prescribed burning, cultural burning (as deter-  
 9 mined by an applicable Indian Tribe), timber har-  
 10 vest, and grazing.

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

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

19 (A) is held in trust, or subject to a restric-  
 20 tion against alienation, by the United States for  
 21 an Indian Tribe or a member of an Indian  
 22 Tribe; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19           (B) the land reconveyed to the United  
20 States pursuant to the first section of the Act  
21 of February 26, 1919 (40 Stat. 1179, chapter  
22 47) (commonly known as “Coos Bay Wagon  
23 Road Grant lands”) under the jurisdiction of  
24 the Secretary of the Interior; and

1           (C) the land revested in the United States  
 2           by the Act of June 9, 1916 (39 Stat. 218,  
 3           chapter 137) (commonly known as “Oregon and  
 4           California Railroad Grant lands”) under the ju-  
 5           risdiction of the Secretary of the Interior.

6           (15) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—

7           The term “relevant committees of Congress”  
 8           means—

9           (A) in the Senate—

10           (i) the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-  
 11           trition, and Forestry; and

12           (ii) the Committee on Energy and  
 13           Natural Resources; and

14           (B) in the House of Representatives—

15           (i) the Committee on Agriculture; and

16           (ii) the Committee on Natural Re-  
 17           sources.

18           (16) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”

19           means—

20           (A) the Secretary; and

21           (B) the Secretary of the Interior.

22           (17) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”

23           means the Secretary of Agriculture.

24           (18) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term

25           “Secretary concerned” means—

1           (A) the Secretary, with respect to National  
2           Forest System land; and

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

5           (19) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term “special  
6           district” means a political subdivision of a State  
7           that—

8           (A) has significant budgetary autonomy or  
9           control;

10          (B) was established by, or pursuant to, the  
11          laws of the State for the purpose of performing  
12          a limited and specific governmental or propri-  
13          etary function primarily relating to land man-  
14          agement; and

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

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

18          (A) each of the several States;

19          (B) the District of Columbia; and

20          (C) each territory of the United States.

1       **TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE**  
2                   **RESTORATION**

3       **Subtitle A—Addressing Emergency**  
4           **Wildfire Risks in High-priority**  
5           **Fresheds**

6       **SEC. 101. DESIGNATION OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT**  
7                   **AREAS.**

8       (a) DESIGNATIONS.—

9           (1) INITIAL DESIGNATIONS.—Subject to para-  
10       graph (4), for the 5-year period beginning on the  
11       date of enactment of this Act, the following fresheds  
12       are designated as freshed management areas:

13           (A) Each landscape-scale freshed identi-  
14       fied as a “high-risk freshed” in the document  
15       published by the Forest Service entitled “Wild-  
16       fire Crisis Strategy” and dated January 2022.

17           (B) Of the 7,688 fresheds described in the  
18       report published by the Rocky Mountain Re-  
19       search Station of the Forest Service in 2019,  
20       each landscape-scale freshed identified by the  
21       Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of  
22       the Interior, as being in the top 20 percent for  
23       wildfire exposure based on the following cri-  
24       teria:

1 (i) Wildfire exposure and cor-  
 2 responding risk to communities, including  
 3 risk to life, critical infrastructure, and  
 4 other structures.

5 (ii) Wildfire exposure and cor-  
 6 responding risk to municipal watersheds,  
 7 including Tribal water supplies and sys-  
 8 tems.

9 (iii) Risk of vegetation type conversion  
 10 due to wildfire, based on information from  
 11 existing forest plans, State forest action  
 12 plans, and best available science.

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

23 (3) MAP-BASED UPDATED DESIGNATIONS.—

24 (A) MAP OF FIRESHEDS.—Not later than  
 25 the date that is 5 years after the date of enact-

1           ment of this Act, and not less frequently than  
2           once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, in  
3           consultation with the Secretary of the Interior,  
4           shall submit to the relevant committees of Con-  
5           gress an updated map of firesheds, which  
6           shall—

7                       (i) be based on the Fireshed Registry;

8                       and

9                       (ii) include firesheds in the States of  
10                      Alaska and Hawaii and the territories of  
11                      the United States.

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

23           ~~(C) PUBLICATION.—~~The Secretary shall  
24           make each updated map prepared under this

1 paragraph publicly available on the Fireshed  
2 Registry.

3 (4) LAND LOCATION AND CONTENT.—A  
4 fireshed management area designated under this  
5 subsection—

6 (A) shall not overlap with any other  
7 fireshed management area; and

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

10 (5) COMBINING MULTIPLE FIRESHEDS.—On re-  
11 ceipt of a request of an affected Governor, the Sec-  
12 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of the In-  
13 terior, may expand a fireshed management area des-  
14 ignated under this subsection to include more than  
15 1 fireshed.

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

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

23 **SEC. 102. WILDFIRE INTELLIGENCE CENTER.**

24 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

4           (2) CENTER.—The term “Center” means the  
5 Wildfire Intelligence Center established under sub-  
6 section (b).

7           (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after  
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the  
9 Secretary of the Interior shall establish a joint office, to  
10 be known as the “Wildfire Intelligence Center”, the duties  
11 of which are to study, plan, coordinate, and implement  
12 issues of joint concern among the Department of Agri-  
13 culture and the Department of the Interior, including—

14           (1) serving as the development and operational  
15 center for the comprehensive assessment and pre-  
16 diction of wildfires and fires that move into the built  
17 environment to provide decision support services to  
18 inform land and fuels management, community out-  
19 reach and risk reduction, post-wildfire recovery and  
20 rehabilitation, and fire management and response  
21 activities carried out by entities, including—

22                   (A) the Federal Government;

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

24                   (C) land managers;

25                   (D) incident management teams;

1           ~~(E)~~ the National Interagency Coordination  
2           Center;

3           ~~(F)~~ geographic coordination centers;

4           ~~(G)~~ land, air, and water managers;

5           ~~(H)~~ burned area rehabilitation teams;

6           ~~(I)~~ public health entities; and

7           ~~(J)~~ other entities identified by the Board;

8           ~~(2)~~ facilitating collaboration and information  
9           sharing across Federal and State departments and  
10          agencies, Tribal entities, academia, and the private  
11          sector with respect to matters relating to wildfires;  
12          and

13          ~~(3)~~ addressing such other issues as the Sec-  
14          retary and the Secretary of the Interior may identify  
15          as issues of joint interest in support of the functions  
16          of the Center described in subsection ~~(d)~~.

17          ~~(e)~~ HEADQUARTERS.—Not later than 1 year after the  
18          date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall select from  
19          within the United States a permanent location for the  
20          physical headquarters of the Center.

21          ~~(d)~~ FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Center shall  
22          include the following:

23                  ~~(1)~~ Providing real-time, science-based, and  
24                  data-rich scientific and technical analytical services;  
25                  decision support, and predictive services across all

1 phases of fire to inform pre-fire land and fuels man-  
2 agement, pre-fire community and built environment  
3 risk reduction, active fire management and emer-  
4 gency response, and post-fire recovery in the built  
5 and natural environments.

6 (2) Assessing and monitoring wildfires and  
7 wildfire conditions across all phases of fire, including  
8 ignition, behavior, and spread, climate, weather,  
9 drought, soil moisture, fuel conditions, smoke,  
10 aerosols, fire severity, debris flows, and erosion.

11 (3) Comprehensive modeling of wildfire behav-  
12 ior and risks, including ignitions, wildfire intensity  
13 and spread inside the built and natural environ-  
14 ments, air quality, and dependence on burn history,  
15 vegetation conditions, climate, and weather.

16 (4) Providing and procuring, if commercially  
17 available, and combining existing data, mapping,  
18 technological, and consultation services to support  
19 pre-, active, and post-fire activities, including—

20 (A) creating and maintaining a real-time  
21 nationwide wildfire risk catalog by leveraging  
22 existing risk mapping at land management  
23 agencies;

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

1           (C) assisting with the creation of public  
2 safety power shutoff plans;

3           (D) assisting with the creation and updat-  
4 ing of wildfire response strategies, plans, and  
5 treatment and mitigation measures, including  
6 mitigation measures in the built environment  
7 and the development of community wildfire pro-  
8 tection plans;

9           (E) providing decision support and gridded  
10 and point data forecast and assessment prod-  
11 ucts in support of operational and planning ac-  
12 tivities, including the pre-positioning of wildfire  
13 suppression personnel and assets based on real-  
14 time-risk; and

15           (F) assisting with the safe and effective  
16 use of prescribed fire.

17           (5) Consolidating air quality monitoring and  
18 forecasting data to support health risk information  
19 to help inform risks to public health and protect the  
20 public from smoke impacts associated with wildfires,  
21 including providing planning guidance for safe and  
22 effective beneficial fire opportunities to prevent the  
23 risk of wildfires.

24           (6) Providing accessible tools and products that  
25 support emergency and land management decisions

1 relating to wildfire prevention, preparedness, and re-  
2 sponse, including risk assessment and contingency  
3 planning, which shall include the development of a  
4 data interface to assist and inform, in real-time,  
5 firefighters, first responders, and approved contrac-  
6 tors in responding to wildfires, including the use of  
7 any observations by the civil, military, and intel-  
8 ligence communities of the Federal Government and  
9 commercial Earth observations.

10 (7) Establishing an interoperable information  
11 technology infrastructure accessible by Federal agen-  
12 cies, State government offices, units of local govern-  
13 ment, and Tribal governments.

14 (8) To the extent feasible, establishing data  
15 interoperability through—

16 (A) the development of common data  
17 standards;

18 (B) the provision of comprehensive search-  
19 able data inventories;

20 (C) working with Tribal governments in  
21 nation-to-nation partnership;

22 (D) the integration and sharing of infor-  
23 mation and resources of the Federal Govern-  
24 ment and State and local governments to sup-  
25 port the essential functions of the Center;

1           (E) the development of data standards to  
2           protect confidential information that may be es-  
3           sential to the core functions of the Center;

4           (F) regular updates and maintenance of  
5           research and technology essential to achieving  
6           the core functions of the Center; and

7           (G) the development and maintenance of a  
8           big-data architecture to compile, maintain,  
9           standardize, and evaluate data associated with  
10          the core functions of the Center.

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

22                  (A) the use and implementations of wild-  
23                  fire risk assessments;

1           ~~(B)~~ the applied use of the database and in-  
 2           formation developed under paragraphs ~~(7)~~ and  
 3           ~~(8)~~;

4           ~~(C)~~ reducing losses from wildfires;

5           ~~(D)~~ increasing benefits from wildfires;

6           ~~(E)~~ resources available for communities  
 7           and responders working to improve wildfire pre-  
 8           paredness; and

9           ~~(F)~~ enhancing communication management  
 10          in emergency wildfire situations, land and re-  
 11          source management, and scientific studies.

12          ~~(10)~~ Working with Federal, State, and Tribal  
 13          agencies to develop and improve National Wildfire  
 14          Coordinating Group wildfire preparedness curricula  
 15          and training modules for—

16                 ~~(A)~~ State, territorial, local, and Tribal offi-  
 17                 cials; and

18                 ~~(B)~~ Federal, State, territorial, local, and  
 19                 Tribal emergency managers and responders.

20          ~~(11)~~ Maintaining the Fireshed Registry.

21          ~~(12)~~ Administering the pilot program estab-  
 22          lished under section ~~303~~ and streamlining procure-  
 23          ment processes for technologies identified under that  
 24          pilot program and technology systems related to ad-  
 25          dressing wildfire and smoke for purposes of sealing

1 such technologies and systems across Federal agen-  
2 cies.

3 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Sec-  
5 retary of the Interior shall cooperatively administer  
6 the Center.

7 (2) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
9 graph (B), the Secretary and the Secretary of  
10 the Interior may transfer funds provided to es-  
11 tablish, and carry out the duties of, the Center  
12 between—

13 (i) the Forest Service; and

14 (ii) the United States Geological Sur-  
15 vey.

16 (B) NOTICE REQUIRED.—Not later than  
17 15 days before transferring funds under sub-  
18 paragraph (A), the Secretary or the Secretary  
19 of the Interior, as applicable, shall submit to  
20 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate  
21 and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
22 House of Representatives a notice of the pro-  
23 posed transfer.

24 (f) BOARD.—

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

4                   (A) 1 member who is a career employee of  
5                   the Department of Agriculture, to be appointed  
6                   by the Secretary.

7                   (B) 1 member who is a career employee of  
8                   the research and development areas of the For-  
9                   est Service, to be appointed by the Chief of the  
10                  Forest Service.

11                  (C) 1 member who is a career employee in  
12                  fire and aviation management of the Forest  
13                  Service, to be appointed by the Chief of the  
14                  Forest Service.

15                  (D) 1 member who is a career employee of  
16                  the Department of the Interior, to be appointed  
17                  by the Secretary of the Interior.

18                  (E) 1 member who is a career employee of  
19                  the Bureau of Land Management, to be ap-  
20                  pointed by the Director of the Bureau of Land  
21                  Management.

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

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

4           (H) 1 member who is a career employee of  
5 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to  
6 be appointed by the Director of the United  
7 States Fish and Wildlife Service.

8           (I) 1 member who is a career employee of  
9 the United States Geological Survey, to be ap-  
10 pointed by the Director of the United States  
11 Geological Survey.

12           (J) 1 member who is a career employee of  
13 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-  
14 istration, to be appointed by the Administrator  
15 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
16 ministration.

17           (K) 1 member who is a career employee of  
18 the National Weather Service, to be appointed  
19 by the Director of the National Weather Serv-  
20 ice.

21           (L) 1 member who is a career employee of  
22 the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to  
23 be appointed by the Administrator of the Fed-  
24 eral Emergency Management Agency.

1           (M) 1 member who is a career employee of  
2 the United States Fire Administration, to be  
3 appointed by the Administrator of the United  
4 States Fire Administration.

5           (N) 1 member who is a career employee of  
6 the Department of Defense, to be appointed by  
7 the Secretary of Defense.

8           (O) 1 member who is a career employee of  
9 the National Science Foundation, to be ap-  
10 pointed by the Director of the National Science  
11 Foundation.

12           (P) 1 member who is a career employee of  
13 the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-  
14 tration, to be appointed by the Administrator of  
15 the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-  
16 tration.

17           (2) TERMS.—A member of the Board—

18           (A) shall be appointed for a term of 3  
19 years; and

20           (B) may be reappointed for not more than  
21 3 additional terms.

22           (3) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The  
23 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board  
24 shall—

1           (A) be selected by the members of the  
2           Board from among the members appointed  
3           under subparagraphs (B), (I), and (J) of para-  
4           graph (1); and

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

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

9           (5) NONVOTING STATUS.—At the discretion of  
10          the Board, the Board may include nonvoting observ-  
11          ers to the Board.

12          (g) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—

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

16          (2) DROUGHT MONITORING.—The Executive  
17          Director shall engage with relevant Federal agencies,  
18          State agencies, and entities in the private sector to  
19          improve drought monitoring, forecasting, commu-  
20          nication, and response that may be essential to the  
21          core functions of the Center, if the Executive Direc-  
22          tor determines that the engagement is appropriate,  
23          beneficial, and cost-effective.

24          (3) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Executive Director  
2           may enter into and perform contracts, agree-  
3           ments, memoranda of understanding, or other,  
4           similar transactions, as the Executive Director  
5           determines to be appropriate to carry out the  
6           functions of the Center described in subsection  
7           (d).

8           (B) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days  
9           after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
10          Board and the Executive Director shall submit  
11          to the relevant committees of Congress a report  
12          that provides—

13               (i) an assessment of existing con-  
14               tracting authorities of the Executive Direc-  
15               tor;

16               (ii) recommendations regarding  
17               whether any new contracting authorities or  
18               modifications of existing contracting au-  
19               thorities are needed; and

20               (iii) a description of technologies that  
21               may be commercially available to perform  
22               the functions of the Center, together with  
23               the costs and timelines of procuring those  
24               technologies or developing relevant capa-  
25               bilities.

1           (h) ~~DETAILEES.~~—The Secretary and the Secretary of  
 2 the Interior may detail or assign to the Center such em-  
 3 ployees of the Department of Agriculture and the Depart-  
 4 ment of the Interior, respectively, as the Secretaries deter-  
 5 mine to be necessary to carry out the duties of the Center.

6           (i) ~~INTERAGENCY FINANCING.~~—Notwithstanding  
 7 section 708 of the Financial Services and General Govern-  
 8 ment Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328;  
 9 136 Stat. 4706), or any other, similar provision of law,  
 10 interagency financing may be used to fund the Center.

11           (j) ~~COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND EN-~~  
 12 ~~TITIES.~~—To carry out the functions of the Center de-  
 13 scribed in subsection (d), the Board shall coordinate with  
 14 agencies represented on the Board and other relevant enti-  
 15 ties, including—

16                   (1) the National Wildfire Coordinating Group;

17                   (2) State and Tribal governments;

18                   (3) any other agency that—

19                           (A) is responsible for the management of  
 20 Federal or State land; or

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

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

1       (k) OPERATIONAL PLAN.—

2           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
3 after the appointment of the Executive Director, the  
4 Executive Director shall submit to the relevant com-  
5 mittees of Congress an operational plan describing—

6                   (A) the structure of the Center;

7                   (B) staffing and funding needs of the Cen-  
8 ter;

9                   (C) technological capabilities within the  
10 Department of Agriculture, the Department of  
11 the Interior, and the other Federal departments  
12 and agencies comprising the Board that are  
13 available to the Center;

14                   (D) an assessment of the potential of com-  
15 mercially available technologies to perform the  
16 functions of the Center; and

17                   (E) a timeline for full operational func-  
18 tioning of the Center.

19           (2) INCLUSIONS.—The plan under paragraph  
20 (1) shall include estimated costs, key milestones, co-  
21 ordination strategies with Federal, State, and pri-  
22 vate entities, and recommendations for ensuring the  
23 effective operation of the Center.

24           (3) UPDATES.—The Director shall update the  
25 plan not less frequently than annually to reflect

1 progress, adjustments in funding, and the adoption  
2 of new technologies.

3 (4) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this sec-  
4 tion affects the ownership of any data source.

5 **SEC. 103. FIRESHED REGISTRY.**

6 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretaries, acting  
7 through the Executive Director, shall establish and main-  
8 tain, on a publicly accessible website, a registry, to be  
9 known as the “Fireshed Registry”, that provides inter-  
10 active geospatial data relating to individual firesheds, in-  
11 cluding information relating to—

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

15 (2) any hazardous fuels management activities  
16 that have occurred within an individual fireshed dur-  
17 ing the preceding 10 years;

18 (3) wildland fire exposure with respect to a  
19 fireshed, delineated by—

20 (A) wildfire exposure and corresponding  
21 risk to communities, including risk to life, crit-  
22 ical infrastructure, and other structures;

23 (B) wildfire exposure and corresponding  
24 risk to municipal watersheds, including Tribal  
25 water supplies and systems; and

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

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

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

9           (6) any hazardous fuels management activities  
10          planned for a fireshed, including fireshed manage-  
11          ment projects.

12          (b) ~~COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS.—~~

13          The Executive Director shall make data from the Fireshed  
14          Registry available to local communities developing or up-  
15          dating community wildfire protection plans.

16          (c) ~~MAINTENANCE.—~~As part of the website con-  
17          taining the Fireshed Registry, the Executive Director  
18          shall—

19                 (1) publish fireshed assessments conducted  
20                 under section 105; and

21                 (2) maintain a searchable database to track—

22                         (A) the status of Federal environmental re-  
23                         views, permits, and authorizations for fireshed  
24                         management projects, including—

1 (i) a comprehensive permitting time-  
2 table;

3 (ii) the status of the compliance of  
4 each lead agency, cooperating agency, and  
5 participating agency with the permitting  
6 timetable with respect to fished manage-  
7 ment projects;

8 (iii) any required modifications of the  
9 permitting timetable under clause (i), in-  
10 cluding an explanation regarding why the  
11 permitting timetable was modified; and

12 (iv) information regarding any public  
13 meetings, public hearings, and public com-  
14 ment periods relating to a fished man-  
15 agement project, as that information be-  
16 comes available, which shall be presented  
17 in—

18 (I) English; and

19 (II) the predominant language of  
20 each community that is most affected  
21 by the fished management project,  
22 as that information becomes available;

23 (B) the projected cost of fished manage-  
24 ment projects; and

1           (C) in the case of a completed fireshed  
2 management project, the estimated effectiveness  
3 of the fireshed management project in—

4           (i) reducing the wildfire exposure  
5 within the applicable fireshed, including  
6 wildfire exposure described in subpara-  
7 graphs (A) through (C) of subsection  
8 (a)(3); and

9           (ii) increasing the resilience of wildlife  
10 habitats, including habitat for species list-  
11 ed as threatened or endangered under the  
12 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16  
13 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

14       (d) INCORPORATION OF EXISTING ASSESSMENTS  
15 AND DATA.—In carrying out this section, the Executive  
16 Director shall incorporate any assessments completed or  
17 data gathered through existing partnerships, to the extent  
18 practicable.

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

1 **SEC. 104. SHARED STEWARDSHIP.**

2 (a) **JOINT AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary concerned  
3 shall seek to use an existing shared stewardship agree-  
4 ment, modify an existing shared stewardship agreement,  
5 or enter into a similar agreement with the Governor of  
6 each State and Indian Tribe that contains a fireshed man-  
7 agement area designated under section 101(a) to jointly—

8 (1) promote the reduction of wildfire exposure,  
9 based on the criteria described in clauses (i) through  
10 (iii) of section 101(a)(1)(B), in fireshed management  
11 areas across jurisdictional boundaries; and

12 (2) conduct fireshed assessments under section  
13 105.

14 (b) **ADJUSTMENT OF BOUNDARIES AND UPDATES TO**  
15 **AGREEMENTS.**—With respect to an agreement under sub-  
16 section (a), the Secretary concerned, on request of the ap-  
17 plicable Governor, may—

18 (1) adjust the boundaries of any applicable  
19 fireshed management area; and

20 (2) update the agreement to address any new  
21 wildfire threats.

22 (c) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary and  
23 the Secretary of the Interior may enter into cooperative  
24 agreements with units of local government, special dis-  
25 tricts, and water users, nongovernmental organizations,  
26 institutions of higher education, and other entities, at the

1 discretion of the applicable Secretary to carry out the ac-  
 2 tivities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection  
 3 (a).

4 **SEC. 105. FIRESHED ASSESSMENTS.**

5 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the  
 6 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned,  
 7 in cooperation with the Governor with whom the Secretary  
 8 concerned enters into an agreement under section 104(a),  
 9 if applicable, shall conduct a fireshed assessment in ac-  
 10 cordance with this section with respect to each fireshed  
 11 management area designated in the applicable State or  
 12 area of Tribal land.

13 (b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—

14 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each fireshed assessment  
 15 under subsection (a) shall—

16 (A) identify—

17 (i) using the best available science,  
 18 wildfire exposure risks within the applica-  
 19 ble fireshed management area, including  
 20 scenario planning and wildfire hazard map-  
 21 ping and models; and

22 (ii) each at-risk community within the  
 23 fireshed management area;

24 (B) identify the types of fireshed manage-  
 25 ment projects that could benefit the fireshed

1 management area, with an emphasis on reduc-  
2 ing—

3 (i) wildfire exposure and cor-  
4 responding risk to communities, including  
5 risk to life, critical infrastructure, and  
6 other structures;

7 (ii) wildfire exposure and cor-  
8 responding risk to municipal watersheds,  
9 including Tribal water supplies and sys-  
10 tems;

11 (iii) risk of vegetation type conversion  
12 due to wildfire;

13 (iv) wildfire risk for wildlife habitats,  
14 including habitat for species listed as  
15 threatened or endangered under the En-  
16 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
17 1531 et seq.);

18 (v) wildfire risk to resources of an In-  
19 dian Tribe, as defined by the Indian Tribe;  
20 or

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

23 (C) include, with respect to the applicable  
24 fireshed management area—

1 (i) a strategy for reducing the threat  
2 of wildfire—

3 (I) to protect at-risk communities  
4 in the wildland-urban interface on  
5 Federal and non-Federal land;

6 (II) to improve the effectiveness  
7 of wildfire firefighting, particularly  
8 the effectiveness of fuels treatments  
9 that would improve wildfire firefighter  
10 safety during wildfires; and

11 (III) to reduce risk to wildlife  
12 habitats, including habitat for species  
13 listed as threatened or endangered  
14 under the Endangered Species Act of  
15 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

16 (ii) a timeline for the implementation  
17 of fireshed management projects;

18 (iii) long-term benchmark goals for  
19 the completion of fireshed management  
20 projects in the highest wildfire exposure  
21 areas to ensure that those fireshed man-  
22 agement projects contribute to the develop-  
23 ment and maintenance of healthy and re-  
24 silient landscapes;

1 (iv) a strategy to ensure that fireshed  
2 management projects comply with applica-  
3 ble forest plans and incorporate the best  
4 available science; and

5 (v) a strategy for maximizing the re-  
6 tention of late-successional forests; to the  
7 extent that the trees promote stands that  
8 are resilient to insects and disease; and re-  
9 duce the risk or extent of, or increase resil-  
10 ience to, wildfires.

11 (2) EXISTING PLANS.—To the maximum extent  
12 practicable, a fireshed assessment shall incorporate  
13 and build on information, planning, and strategies  
14 contained in relevant forest plans, State forest ac-  
15 tion plans, watershed management plans, community  
16 wildfire protection plans, and similar locally led  
17 landscape-scale planning documents.

18 (3) PARTICIPATION.—

19 (A) STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL GOVERN-  
20 MENTS.—In addition to the parties to an appli-  
21 cable agreement described in subsection (a), the  
22 Secretary concerned shall coordinate with  
23 States, Indian Tribes, units of local govern-  
24 ment, and other entities that are parties to an  
25 agreement under section 104(e) within a

1           fired management area in conducting the  
2           fired assessment under paragraph (1).

3           (B) PUBLIC.—In carrying out a fired  
4           assessment under this section, the Secretary  
5           concerned shall provide an opportunity for pub-  
6           lic participation during the 45-day period begin-  
7           ning on the date of initiation of the assessment,  
8           including—

9                   (i) publication of information regard-  
10                  ing the development of the assessment—

11                           (I) on a website maintained by  
12                           the Secretary concerned; and

13                           (II) at convenient locations with-  
14                           in the applicable fired management  
15                           area; and

16                           (ii) at least 1 public meeting.

17           (c) UPDATES AND AVAILABILITY.—Each fired as-  
18           sessment under subsection (a) shall be—

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

22                   (2) made publicly available on 1 or more  
23                   websites maintained by the Secretary concerned, in-  
24                   cluding the Fired Registry.

25           (d) INFORMATION IMPROVEMENT.—

1           (1) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—In car-  
2 rying out a fireshed assessment under this section,  
3 the Secretary concerned may enter into memoranda  
4 of understanding with other Federal departments  
5 and agencies (including the National Oceanic and  
6 Atmospheric Administration), States, Indian Tribes,  
7 private entities, or research or educational institu-  
8 tions to improve, with respect to the assessment, the  
9 use and integration of—

10           (A) advanced remote sensing and  
11 geospatial technologies;

12           (B) statistical modeling and analysis; or

13           (C) any other technology or combination of  
14 technologies and analyses that the Secretary  
15 concerned determines will benefit the quality of  
16 information in the assessment.

17           (2) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In using the  
18 best available science for a fireshed assessment  
19 under this section, the Secretary concerned and the  
20 applicable Governor shall incorporate, to the max-  
21 imum extent practicable—

22           (A) traditional ecological knowledge from  
23 Indian Tribes;

24           (B) data from State forest action plans  
25 and State wildfire risk assessments;

1           (C) data from the Fireshed Registry; and

2           (D) data from other Federal, State, Tribal,

3           and local governments or agencies.

4           (e) **APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.**—A fireshed assess-

5 ment under this section shall not be subject to the require-

6 ments of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

7 (~~42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.~~).

8 **SEC. 106. EMERGENCY FIRESHED MANAGEMENT.**

9           (a) **FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.**—

10           (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, acting

11 through a responsible official, shall carry out

12 fireshed management projects on land under the ju-

13 risdiction of the Secretary concerned in fireshed

14 management areas in accordance with this section,

15 the applicable forest plan, and the laws (including

16 regulations) applicable to the Secretary concerned.

17           (2) **APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS.**—

18           (A) **IN GENERAL.**—The following shall

19 have the force and effect of law with respect to

20 any fireshed management project carried out in

21 a fireshed management area:

22           (i) Section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code

23 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on

24 April 9, 2025), with respect to land under

25 the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

1           (ii) Section 46.150 of title 43, Code of  
2 Federal Regulations (as in effect on April  
3 9, 2025), with respect to land under the  
4 jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Inte-  
5 rior.

6           (iii) Section 402.05 of title 50, Code  
7 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on  
8 April 9, 2025).

9           (iv) Section 800.12 of title 36, Code  
10 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on  
11 April 9, 2025), except that any reference  
12 contained in that regulation to an “agency  
13 official” shall be considered to be a ref-  
14 erence to a responsible official.

15 ~~(B) DETERMINATION OF EMERGENCY.—~~

16           (i) ~~IN GENERAL.—~~A regulation re-  
17 ferred to in subparagraph (A) shall not  
18 apply pursuant to that subparagraph with  
19 respect to a fireshed management project  
20 unless, before carrying out the fireshed  
21 management project, a responsible offi-  
22 cial—

23                   (I) determines, in accordance  
24 with the regulation, that an emer-

1                   gency or emergency circumstance ex-  
2                   ists;

3                   (II) completes any documentation  
4                   or identification processes required  
5                   under such regulation; and

6                   (III) provides public notice of the  
7                   determination of emergency and each  
8                   related fireshed management project  
9                   activity by publishing such determina-  
10                  tion on a website maintained by the  
11                  Secretary concerned.

12                  (ii) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out  
13                  a fireshed management project under a  
14                  regulation referred to in subparagraph (A);  
15                  a responsible official shall ensure that such  
16                  fireshed management project is consistent  
17                  with the applicable forest plan and the  
18                  laws (including regulations) and policies  
19                  applicable to the Secretary concerned.

20                  (C) FURTHER CLARIFICATION.—A regula-  
21                  tion referred to in subparagraph (A) shall not  
22                  apply to any fireshed management project un-  
23                  less such fireshed management project will  
24                  achieve a land management goal described in

1 section 604(e) of the Healthy Forests Restora-  
2 tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e(e)).

3 (D) UTILIZATION OF EXISTING STREAM-  
4 LINED AUTHORITIES IN FIRESHED MANAGE-  
5 MENT AREAS.—

6 (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2  
7 years after the date of enactment of this  
8 Act, with respect to each fireshed manage-  
9 ment area that contains Federal land, the  
10 Secretary concerned, acting through a re-  
11 sponsible official, shall use not fewer than  
12 1 of the following expedited authorities for  
13 environmental review to carry out fireshed  
14 management projects:

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

18 (II) Section 605(a) of the  
19 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
20 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(a)).

21 (III) Section 606(b) of the  
22 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
23 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e(b)).

1                   (IV) Section 40806(b) of the In-  
2                    rastructure Investment and Jobs Act  
3                    (16 U.S.C. 6592b(b)).

4                   (ii) COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA.—In ap-  
5                    plying expedited authorities for environ-  
6                    mental review to carry out fireshed man-  
7                    agement projects under clause (i), the Sec-  
8                    retary concerned shall ensure—

9                    (I) such project is carried out in  
10                    accordance with the statute estab-  
11                    lishing the categorical exclusion ap-  
12                    plied by the Secretary concerned;

13                    (II) compliance with the National  
14                    Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
15                    U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

16                    (III) such project is carried out  
17                    in accordance with the applicable for-  
18                    est plan or resource management plan  
19                    and the laws and policies applicable to  
20                    the Secretary concerned.

21                    (iii) ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY AC-  
22                    TIONS.—The Secretary may declare an  
23                    emergency pursuant to section 40807 of  
24                    the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs

1 Act (~~16 U.S.C. 6592c~~) for any fireshed  
2 management project.

3 (iv) ~~FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT RE-~~  
4 ~~QUIREMENTS.~~—In carrying out this sec-  
5 tion, the Secretary concerned shall ensure  
6 compliance with the amendments made to  
7 the National Environmental Policy Act of  
8 1969 (~~42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.~~) by the Fis-  
9 cal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law  
10 ~~118-5~~; ~~137 Stat. 38~~).

11 (v) ~~USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.~~—  
12 ~~To the maximum extent practicable, the~~  
13 ~~Secretary concerned shall use the authori-~~  
14 ~~ties provided under this section in com-~~  
15 ~~bination with other authorities to carry out~~  
16 ~~fireshed management projects, including—~~

17 (I) ~~good neighbor agreements~~  
18 ~~under section 8206 of the Agricultural~~  
19 ~~Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) (as~~  
20 ~~amended by this Act);~~

21 (II) ~~stewardship contracting~~  
22 ~~projects entered into under section~~  
23 ~~604 of the Healthy Forests Restora-~~  
24 ~~tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c)~~  
25 ~~(as amended by this Act);~~

1 (III) self-determination contracts  
 2 and self-governance compact agree-  
 3 ments entered into under the Indian  
 4 Self-Determination and Education As-  
 5 sistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);  
 6 and

7 (IV) agreements entered into  
 8 under the Tribal Forest Protection  
 9 Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-278;  
 10 118 Stat. 868).

11 (b) EXPANSION.—

12 (1) HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT  
 13 AMENDMENTS.—

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

17 (i) in paragraph (2), by striking  
 18 “450b” and inserting “5304”; and

19 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-  
 20 lowing:

21 “(3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘local  
 22 government’ means—

23 “(A) a county;

24 “(B) a municipality; and

25 “(C) a special district.

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

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

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

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

12           (B) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—Section  
13           603(e) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act  
14           of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591b(e)) is amended—

15                   (i) in paragraph (1), by striking  
16                   “2000 acres” and inserting “10,000  
17                   acres”; and

18                   (ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking  
19                   “Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III” and in-  
20                   serting “Fire Regime I, Fire Regime II,  
21                   Fire Regime III, or Fire Regime IV”.

22           (C) WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROJECTS.—  
23           Section 605(e) of the Healthy Forests Restora-  
24           tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(e)) is  
25           amended—

1 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking  
2 “3000 acres” and inserting “10,000  
3 acres”; and

4 (ii) in paragraph (4), by striking  
5 “code of Federal regulations (or successor  
6 regulations)” and inserting “Code of Fed-  
7 eral regulations (or a successor regula-  
8 tion)”.

9 (D) ~~GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND MULE~~  
10 ~~DEER HABITAT.~~—Section 606 of the Healthy  
11 Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.  
12 6591e) is amended—

13 (i) in subsection (a)(1)(A)—

14 (I) by striking clause (ii);

15 (II) by redesignating clauses (iii)  
16 through (vii) as clauses (ii) through  
17 (vi), respectively; and

18 (III) in clause (iii) (as so redesign-  
19 ated), in the matter preceding sub-  
20 clause (I), by striking “in a sagebrush  
21 steppe ecosystem”;

22 (ii) in subsection (c), by striking “con-  
23 currently for both greater sage-grouse  
24 and” and inserting “for greater sage-  
25 grouse or”; and

1 (iii) in subsection (g)(1), by striking  
2 “4,500 acres” and inserting “7,500 acres”.

3 ~~(2) INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS~~  
4 ~~ACT AMENDMENT.~~—Section 40806(d)(1) of the In-  
5 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C.  
6 6592b(d)(1)) is amended by striking “3,000 acres”  
7 and inserting “10,000 acres”.

8 **SEC. 107. SUNSET.**

9 The authority under this subtitle terminates on the  
10 date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this  
11 Act.

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

15 **SEC. 111. MODIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF CERTAIN REV-**  
16 **ENUE AND PAYMENTS UNDER GOOD NEIGH-**  
17 **BOR AGREEMENTS.**

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

21 (1) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “ei-  
23 ther the Secretary or a Governor or county”  
24 and inserting “the Secretary, a Governor, an  
25 Indian tribe, a special district, or a county”;

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

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

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

7           “(11) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term ‘special  
8           district’ means a political subdivision of a State  
9           that—

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

12           “(B) was established by, or pursuant to,  
13           the laws of the State for the purpose of per-  
14           forming a limited and specific governmental or  
15           proprietary function primarily relating to forest  
16           or rangeland management; and

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

19           (2) in subsection (b)—

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

23           (B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

24           (i) in clause (i)—

1 (I) in the matter preceding sub-  
2 clause (I), by inserting “special dis-  
3 trict,” after “Indian Tribe,” each  
4 place it appears;

5 (II) in subclause (I)—

6 (aa) by striking “on”; and

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

9 (III) in subclause (II)—

10 (aa) in the matter preceding  
11 item (aa), by striking “clause  
12 (i)” and inserting “subclause  
13 (I)”; and

14 (bb) in item (bb), by strik-  
15 ing “the Good Neighbor Author-  
16 ity for Recreation Act.” and in-  
17 serting “section 351 of the EX-  
18 PLORE Act (16 U.S.C. 8571);”;  
19 and

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

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

24 “(aa) to carry out author-  
25 ized restoration services under

1 other good neighbor agreements;  
2 and

3 “(bb) for the administration  
4 of a good neighbor authority pro-  
5 gram by a Governor, Indian  
6 tribe, special district, or county.”;  
7 and

8 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “2028”  
9 and inserting “2030”;

10 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “or coun-  
11 ty” and inserting “, an Indian tribe, a special  
12 district, or a county”; and

13 (D) by striking paragraph (4).

14 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 443 of division E of  
16 Public Law 118-42 (138 Stat. 297) is amended, in  
17 the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking  
18 “Agriculture Act of 2014” and inserting “Agricul-  
19 tural Act of 2014”.

20 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made  
21 by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of en-  
22 actment of Public Law 118-42 (138 Stat. 25).

23 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
24 subsection (a) shall apply to any project initiated pursuant  
25 to a good neighbor agreement (as defined in section

1 8206(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C.  
2 2113a(a))—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 “(A) DEFINITION OF LONG-TERM CON-  
23 TRACT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘long-term  
24 contract’ means an agreement or contract  
25 under subsection (b) that—

1           “(i) has a term of longer than 5  
2           years; and

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

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

14 **SEC. 113. FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT STRIKE**  
15 **TEAMS.**

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

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

1 intent to accelerate and streamline interagency con-  
2 sultation processes;

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

6 ~~(3) the implementation of freshed management~~  
7 ~~projects; and~~

8 ~~(4) any combination of purposes described in~~  
9 ~~paragraphs (1) through (3).~~

10 ~~(b) MEMBERS.—~~

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

15 ~~(A) employees of the department under the~~  
16 ~~jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned;~~

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

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

1           (2) REQUIREMENT.—In appointing individuals  
2 under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall  
3 appoint not fewer than 1 employee of the Federal  
4 agency with jurisdiction over the applicable Federal  
5 land.

6           (c) REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY.—The Secretary con-  
7 cerned shall—

8           (1) determine the sufficiency of the documents  
9 prepared by an intra-agency strike team under this  
10 section; and

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

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. 114. LOCALLY LED RESTORATION.**

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

20 **SEC. 115. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PART-**  
21 **nership Program.**

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

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

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

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

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

7           “(D) to recover from wildfire; or

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

10          (2) in subsection (d)(1)—

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

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

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

21           “(2) **ADDITIONAL REPORTS.**—For each of fiscal  
22           years 2022 and 2023, and not less frequently than  
23           once every 2 fiscal years thereafter, the Chiefs shall  
24           submit a report describing projects for which fund-

ing is provided under the Program, including the status and outcomes of those projects, to—

“(A) in the Senate—

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

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

“(iii) the Committee on Appropriations; and

“(B) in the House of Representatives—

“(i) the Committee on Agriculture;

“(ii) the Committee on Natural Resources; and

“(iii) the Committee on Appropriations.”; and

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

**SEC. 116. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

Section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

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

(B) in paragraph (3)—

1 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
 2 graph (A), by striking “plans to—” and  
 3 inserting “plans—”;

4 (ii) in each of subparagraphs (A)  
 5 through (H), by inserting “to” after the  
 6 subparagraph designation; and

7 (iii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting  
 8 “or pathogens” before the semicolon;

9 ~~(2)~~ in subsection (c)(3)(A)—

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

12 (B) in clause (ii), by adding “and” after  
 13 the semicolon at the end; and

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

15 “(iii) include a Federal Government  
 16 staffing plan for providing staff to support  
 17 collaborative processes established under  
 18 subsection (b)(2);”;

19 ~~(3)~~ in subsection (d)—

20 (A) in paragraph (2)—

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

23 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
 24 the period at the end and inserting a semi-  
 25 colon; and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
 2 lowing:

3 “(G) proposals that seek to use innovative  
 4 implementation mechanisms, including good  
 5 neighbor agreements entered into under section  
 6 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16  
 7 U.S.C. 2113a);

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

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

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

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

21 (i) by striking subparagraph (A) and  
 22 inserting the following:

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

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

2 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph

3 (C) as subparagraph (B);

4 (4) in subsection (e)(3), by inserting “conflict  
5 resolution or collaborative governance,” before “and  
6 woody”; and

7 (5) in subsection (f)—

8 (A) in paragraph (4)(B)(ii), by striking  
9 “\$4,000,000” and inserting “\$8,000,000”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking “2023”  
11 and inserting “2031”.

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

14 (a) STRATEGY.—

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

24 (2) INCLUSIONS.—The strategy under para-  
25 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 siliience to climate change, and watershed and  
24 fire resiliience, 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 ear-  
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).”;

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”;

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).”;

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          serting “**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 firehosed 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 firehosed man-  
25 agement project by an agency;

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

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

5           (D) any other agency action as part of a  
6 firehosed 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 4336c).

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.—See-  
 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, firehshed 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 employ-  
16 ees involved 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 ear-  
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 (e)—

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, 5170e, 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”;

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).”;

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 serting “; 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(e)(4)(A) of the Federal Land Policy and Management  
11 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(e)(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                   ~~“MANAGEMENT”~~ and inserting ~~“MANAGEMENT”~~;  
19                   and

20                   (2) in subsection (e)(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  
3 FACILITIES.—

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

14           “(A) the applicable plan;

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

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

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 ear-  
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 ear-  
 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 ear-  
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 ear-  
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 (c) 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”<sup>2</sup> 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           (e) ~~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 Flood 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           (e) 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 (c).

8           (c) 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-accessible website and other means and at no cost to survivors or next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire support personnel, of personalized, integrated information relating to Federal benefits and Federal financial assistance available to those survivors and next-of-kin.

11          (7) The provision to survivors and next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire support personnel of information relating to mechanisms for registering complaints about, or requests for, additional assistance related to casualty assistance.

16          (8) Liaison with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Justice, and the Social Security Administration to ensure prompt and accurate resolution of issues relating to benefits administered by those agencies for survivors of firefighters or wildland fire support personnel.

22          (9) Data collection, in consultation with the United States Fire Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, regarding 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.~~

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

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

10       (b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—*The table of contents for*  
11 *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. Wildland Fire Intelligence Center.*

*Sec. 103. Fireshed Registry.*

*Sec. 104. Shared stewardship.*

*Sec. 105. Fireshed assessments.*

*Sec. 106. Emergency fireshed management.*

*Sec. 107. Study on the impacts of fireshed management projects on wildfire risk  
to communities and wildlife habitat.*

*Sec. 108. 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.*

*Sec. 121. Establishment of regional wildland fire research centers.*

- Sec. 122. Contracts, grants, and agreements to carry out certain ecosystem restoration activities.*
- Sec. 123. Reforestation of land destroyed by Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire.*
- Sec. 124. Contract preference for local contractors for certain hazardous fuel reduction projects.*

*Subtitle C—Litigation Reform*

- Sec. 131. Litigation reform.*
- Sec. 132. Consultation on forest plans.*

*Subtitle D—Prescribed Fire*

- Sec. 141. Prescribed fire eligible activities, policies, and practices.*
- Sec. 142. Human resources.*
- Sec. 143. Liability of prescribed fire managers.*
- Sec. 144. Environmental review.*
- Sec. 145. Cooperative agreements and contracts for prescribed fire.*
- Sec. 146. Facilitating responsible use of prescribed fire.*

**TITLE II—PROTECTING COMMUNITIES AT RISK**

*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 grant program improvements.*
- Sec. 204. Updated definition of at-risk community.*

*Subtitle B—Vegetation Management, Reforestation, and Local Fire Risk Mitigation*

- 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.*
- Sec. 308. Study on wildfire smoke.*

*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. National Institute of Food and Agriculture.*  
*Sec. 318. USDA formal initiative.*  
*Sec. 319. Use of authorities.*

*TITLE IV—ENSURING CASUALTY ASSISTANCE FOR FIREFIGHTERS*

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

*TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS*

- Sec. 501. Use of funds from cooperative funds agreements.*  
*Sec. 502. Emergency forest watershed program.*  
*Sec. 503. Improving the Emergency Conservation Program.*  
*Sec. 504. Improving the Emergency Forest Restoration Program.*  
*Sec. 505. Establishment of a unified disaster assistance intake process and system.*

**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 2003*  
 6 *(16 U.S.C. 6542(a)).*

7 (2) *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.*—*The term “Execu-*  
 8 *tive Director” means the Executive Director of the*  
 9 *Wildland Fire Intelligence Center appointed under*  
 10 *section 102(g).*

11 (3) *FIRESHED.*—*The term “fireshed” means a*  
 12 *landscape-scale area, as delineated using methods de-*  
 13 *veloped through research conducted by the Forest*  
 14 *Service, that represents similar source levels of com-*  
 15 *munity exposure to wildfire.*

1           (4) *FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREA*.—The term  
2           “*fireshed management area*” means a *fireshed man-*  
3           *agement area designated under section 101(a).*

4           (5) *FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT*.—The  
5           term “*fireshed management project*” means any of the  
6           *following forest or vegetation management activities:*

7                   (A) *A hazardous fuels management activity.*

8                   (B) *Creating a fuel break or fire break.*

9                   (C) *Removing hazard trees, dead trees, or*  
10                  *dying trees, as determined by a certified or li-*  
11                  *icensed arborist or forester under the supervision*  
12                  *of the Secretary concerned.*

13                  (D) *Developing, approving, or conducting*  
14                  *routine maintenance under—*

15                          (i) *a vegetation management, facility*  
16                          *inspection, and operation and maintenance*  
17                          *plan under subsection (c) of section 512 of*  
18                          *the Federal Land Policy and Management*  
19                          *Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772); or*

20                          (ii) *an agreement under subsection*  
21                          *(d)(1) of that section (43 U.S.C. 1772).*

22                   (E) *Removing trees to address overstocking*  
23                  *or crowding in a forest stand, consistent with*  
24                  *achieving the appropriate basal area of the forest*  
25                  *stand, as determined by a responsible official.*

1           (F) *Using treatments to address insects or*  
2           *disease or to control vegetation competition or*  
3           *invasive species.*

4           (G) *A wet-meadow, floodplain, or riparian*  
5           *restoration activity that increases wildfire resist-*  
6           *ance.*

7           (H) *A forest stand improvement activity*  
8           *necessary to protect life and property from cata-*  
9           *strophic wildfire, as determined by a responsible*  
10          *official.*

11          (I) *Any combination of activities described*  
12          *in this paragraph.*

13          (6) *FIRESHED REGISTRY.*—*The term “Fireshed*  
14          *Registry” means the registry established under section*  
15          *103(a).*

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

18               (A) *a land use plan prepared by the Bureau*  
19               *of Land Management for public land pursuant*  
20               *to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and*  
21               *Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712);*

22               (B) *a land management plan prepared by*  
23               *the Forest Service for a unit of the National For-*  
24               *est System pursuant to section 6 of the Forest*

1           *and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning*  
2           *Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604); and*

3                   *(C) a forest management plan (as defined*  
4           *in section 304 of the National Indian Forest Re-*  
5           *sources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103)) with*  
6           *respect to Indian forest land or rangeland.*

7           (8) *GOVERNOR.*—*The term “Governor” means*  
8           *the Governor or other appropriate executive official*  
9           *of—*

10                   *(A) a State; or*

11                   *(B) an Indian Tribe.*

12           (9) *HAZARDOUS FUELS MANAGEMENT ACTIV-*  
13           *ITY.*—*The term “hazardous fuels management activ-*  
14           *ity” means a vegetation management activity, or any*  
15           *combination of such activities, that reduces the risk of*  
16           *wildfire, including mechanical thinning, mastication,*  
17           *prescribed burning, cultural burning (as determined*  
18           *by an Indian Tribe), timber harvest, and grazing.*

19           (10) *HFRA TERMS.*—*The terms “at-risk commu-*  
20           *nity”, “community wildfire protection plan”, and*  
21           *“wildland-urban interface” have the meanings given*  
22           *those terms in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Res-*  
23           *toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).*

1           (11) *INDIAN FOREST LAND OR RANGELAND.*—The  
2 term “Indian forest land or rangeland” means land  
3 that—

4           (A) is held in trust, or subject to a restric-  
5 tion against alienation, by the United States for  
6 an Indian Tribe or a member of an Indian  
7 Tribe; and

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

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

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

15           (12) *INDIAN TRIBE.*—The term “Indian Tribe”  
16 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the In-  
17 dian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
18 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

19           (13) *NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.*—The term  
20 “National Forest System” has the meaning given the  
21 term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland  
22 Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16  
23 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

24           (14) *PUBLIC LAND.*—The term “public land”  
25 means—

1           (A) *public lands (as defined in section 103*  
2 *of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act*  
3 *of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702));*

4           (B) *the land reconveyed to the United*  
5 *States pursuant to the first section of the Act of*  
6 *February 26, 1919 (40 Stat. 1179, chapter 47)*  
7 *(commonly known as “Coos Bay Wagon Road*  
8 *Grant lands”)* *under the jurisdiction of the Sec-*  
9 *retary of the Interior; and*

10           (C) *the land revested in the United States*  
11 *by the Act of June 9, 1916 (39 Stat. 218, chapter*  
12 *137) (commonly known as “Oregon and Cali-*  
13 *ifornia Railroad Grant lands”)* *under the juris-*  
14 *isdiction of the Secretary of the Interior.*

15           (15) *RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—*

16           *The term “relevant committees of Congress” means—*

17           (A) *in the Senate—*

18                   (i) *the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-*  
19 *trition, and Forestry;*

20                   (ii) *the Committee on Energy and Nat-*  
21 *ural Resources;*

22                   (iii) *the Committee on Indian Affairs;*

23                   *and*

24                   (iv) *the Committee on Homeland Secu-*  
25 *rity and Governmental Affairs; and*

1 (B) *in the House of Representatives—*

2 (i) *the Committee on Agriculture; and*

3 (ii) *the Committee on Natural Re-*

4 *sources.*

5 (16) *SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”*  
6 *means—*

7 (A) *the Secretary; and*

8 (B) *the Secretary of the Interior.*

9 (17) *SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means*  
10 *the Secretary of Agriculture.*

11 (18) *SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-*  
12 *retary concerned” means—*

13 (A) *the Secretary, with respect to National*  
14 *Forest System land; and*

15 (B) *the Secretary of the Interior, with re-*  
16 *spect to public land.*

17 (19) *SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term “special dis-*  
18 *trict” means a political subdivision of a State that—*

19 (A) *has significant budgetary autonomy or*  
20 *control;*

21 (B) *was established by, or pursuant to, the*  
22 *laws of the State for the purpose of performing*  
23 *a limited and specific governmental or propri-*  
24 *etary function primarily relating to forest, wa-*

1            *tershed, or rangeland management or water sup-*  
 2            *ply; and*

3            *(C) is distinct from any other unit of local*  
 4            *government within the State.*

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

6            *(A) each of the several States;*

7            *(B) the District of Columbia; and*

8            *(C) each territory of the United States.*

9            **TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE**  
 10           **RESTORATION**  
 11           **Subtitle A—Addressing Emergency**  
 12           **Wildfire Risks in High-priority**  
 13           **Firesheds**

14           **SEC. 101. DESIGNATION OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT**  
 15           **AREAS.**

16           *(a) DESIGNATIONS.—*

17           *(1) INITIAL FIRESHED DESIGNATIONS.—For the*  
 18           *5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of*  
 19           *this Act, the firesheds of the United States shall com-*  
 20           *prise—*

21           *(A) the 7,688 firesheds described in the re-*  
 22           *port published by the Rocky Mountain Research*  
 23           *Station of the Forest Service in 2021; and*

24           *(B) the additional 1,262 firesheds in the*  
 25           *States of Alaska and Hawaii and the territories*

1           *of the United States designated by the Secretary*  
2           *in the same manner as the firesheds designated*  
3           *in the report described in subparagraph (A).*

4           (2) *INITIAL FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREA DES-*  
5           *IGNATIONS.—Subject to paragraph (5), for the period*  
6           *beginning not later than 30 days after the date of en-*  
7           *actment of this Act and ending on the date that is 5*  
8           *years after the date of enactment of this Act, each*  
9           *Secretary concerned shall designate and make pub-*  
10           *licly available on the website of the Secretary con-*  
11           *cerned a map of the following fireshed management*  
12           *areas:*

13                   (A) *Each landscape-scale fireshed identified*  
14                   *as a “high-risk fireshed” in the document pub-*  
15                   *lished by the Forest Service entitled “Wildfire*  
16                   *Crisis Strategy”, dated January 2022, and ex-*  
17                   *panded in 2023.*

18                   (B) *The top 20 percent of firesheds in the*  
19                   *continental United States, and the top 25 per-*  
20                   *cent of firesheds in the continental United States*  
21                   *if the fireshed has a historical presence of *Picea**  
22                   **glauca* var. *densata*, identified by the Secretary*  
23                   *for wildfire exposure based on the following cri-*  
24                   *teria:*

1           (i) *Wildfire exposure and cor-*  
2           *responding risk to communities, including*  
3           *risk to life, critical infrastructure, and other*  
4           *structures.*

5           (ii) *Wildfire exposure and cor-*  
6           *responding risk to municipal watersheds,*  
7           *including Tribal water supplies and sys-*  
8           *tems.*

9           (3) *INITIAL DESIGNATIONS IN ALASKA, HAWAII,*  
10          *AND TERRITORIES.—Not later than 30 days after the*  
11          *date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall des-*  
12          *ignate in the States of Alaska and Hawaii and the*  
13          *territories of the United States such additional*  
14          *fireshed management areas as the Secretary deter-*  
15          *mines to be appropriate, based on the criteria de-*  
16          *scribed in clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (2)(B).*

17          (4) *MAP-BASED UPDATED DESIGNATIONS.—*

18                (A) *MAP OF FIRESHEDS.—Not later than 5*  
19                *years after the date of enactment of this Act, and*  
20                *not less frequently than once every 5 years there-*  
21                *after, the Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-*  
22                *retary of the Interior, shall submit to the rel-*  
23                *evant committees of Congress an updated map of*  
24                *the firesheds of the United States, which shall—*

1                   (i) be based on the *Fireshed Registry*;

2                   and

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

6                   (B) *FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREAS*.—Not  
7                   later than 60 days after submitting an updated  
8                   *fireshed map* under subparagraph (A), the Sec-  
9                   retary shall update the designations of *fireshed*  
10                  management areas to reflect firesheds depicted on  
11                  that map that the Secretary, in consultation  
12                  with the Secretary of the Interior, identifies as  
13                  being in the top 20 percent of firesheds at risk  
14                  of wildfire exposure based on the criteria de-  
15                  scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of sec-  
16                  tion 103(a)(3) and in accordance with this sec-  
17                  tion.

18                  (C) *PUBLICATION*.—The Secretary shall  
19                  make each updated map prepared under this  
20                  paragraph publicly available on the *Fireshed*  
21                  *Registry*.

22                  (5) *LAND LOCATION AND CONTENT*.—A *fireshed*  
23                  management area designated under this subsection—

24                         (A) shall not overlap with any other  
25                         *fireshed management area*; and

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

3                   (6) **COMBINING MULTIPLE FIRESHEDS.**—The  
4                   Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the  
5                   Interior, if applicable, may expand a fireshed man-  
6                   agement area designated under this subsection to in-  
7                   clude more than 1 fireshed that is designated as a  
8                   fireshed management area under the applicable cri-  
9                   teria described in this section.

10                  (b) **USE.**—The Secretary concerned may carry out  
11                  fireshed management projects on the fireshed management  
12                  areas designated under this section.

13                  (c) **APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.**—The designation of a  
14                  fireshed management area under this section shall not be  
15                  subject to the requirements of the National Environmental  
16                  Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

17                  **SEC. 102. WILDLAND FIRE INTELLIGENCE CENTER.**

18                  (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

19                         (1) **BOARD.**—The term “Board” means the  
20                         Board of Directors governing the Center appointed  
21                         under subsection (f).

22                         (2) **CENTER.**—The term “Center” means the  
23                         Wildland Fire Intelligence Center established under  
24                         subsection (b).

1           (3) *FEDERAL SCIENCE AGENCY; INSTITUTION OF*  
2           *HIGHER EDUCATION; LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND*  
3           *UNIVERSITIES; REGIONAL CENTER; WILDLAND FIRE;*  
4           *WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES; WILDLAND*  
5           *FIRE RESEARCH.—The terms “Federal science agen-*  
6           *cy”, “institution of higher education”, “land-grant*  
7           *colleges and universities”, “regional center”,*  
8           *“wildland fire”, “wildland fire management agen-*  
9           *cies”, and “wildland fire research” have the meanings*  
10          *given those terms in section 121(a).*

11          (4) *NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “Na-*  
12          *tional Laboratory” has the meaning given that term*  
13          *in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42*  
14          *U.S.C. 15801).*

15          (b) *ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the*  
16          *date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall establish*  
17          *a joint office, to be known as the “Wildland Fire Intel-*  
18          *ligence Center”, to serve Federal and non-Federal entities*  
19          *through the functions described in subsection (d).*

20          (c) *HEADQUARTERS.—Not later than 1 year after the*  
21          *date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall select from*  
22          *within the United States a permanent location for the phys-*  
23          *ical headquarters of the Center.*

24          (d) *FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Center shall in-*  
25          *clude the following:*

1           (1) *Providing real-time, science-based, and data-*  
2 *rich scientific and technical analytical services, mod-*  
3 *eling, monitoring, mapping, decision support, and*  
4 *predictive services across all phases of fire to inform*  
5 *land and fuels management (including prescribed*  
6 *fire), pre-fire community and built environment risk*  
7 *reduction, active fire management and emergency re-*  
8 *sponse, and post-fire recovery in the built and nat-*  
9 *ural environments.*

10           (2) *Providing, disseminating, procuring, if com-*  
11 *mercially available, and combining existing data,*  
12 *mapping, technological, and consultation services to*  
13 *support pre-, active, and post-fire activities at the*  
14 *local, State, and national levels, including—*

15               (A) *creating and maintaining a real-time*  
16 *nationwide risk catalog, including the Fireshed*  
17 *Registry;*

18               (B) *assisting with the creation of evacu-*  
19 *ation plans, public safety power shutoff plans,*  
20 *and wildfire mitigation and response strategies*  
21 *or plans (including built environment mitiga-*  
22 *tion plans and community wildfire protection*  
23 *plans) for at-risk communities;*

24               (C) *providing decision support and gridded*  
25 *and point data forecast and assessment products*

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

5                   *(D) assisting with the safe and effective use*  
6           *of prescribed fire; and*

7                   *(E) developing a real-time data interface to*  
8           *assist and inform, in real time, firefighters, first*  
9           *responders, and approved contractors in respond-*  
10          *ing to wildfires.*

11           *(3) Consolidating air quality monitoring and*  
12          *forecasting data, including utilizing existing Federal*  
13          *programs, as appropriate, to help inform risks to*  
14          *public health and protect the public from smoke im-*  
15          *pacts associated with wildfires, including providing*  
16          *planning guidance for safe and effective beneficial fire*  
17          *opportunities to prevent the risk of wildfires.*

18           *(4) Establishing information technology and*  
19          *data interoperability through—*

20                   *(A) the development of common data stand-*  
21           *ards to protect confidential information;*

22                   *(B) comprehensive searchable data inven-*  
23           *tories;*

1           (C) working with Tribal governments in  
2           nation-to-nation partnerships, with protections  
3           for Tribal data sovereignty;

4           (D) the integration and sharing of informa-  
5           tion and resources of the Federal Government,  
6           States, local governments, and participating In-  
7           dian Tribes, as determined by Tribal govern-  
8           ments, to support the essential functions of the  
9           Center; and

10          (E) regular updates and maintenance of re-  
11          search and technology essential to achieving the  
12          core functions of the Center, including the eval-  
13          uation of new and competing models as those  
14          models become available.

15          (5) Coordinating with the National Wildfire Co-  
16          ordinating Group, as requested, to develop and im-  
17          prove wildfire preparedness curricula and training  
18          modules for States, Indian Tribes, and local officials,  
19          including emergency managers and responders.

20          (6) Administering the pilot program established  
21          under section 303 and streamlining procurement  
22          processes for technologies identified under that pilot  
23          program and technology systems related to addressing  
24          wildfire and smoke for purposes of scaling such tech-  
25          nologies and systems across Federal agencies.

1           (7) *Engaging with relevant Federal agencies,*  
2           *State agencies, and entities in the private sector to*  
3           *improve fire environment monitoring, forecasting,*  
4           *communication, and response that may be essential to*  
5           *the core functions of the Center, if the Executive Di-*  
6           *rector determines that the engagement is appropriate,*  
7           *beneficial, and cost-effective.*

8           (8)(A) *Establishing wildland fire science, data*  
9           *management and sharing protocols, and technological*  
10          *research priorities in cooperation with each regional*  
11          *center informed by the operational needs of wildland*  
12          *fire management agencies.*

13          (B) *Coordinating data collection efforts sup-*  
14          *porting the efforts of each regional center, including—*

15               (i) *building data layers across each region*  
16               *described in section 121(c)(3)(B);*

17               (ii) *ensuring data collection and reporting*  
18               *across each region described in section*  
19               *121(c)(3)(B) is consistent and standardized; and*

20               (iii) *providing updates on the development*  
21               *of wildland fire research models.*

22          (C) *Ensuring the coordination of, and avoid un-*  
23          *necessary duplication of, the activities of the regional*  
24          *centers and the activities of institutions of higher edu-*  
25          *cation, land-grant colleges and universities, Federal*

1 science agencies, and State research organizations  
2 with respect to wildland fire research, including—

3 (i) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
4 Administration;

5 (ii) the National Science Foundation;

6 (iii) the National Laboratories;

7 (iv) the National Aeronautics and Space  
8 Administration;

9 (v) the Environmental Protection Agency;

10 (vi) the United States Fire Administration;

11 (vii) the United States Geological Survey;

12 (viii) the research and development pro-  
13 gram of the Forest Service;

14 (ix) the interagency Joint Fire Science Pro-  
15 gram;

16 (x) the Department of Defense Strategic En-  
17 vironmental Research and Development Pro-  
18 gram; and

19 (xi) any other relevant entity with special-  
20 ized expertise in wildland fire research.

21 (D) Supporting end-to-end applications that as-  
22 sist wildland fire management agencies in adopting  
23 technologies and incorporating research findings pro-  
24 duced by the regional centers.

25 (e) CENTER FUNDING.—

1           (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*To carry out the functions of*  
2 *the Center, the Secretaries may transfer funds pro-*  
3 *vided to establish, and carry out the duties of, the*  
4 *Center among—*

5                   (A) *the Forest Service, from amounts made*  
6 *available for Wildland Fire Management;*

7                   (B) *the Department of the Interior, from*  
8 *amounts made available for Wildland Fire Man-*  
9 *agement; and*

10                   (C) *the United States Geological Survey.*

11           (2) *INTERAGENCY FINANCING.*—*Notwithstanding*  
12 *section 708 of the Financial Services and General*  
13 *Government Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law*  
14 *117–328; 136 Stat. 4706), or any other, similar pro-*  
15 *vision of law, interagency financing may be used to*  
16 *fund the Center.*

17           (3) *NOTICE REQUIRED.*—*Not later than 15 days*  
18 *before transferring funds under paragraph (1) or (2),*  
19 *the Secretary or the Secretary of the Interior, as ap-*  
20 *licable, shall submit to the Committee on Appropria-*  
21 *tions of the Senate and the Committee on Appropria-*  
22 *tions of the House of Representatives a notice of the*  
23 *proposed transfer.*

24           (f) *BOARD.*—

1           (1) *MEMBERSHIP.*—*The Center shall be governed*  
2 *by a Board of Directors, to be composed of 18 mem-*  
3 *bers, as follows:*

4                   (A) *1 member who is a career employee of*  
5 *the Department of Agriculture, to be appointed*  
6 *by the Secretary.*

7                   (B) *1 member who is a career employee of*  
8 *the research and development areas of the Forest*  
9 *Service, to be appointed by the Chief of the For-*  
10 *est Service.*

11                   (C) *1 member who is a career employee in*  
12 *fire and aviation management of the Forest*  
13 *Service, to be appointed by the Chief of the For-*  
14 *est Service.*

15                   (D) *1 member who is a career employee of*  
16 *the Department of the Interior, to be appointed*  
17 *by the Secretary of the Interior.*

18                   (E) *1 member who is a career employee of*  
19 *the Bureau of Land Management, to be ap-*  
20 *pointed by the Director of the Bureau of Land*  
21 *Management.*

22                   (F) *1 member who is a career employee of*  
23 *the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to be appointed by*  
24 *the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.*

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

4           (H) 1 member who is a career employee of  
5           the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to  
6           be appointed by the Director of the United States  
7           Fish and Wildlife Service.

8           (I) 1 member who is a career employee of  
9           the United States Geological Survey, to be ap-  
10          pointed by the Director of the United States Geo-  
11          logical Survey.

12          (J) 1 member who is a career employee of  
13          the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-  
14          tration, to be appointed by the Administrator of  
15          the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-  
16          tration.

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

20          (L) 1 member who is a career employee of  
21          the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to  
22          be appointed by the Administrator of the Federal  
23          Emergency Management Agency.

24          (M) 1 member who is a career employee of  
25          the United States Fire Administration, to be ap-

1           *pointed by the Administrator of the United*  
2           *States Fire Administration.*

3           *(N) 1 member who is a career employee of*  
4           *the Department of Defense, to be appointed by*  
5           *the Secretary of Defense.*

6           *(O) 1 member who is a career employee of*  
7           *the National Science Foundation, to be ap-*  
8           *pointed by the Director of the National Science*  
9           *Foundation.*

10           *(P) 1 member who is a career employee of*  
11           *the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-*  
12           *tion, to be appointed by the Administrator of the*  
13           *National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*

14           *(Q) 1 member who is an elected leader of a*  
15           *Tribal government or an expert in wildfire man-*  
16           *agement designated by a Tribal government.*

17           *(R) 1 member representing State forestry*  
18           *agencies, to be appointed by the Secretaries.*

19           (2) *TERMS.—*

20           *(A) IN GENERAL.—The term of a member of*  
21           *the Board shall be 3 years, except that, of the*  
22           *members first appointed—*

23                   *(i)  $\frac{1}{3}$  shall serve for a term of 4 years;*

24                   *(ii)  $\frac{1}{3}$  shall serve for a term of 3 years;*

25                   *and*

1                   (iii)  $\frac{1}{3}$  shall serve for a term of 2  
2                   years.

3                   (B) *ADDITIONAL TERMS.*—After the initial  
4                   term of a member of the Board, including the  
5                   members first appointed, the member may serve  
6                   not more than 3 additional 3-year terms, except  
7                   that a member initially appointed to a serve a  
8                   term of 4 years may serve not more than 2 addi-  
9                   tional 3-year terms.

10                  (3) *CHAIRPERSON.*—The Chairperson of the  
11                  Board—

12                         (A) shall be selected by the members of the  
13                         Board from among the members appointed under  
14                         subparagraphs (B), (I), and (J) of paragraph  
15                         (1);

16                         (B) shall serve for a term of 1 year; and

17                         (C) may be reselected as Chairperson not  
18                         more than twice.

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

22                         (5) *NONVOTING STATUS.*—At the discretion of the  
23                         Board, the Board may include nonvoting observers to  
24                         the Board.

25                         (g) *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.*—

1           (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Center shall have an Ex-*  
2           *ecutive Director, who shall—*

3                   (A) *be appointed by, and serve at the direc-*  
4                   *tion of, the Board; and*

5                   (B) *be responsible for the management and*  
6                   *operation of the Center.*

7           (2) *CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.*—*The Executive*  
8           *Director may enter into and perform contracts, agree-*  
9           *ments, memoranda of understanding, or other, simi-*  
10          *lar transactions, as the Executive Director determines*  
11          *to be appropriate to carry out the functions of the*  
12          *Center described in subsection (d).*

13          (h) *DETAILEES.*—*The Secretary and the Secretary of*  
14          *the Interior may detail or assign to the Center such employ-*  
15          *ees of the Department of Agriculture and the Department*  
16          *of the Interior, respectively, as the Secretaries determine to*  
17          *be necessary to carry out the duties of the Center.*

18          (i) *COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND ENTI-*  
19          *TIES.*—*To carry out the functions of the Center described*  
20          *in subsection (d), the Board shall coordinate with agencies*  
21          *represented on the Board and other relevant entities, includ-*  
22          *ing—*

23                   (1) *the National Wildfire Coordinating Group;*  
24                   *and*

1           (2) *any relevant Federal agency, State, Indian*  
2           *Tribe, local government, or nongovernmental entity*  
3           *that is representative of an element of the wildland*  
4           *fire community.*

5           (j) *OPERATIONAL PLAN.—*

6           (1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after*  
7           *the appointment of the Executive Director, the Execu-*  
8           *tive Director shall submit to the relevant committees*  
9           *of Congress an initial operational plan describing—*

10                   (A) *the structure of the Center;*

11                   (B) *staffing and funding needs of the Cen-*  
12                   *ter;*

13                   (C) *technological capabilities within the De-*  
14                   *partment of Agriculture, the Department of the*  
15                   *Interior, and the other Federal departments and*  
16                   *agencies comprising the Board that are available*  
17                   *to the Center;*

18                   (D) *an assessment of the potential of com-*  
19                   *mercially available technologies to perform the*  
20                   *functions of the Center, together with the costs*  
21                   *and timelines of procuring those technologies or*  
22                   *developing relevant capabilities;*

23                   (E) *an assessment of—*

1                   (i) existing contracting authorities of  
2                   the Executive Director to be used for pur-  
3                   poses of subsection (g)(2); and

4                   (ii) new contracting authorities needed;  
5                   and

6                   (F) a timeline for full operational func-  
7                   tioning of the Center.

8                   (2) INCLUSIONS.—The plan under paragraph (1)  
9                   shall include estimated costs, key milestones, coordi-  
10                  nation strategies with Federal, State, and private en-  
11                  tities, and recommendations for ensuring the effective  
12                  operation of the Center.

13                  (3) UPDATES.—The Executive Director shall up-  
14                  date the plan not less frequently than annually to re-  
15                  flect progress, adjustments in funding, and the adop-  
16                  tion of new technologies.

17                  (k) PILOT PROGRAM TO MONITOR WILDFIRES BY SAT-  
18                  ELLITE.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the  
19                  Forest Service, in partnership with the Secretary of the In-  
20                  terior, acting through the Director of the United States Geo-  
21                  logical Survey, and with the Executive Director, shall estab-  
22                  lish a pilot program—

23                         (1) to purchase and integrate, through a public-  
24                         private partnership, data from the latest-generation of  
25                         wildfire monitoring satellites that provide monitoring

1 *of active fire behavior, including fire perimeters,*  
2 *burned area, intensity, severity, and the detection of*  
3 *fires with a low false-positive rate;*

4 *(2) to use the data acquired under paragraph*  
5 *(1), and any analyses relating to that data—*

6 *(A) to detect, assess, respond to, and man-*  
7 *age wildfires and rangeland fires; and*

8 *(B) to ensure the safety and effectiveness of*  
9 *prescribed fire treatments;*

10 *(3) to develop information-sharing partnerships*  
11 *with State, local, and Tribal emergency managers,*  
12 *foresters, or other equivalent officials—*

13 *(A) to improve State, local, and Tribal*  
14 *wildfire monitoring, response, and analysis; and*

15 *(B) to provide to the Executive Director an*  
16 *operational plan for scaling the pilot program*  
17 *across the United States; and*

18 *(4) under which the Secretary of the Interior*  
19 *shall have the authority to enter into other trans-*  
20 *actions to leverage satellite-based wildfire monitoring*  
21 *capabilities.*

22 *(l) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section*  
23 *affects the ownership of any data source.*

1 **SEC. 103. FIRESHED REGISTRY.**

2       (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*The Secretaries, acting through*  
3 *the Executive Director, shall establish and maintain, on a*  
4 *publicly accessible website, a registry, to be known as the*  
5 *“Fireshed Registry”, that provides interactive geospatial*  
6 *data relating to individual firesheds, including information*  
7 *relating to—*

8           (1) *wildland fire exposure, delineated by—*

9                   (A) *ownership, including rights-of-way for*  
10 *utilities and other public or private purposes;*  
11 *and*

12                   (B) *administrative or management respon-*  
13 *sibility;*

14           (2) *any hazardous fuels management activities*  
15 *that have occurred within an individual fireshed dur-*  
16 *ing the preceding 10 years;*

17           (3) *wildland fire exposure with respect to a*  
18 *fireshed, delineated by—*

19                   (A) *wildfire exposure and corresponding*  
20 *risk to communities, including risk to life, crit-*  
21 *ical infrastructure, and other structures;*

22                   (B) *wildfire exposure and corresponding*  
23 *risk to municipal watersheds, including Tribal*  
24 *water supplies and systems; and*

25                   (C) *risk of vegetation type conversion due to*  
26 *wildfire;*

1           (4) *the percentage of a fireshed burned in wild-*  
 2 *fire during the preceding 10 years, including, to the*  
 3 *extent practicable, delineations of acres that have*  
 4 *burned at a high severity;*

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

7           (6) *any hazardous fuels management activities*  
 8 *scheduled for a fireshed, including fireshed manage-*  
 9 *ment projects.*

10       (b) *COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS.—The*  
 11 *Executive Director shall make data from the Fireshed Reg-*  
 12 *istry available to local communities developing or updating*  
 13 *community wildfire protection plans.*

14       (c) *MAINTENANCE.—As part of the website containing*  
 15 *the Fireshed Registry, the Executive Director shall—*

16           (1) *publish fireshed assessments conducted under*  
 17 *section 105; and*

18           (2) *maintain a searchable database to track—*

19               (A) *the status of Federal environmental re-*  
 20 *views, permits, and authorizations for fireshed*  
 21 *management projects, including—*

22                   (i) *a comprehensive permitting time-*  
 23 *table;*

24                   (ii) *the status of the compliance of each*  
 25 *lead agency, cooperating agency, and par-*

1            *ticipating agency with the permitting time-*  
2            *table with respect to fireshed management*  
3            *projects;*

4            *(iii) any required modifications of the*  
5            *permitting timetable under clause (i), in-*  
6            *cluding an explanation regarding why the*  
7            *permitting timetable was modified; and*

8            *(iv) information regarding any public*  
9            *meetings, public hearings, and public com-*  
10           *ment periods relating to a fireshed manage-*  
11           *ment project, as that information becomes*  
12           *available, which shall be presented in—*

13                    *(I) English; and*

14                    *(II) the predominant language of*  
15                    *each community that is most affected*  
16                    *by the fireshed management project, as*  
17                    *that information becomes available;*

18            *(B) the projected cost of fireshed manage-*  
19            *ment projects; and*

20            *(C) in the case of a completed fireshed man-*  
21            *agement project, the estimated effectiveness of the*  
22            *fireshed management project in—*

23                    *(i) reducing the wildfire exposure with-*  
24                    *in the applicable fireshed, including wild-*

1           *fire exposure described in subparagraphs*  
2           *(A) through (C) of subsection (a)(3); and*  
3           *(ii) increasing the resilience of wildlife*  
4           *habitats, including habitat for species listed*  
5           *as threatened or endangered under the En-*  
6           *dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.*  
7           *1531 et seq.).*

8           *(d) INCORPORATION OF EXISTING ASSESSMENTS AND*  
9           *DATA.—In carrying out this section, the Executive Director*  
10          *shall incorporate any assessments completed or data gath-*  
11          *ered through existing partnerships, to the extent practicable.*

12          *(e) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.—The establishment and*  
13          *maintenance of the Fireshed Registry under this section*  
14          *shall not be subject to the requirements of the National En-*  
15          *vironmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).*

16          **SEC. 104. SHARED STEWARDSHIP.**

17          *(a) JOINT AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary concerned*  
18          *shall seek to use an existing shared stewardship agreement,*  
19          *modify an existing shared stewardship agreement, or enter*  
20          *into a similar agreement with the Governor of each State*  
21          *and Indian Tribe that contains a fireshed management*  
22          *area designated under section 101(a)—*

23                  *(1) to promote the reduction of wildfire exposure,*  
24                  *based on the criteria described in section 103(a)(3),*

1       *in fireshed management areas across jurisdictional*  
2       *boundaries; and*

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

5       ***(b) ADJUSTMENT OF BOUNDARIES AND UPDATES TO***  
6 ***AGREEMENTS.***—*With respect to an agreement under sub-*  
7 *section (a), the Secretary concerned, on request of the appli-*  
8 *cable Governor, may—*

9               *(1) adjust the boundaries of any applicable*  
10       *fireshed management area to include additional areas*  
11       *from within a separate fireshed management area*  
12       *designated under section 101; and*

13               *(2) update the agreement to address any new*  
14       *wildfire threats.*

15       ***(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.***—*The Secretaries*  
16 *may enter into cooperative agreements with units of local*  
17 *government, special districts, and water users, nongovern-*  
18 *mental organizations, institutions of higher education, Na-*  
19 *tive Hawaiian organizations (as defined in section 6207*  
20 *of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965*  
21 *(20 U.S.C. 7517)), and other entities, at the discretion of*  
22 *the applicable Secretary to carry out the activities described*  
23 *in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).*

1 **SEC. 105. FIRESHED ASSESSMENTS.**

2       (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 120 days after the  
3 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned, in  
4 cooperation with the Governor with whom the Secretary  
5 concerned enters into an agreement under section 104(a),  
6 if applicable, shall conduct a fireshed assessment in accord-  
7 ance with this section with respect to each fireshed manage-  
8 ment area designated in the applicable State or area of  
9 Tribal land.

10       (b) *REQUIREMENTS.*—

11           (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Each fireshed assessment  
12 under subsection (a) shall—

13                   (A) identify—

14                           (i) using the best available science,  
15 wildfire exposure risks within the applicable  
16 fireshed management area, including sce-  
17 nario planning and wildfire hazard map-  
18 ping and models; and

19                           (ii) each at-risk community within the  
20 fireshed management area;

21                   (B) identify the types of fireshed manage-  
22 ment projects that could benefit the fireshed  
23 management area, with an emphasis on reduc-  
24 ing—

1           (i) *wildfire exposure and corresponding*  
2           *risk to communities, including risk to life,*  
3           *critical infrastructure, and other structures;*

4           (ii) *wildfire exposure and cor-*  
5           *responding risk to municipal watersheds,*  
6           *including Tribal water supplies and sys-*  
7           *tems;*

8           (iii) *risk of vegetation type conversion*  
9           *due to wildfire;*

10          (iv) *wildfire risk for wildlife habitats,*  
11          *including habitat for species listed as*  
12          *threatened or endangered under the Endan-*  
13          *gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531*  
14          *et seq.);*

15          (v) *wildfire risk to resources of an In-*  
16          *Indian Tribe, as defined by the Indian Tribe;*  
17          *or*

18          (vi) *any combination of purposes de-*  
19          *scribed in clauses (i) through (v); and*

20          (C) *include, with respect to the applicable*  
21          *fireshed management area—*

22                 (i) *a strategy for reducing the threat of*  
23                 *wildfire—*

1                   (I) to protect at-risk communities  
2                   in the wildland-urban interface on  
3                   Federal and non-Federal land;

4                   (II) to improve the effectiveness of  
5                   wildfire firefighting, particularly the  
6                   effectiveness of fuels treatments that  
7                   would improve wildfire firefighter safe-  
8                   ty during wildfires; and

9                   (III) to reduce risk to wildlife  
10                  habitats, including habitat for species  
11                  listed as threatened or endangered  
12                  under the Endangered Species Act of  
13                  1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

14                  (ii) a timeline for the implementation  
15                  of fireshed management projects;

16                  (iii) long-term benchmark goals for the  
17                  completion of fireshed management projects  
18                  in the highest wildfire exposure areas to en-  
19                  sure that those fireshed management  
20                  projects contribute to the development and  
21                  maintenance of healthy and resilient land-  
22                  scapes;

23                  (iv) a strategy to ensure that fireshed  
24                  management projects comply with applica-

1            *ble forest plans and incorporate the best*  
2            *available science; and*

3                    *(v) a strategy for maximizing the re-*  
4            *tention of late-successional forests, to the ex-*  
5            *tent that the trees promote stands that are*  
6            *resilient to insects and disease, and reduce*  
7            *the risk or extent of, or increase resilience*  
8            *to, wildfires.*

9            *(2) EXISTING PLANS.—To the maximum extent*  
10          *practicable, a fireshed assessment shall incorporate*  
11          *and build on information, planning, and strategies*  
12          *contained in relevant forest plans, State forest action*  
13          *plans, Tribal integrated resource management plans*  
14          *or Tribal forest management plans, watershed man-*  
15          *agement plans, community wildfire protection plans,*  
16          *and similar locally led landscape-scale planning doc-*  
17          *uments.*

18                    *(3) PARTICIPATION.—*

19                            *(A) STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL GOVERN-*  
20          *MENTS.—In addition to the parties to an appli-*  
21          *cable agreement described in subsection (a), the*  
22          *Secretary concerned shall coordinate with States,*  
23          *Indian Tribes, units of local government, and*  
24          *other entities that are parties to an agreement*  
25          *under section 104(c) within a fireshed manage-*

1           *ment area in conducting the fireshed assessment*  
2           *under paragraph (1).*

3           *(B) PUBLIC.—In carrying out a fireshed as-*  
4           *essment under this section, the Secretary con-*  
5           *cerned shall provide an opportunity for public*  
6           *participation during the 45-day period begin-*  
7           *ning on the date of initiation of the assessment,*  
8           *including—*

9                     *(i) publication of information regard-*  
10                    *ing the development of the assessment—*

11                             *(I) on a website maintained by*  
12                             *the Secretary concerned; and*

13                             *(II) at convenient locations with-*  
14                             *in the applicable fireshed management*  
15                             *area; and*

16                             *(ii) at least 1 public meeting.*

17           *(c) UPDATES AND AVAILABILITY.—Each fireshed as-*  
18           *essment under subsection (a) shall be—*

19                     *(1) regularly updated based on the best available*  
20                     *science, subject to the requirements of subsection*  
21                     *(d)(2); and*

22                     *(2) made publicly available on 1 or more*  
23                     *websites maintained by the Secretary concerned, in-*  
24                     *cluding the Fireshed Registry.*

25           *(d) INFORMATION IMPROVEMENT.—*

1           (1) *AGREEMENTS*.—*In carrying out a fireshed*  
2 *assessment under this section, the Secretary concerned*  
3 *may enter into agreements with other Federal depart-*  
4 *ments and agencies (including the National Oceanic*  
5 *and Atmospheric Administration), States, Indian*  
6 *Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations (as defined in*  
7 *section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-*  
8 *cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517)), private entities,*  
9 *or research or educational institutions to improve,*  
10 *with respect to the assessment, the use and integration*  
11 *of—*

12                   (A) *advanced remote sensing and geospatial*  
13 *technologies;*

14                   (B) *statistical modeling and analysis; or*

15                   (C) *any other technology or combination of*  
16 *technologies and analyses that the Secretary con-*  
17 *cerned determines will benefit the quality of in-*  
18 *formation in the assessment.*

19           (2) *BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE*.—*In using the*  
20 *best available science for a fireshed assessment under*  
21 *this section, the Secretary concerned and the applica-*  
22 *ble Governor shall incorporate, to the maximum ex-*  
23 *tent practicable—*

1           (A) *traditional ecological knowledge from*  
2           *Indian Tribes, if requested by the relevant In-*  
3           *Indian Tribe;*

4           (B) *data from State forest action plans and*  
5           *State wildfire risk assessments;*

6           (C) *data from the Fireshed Registry; and*

7           (D) *data from other Federal, State, Tribal,*  
8           *and local governments or agencies.*

9           (e) *APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.—A fireshed assessment*  
10          *under this section shall not be subject to the requirements*  
11          *of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42*  
12          *U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).*

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

14          (a) *FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—*

15               (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned, act-*  
16               *ing through a responsible official, shall carry out*  
17               *fireshed management projects on land under the juris-*  
18               *isdiction of the Secretary concerned in fireshed man-*  
19               *agement areas in accordance with this section, the ap-*  
20               *plicable forest plan, and the laws (including regula-*  
21               *tions) applicable to the Secretary concerned.*

22               (2) *APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS.—*

23                       (A) *IN GENERAL.—The following shall have*  
24                       *the force and effect of law with respect to any*

1           *fireshed management project carried out in a*  
2           *fireshed management area:*

3                     *(i) Section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code of*  
4                     *Federal Regulations (as in effect on April 9,*  
5                     *2025), with respect to land under the juris-*  
6                     *isdiction of the Secretary.*

7                     *(ii) Section 46.150 of title 43, Code of*  
8                     *Federal Regulations (as in effect on April 9,*  
9                     *2025), with respect to land under the juris-*  
10                    *isdiction of the Secretary of the Interior.*

11                    *(iii) Section 402.05 of title 50, Code of*  
12                    *Federal Regulations (as in effect on April 9,*  
13                    *2025).*

14                    *(iv) Section 800.12 of title 36, Code of*  
15                    *Federal Regulations (as in effect on April 9,*  
16                    *2025), except that any reference contained*  
17                    *in that regulation to an “agency official”*  
18                    *shall be considered to be a reference to a re-*  
19                    *sponsible official.*

20                    *(B) DETERMINATION OF EMERGENCY.—*

21                    *(i) IN GENERAL.—A regulation re-*  
22                    *ferred to in subparagraph (A) shall not*  
23                    *apply pursuant to that subparagraph with*  
24                    *respect to a fireshed management project*

1           *unless, before carrying out the fireshed man-*  
2           *agement project, a responsible official—*

3                   *(I) determines, in accordance with*  
4                   *the regulation, that an emergency or*  
5                   *emergency circumstance exists;*

6                   *(II) completes any documentation*  
7                   *or identification processes required*  
8                   *under such regulation; and*

9                   *(III) provides public notice of the*  
10                  *determination of emergency and each*  
11                  *related fireshed management project*  
12                  *activity by publishing such determina-*  
13                  *tion on a website maintained by the*  
14                  *Secretary concerned.*

15                  *(ii) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out*  
16                  *a fireshed management project under a reg-*  
17                  *ulation referred to in subparagraph (A), a*  
18                  *responsible official shall ensure that such*  
19                  *fireshed management project is consistent*  
20                  *with the applicable forest plan and the laws*  
21                  *(including regulations) and policies appli-*  
22                  *cable to the Secretary concerned.*

23                  *(C) FURTHER CLARIFICATION.—A regula-*  
24                  *tion referred to in subparagraph (A) shall not*  
25                  *apply to any fireshed management project unless*

1        *such fireshed management project will achieve a*  
2        *land management goal described in section*  
3        *604(c) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of*  
4        *2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(c)).*

5                *(D) UTILIZATION OF EXISTING STREAM-*  
6        *LINED AUTHORITIES IN FIRESHED MANAGEMENT*  
7        *AREAS.—*

8                *(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2*  
9        *years after the date of enactment of this Act,*  
10        *with respect to each fireshed management*  
11        *area that contains Federal land, the Sec-*  
12        *retary concerned, acting through a respon-*  
13        *sible official, shall use not fewer than 1 of*  
14        *the following expedited authorities for envi-*  
15        *ronmental review to carry out fireshed*  
16        *management projects:*

17                *(I) Section 603(a) of the Healthy*  
18        *Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16*  
19        *U.S.C. 6591b(a)).*

20                *(II) Section 605(a) of the Healthy*  
21        *Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16*  
22        *U.S.C. 6591d(a)).*

23                *(III) Section 606(b) of the*  
24        *Healthy Forests Restoration Act of*  
25        *2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e(b)).*

1                   (IV) *Section 40806(b) of the In-*  
2                   *frastructure Investment and Jobs Act*  
3                   *(16 U.S.C. 6592b(b)).*

4                   (ii) *COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA.—In ap-*  
5                   *plying expedited authorities for environ-*  
6                   *mental review to carry out fireshed manage-*  
7                   *ment projects under clause (i), the Secretary*  
8                   *concerned shall ensure—*

9                   (I) *such project is carried out in*  
10                  *accordance with the statute estab-*  
11                  *lishing the categorical exclusion ap-*  
12                  *plied by the Secretary concerned;*

13                  (II) *compliance with the National*  
14                  *Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42*  
15                  *U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and*

16                  (III) *such project is carried out in*  
17                  *accordance with the applicable forest*  
18                  *plan and the laws and policies appli-*  
19                  *cable to the Secretary concerned.*

20                  (iii) *ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY AC-*  
21                  *TIONS.—The Secretary may declare an*  
22                  *emergency pursuant to section 40807 of the*  
23                  *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16*  
24                  *U.S.C. 6592c) for any fireshed management*  
25                  *project.*

1           (iv) *FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT RE-*  
2           *QUIREMENTS.*—*In carrying out this section,*  
3           *the Secretary concerned shall ensure compli-*  
4           *ance with the amendments made to the Na-*  
5           *tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969*  
6           *(42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) by the Fiscal Re-*  
7           *sponsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118-*  
8           *5; 137 Stat. 38).*

9           (v) *USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.*—*To*  
10           *the maximum extent practicable, the Sec-*  
11           *retary concerned shall use the authorities, if*  
12           *applicable, provided under this section in*  
13           *combination with other authorities to carry*  
14           *out finished management projects, includ-*  
15           *ing—*

16                   (I) *good neighbor agreements*  
17                   *under section 8206 of the Agricultural*  
18                   *Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) (as*  
19                   *amended by this Act);*

20                   (II) *stewardship contracting*  
21                   *projects entered into under section 604*  
22                   *of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act*  
23                   *of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) (as amended*  
24                   *by this Act);*

1                   (III) *self-determination contracts*  
 2                   *and self-governance compact agree-*  
 3                   *ments entered into under the Indian*  
 4                   *Self-Determination and Education As-*  
 5                   *istance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);*  
 6                   *and*

7                   (IV) *agreements and contracts en-*  
 8                   *tered into under the Tribal Forest Pro-*  
 9                   *tection Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-*  
 10                   *278; 118 Stat. 868).*

11           (b) *EXPANSION.—*

12                   (1) *HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT*  
 13           *AMENDMENTS.—*

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

17                           (i) *in paragraph (2), by striking*  
 18                           *“450b” and inserting “5304”; and*

19                           (ii) *by adding at the end the following:*

20                           (3) *LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘local gov-*  
 21                           *ernment’ means—*

22                                   (A) *a county;*

23                                   (B) *a municipality; and*

24                                   (C) *a special district.*

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

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

5                   “(B) was established by, or pursuant to, the  
6                   *laws of the State for the purpose of performing*  
7                   *a limited and specific governmental or propri-*  
8                   *etary function primarily relating to forest, wa-*  
9                   *tershed, or rangeland management or water sup-*  
10                  *ply; and*

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

13                  (B) *ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW*.—Section  
14                  603(c) of the *Healthy Forests Restoration Act of*  
15                  2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591b(c)) is amended—

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

19                   (ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking  
20                   “Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III” and in-  
21                   serting “Fire Regime I, Fire Regime II,  
22                   Fire Regime III, or Fire Regime IV”.

23                  (C) *WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROJECTS*.—  
24                  Section 605(c) of the *Healthy Forests Restora-*

1            *tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(c)) is amend-*  
2            *ed—*

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

6                    *(ii) in paragraph (4), by striking*  
7                    *“code of Federal regulations (or successor*  
8                    *regulations)” and inserting “Code of Fed-*  
9                    *eral regulations (or a successor regulation)”.*

10            *(D) GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND MULE*  
11            *DEER HABITAT.—Section 606 of the Healthy*  
12            *Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.*  
13            *6591e) is amended—*

14                    *(i) in subsection (c), by striking “con-*  
15                    *currently for both greater sage-grouse and”*  
16                    *and inserting “for greater sage-grouse or”;*  
17                    *and*

18                    *(ii) in subsection (g)(1), by striking*  
19                    *“4,500 acres” and inserting “7,500 acres”.*

20            *(2) INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS*  
21            *ACT AMENDMENT.—Section 40806(d)(1) of the Infra-*  
22            *structure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C.*  
23            *6592b(d)(1)) is amended by striking “3,000 acres”*  
24            *and inserting “10,000 acres”.*

1 **SEC. 107. STUDY ON THE IMPACTS OF FIRESHED MANAGE-**  
2 **MENT PROJECTS ON WILDFIRE RISK TO COM-**  
3 **MUNITIES AND WILDLIFE HABITAT.**

4 (a) *STUDY REQUIREMENT.*—Not later than 90 days  
5 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in  
6 consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall enter  
7 into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences,  
8 under which the National Academy of Sciences shall con-  
9 duct 1 or more studies on the impacts of fireshed manage-  
10 ment projects, including—

11 (1) *an evaluation of select, regionally varied*  
12 *fireshed management projects and approaches, includ-*  
13 *ing—*

14 (A) *methodologies used to assess fireshed*  
15 *management areas;*

16 (B) *the reduction in fuel hazards in fireshed*  
17 *management areas;*

18 (C) *the status of, and trends in, watershed*  
19 *conditions;*

20 (D) *the economic use of fireshed manage-*  
21 *ment project byproducts;*

22 (E) *local jobs and labor income supported*  
23 *by fireshed management projects; and*

24 (F) *coordinated approaches taken to plan*  
25 *and implement fireshed management projects;*

1           (2) *changes to wildfire risk within fireshed man-*  
2 *agement areas, and to resources of an Indian Tribe,*  
3 *due to fireshed management projects;*

4           (3)(A) *a description of the cost of—*

5                 *(i) the implementation of section 105; and*

6                 *(ii) the development and implementation of*  
7 *fireshed management projects; and*

8           (B) *an estimate of the amount of the damages*  
9 *avoided as a result of that development and imple-*  
10 *mentation;*

11          (4) *an evaluation of how fireshed management*  
12 *projects affect—*

13                 (A) *critical habitat areas designated under*  
14 *the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.*  
15 *1531 et seq.); and*

16                 (B) *the conservation and recovery of species*  
17 *listed as threatened or endangered under the that*  
18 *Act;*

19          (5) *an identification of fireshed management*  
20 *project best practices for minimizing harm to critical*  
21 *habitat areas described in paragraph (4)(A) and the*  
22 *natural environment while reducing wildfire risk;*  
23 *and*

1           (6) *recommendations for policy, regulatory, or*  
2           *operational changes to improve fireshed management*  
3           *projects.*

4           (b) *ENGAGEMENT.*—*In conducting the 1 or more stud-*  
5           *ies under subsection (a), the National Academy of Sciences*  
6           *shall—*

7           (1) *consult with relevant Federal, State, and*  
8           *Tribal agencies, including the United States Fish and*  
9           *Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries*  
10           *Service; and*

11           (2) *provide an opportunity for public comment*  
12           *and input during the 1 or more studies, including*  
13           *from nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher*  
14           *education, and other scientific bodies.*

15           (c) *SUBMISSION OF REPORT.*—*As soon as practicable*  
16           *after the conclusion of the 1 more studies under subsection*  
17           *(a), but not later than 5 years after the date of enactment*  
18           *of this Act, the National Academy of Sciences shall submit*  
19           *to the relevant committees of Congress and the Secretaries*  
20           *1 or more reports containing the results of the 1 or more*  
21           *studies.*

22           **SEC. 108. SUNSET.**

23           *The authority under this subtitle terminates on the*  
24           *date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.*

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

4 **SEC. 111. MODIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF CERTAIN REV-**  
 5 **ENUE AND PAYMENTS UNDER GOOD NEIGH-**  
 6 **BOR AGREEMENTS.**

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

10 (1) *in subsection (a)—*

11 (A) *in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “either*  
 12 *the Secretary or a Governor or county” and in-*  
 13 *serting “the Secretary, a Governor, an Indian*  
 14 *tribe, a special district, or a county”;*

15 (B) *in paragraph (5), by striking “Gov-*  
 16 *ernor or” and inserting “Governor, an Indian*  
 17 *tribe, a special district, or a”;*

18 (C) *in paragraph (6), by striking “or In-*  
 19 *dian tribe”;* and

20 (D) *by adding at the end the following:*

21 “(11) *SPECIAL DISTRICT.*—The term ‘special dis-

22 trict’ means a political subdivision of a State that—  
 23 “(A) *has significant budgetary autonomy or*  
 24 *control;*

1           “(B) was established by, or pursuant to, the  
2 laws of the State for the purpose of performing  
3 a limited and specific governmental or propri-  
4 etary function primarily relating to forest, wa-  
5 tershed, or rangeland management or water sup-  
6 ply; and

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

9           (2) in subsection (b)—

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

13           (B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

14           (i) in clause (i)—

15           (I) in the matter preceding sub-  
16 clause (I), by inserting “special dis-  
17 trict,” after “Indian Tribe,” each place  
18 it appears;

19           (II) in subclause (I)—

20           (aa) by striking “on”; and

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

23           (III) in subclause (II)—

1           (aa) in the matter preceding  
2           item (aa), by striking “clause (i)”  
3           and inserting “subclause (I)”; and  
4           (bb) in item (bb), by striking  
5           “the Good Neighbor Authority for  
6           Recreation Act.” and inserting  
7           “section 351 of the EXPLORE  
8           Act (16 U.S.C. 8571);” and  
9           (IV) by adding at the end the fol-  
10          lowing:  
11           “(III) if there are funds remain-  
12          ing after carrying out subclause (II)—  
13           “(aa) to carry out authorized  
14          restoration services under other  
15          good neighbor agreements; and  
16           “(bb) for the administration  
17          of a good neighbor authority pro-  
18          gram by a Governor, Indian tribe,  
19          special district, or county.”; and  
20          (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “2028”  
21          and inserting “2030”;  
22          (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “or coun-  
23          ty” and inserting “, an Indian tribe, a special  
24          district, or a county”; and  
25          (D) by striking paragraph (4).

1 (b) *TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.*—

2 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 443 of division E of  
3 Public Law 118–42 (138 Stat. 297) is amended, in  
4 the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Ag-  
5 riculture Act of 2014” and inserting “Agricultural  
6 Act of 2014”.

7 (2) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendment made by  
8 paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of enact-  
9 ment of Public Law 118–42 (138 Stat. 25).

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

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

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

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

21 Section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
22 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (b), by inserting “, including  
24 retaining and expanding existing forest products in-  
25 frastructure necessary to carry out an agreement or

1       *contract under this subsection” before the period at*  
 2       *the end; and*

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

5               *(3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the*  
 6       *following:*

7               *“(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARD-*  
 8       *SHIP CONTRACTS.—*

9               *“(A) DEFINITION OF MULTIYEAR CON-*  
 10       *TRACT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘multiyear*  
 11       *contract’ means a contract entered into under*  
 12       *subsection (b) that—*

13                       *“(i) has a term of longer than 5 years;*

14                       *and*

15                       *“(ii) is entered into on or after the*  
 16       *date of enactment of this paragraph.*

17               *“(B) SPECIAL RULE.—A multiyear contract*  
 18       *entered into under subsection (b) by the Chief or*  
 19       *the Director with an entity shall provide that, in*  
 20       *the case of cancellation or termination of the*  
 21       *multiyear contract by the Chief or the Director,*  
 22       *the Chief or the Director, as applicable, shall*  
 23       *provide to the entity a cancellation or termi-*  
 24       *nation payment that is the lesser of—*

1                   “(i) an amount equal to 10 percent of  
2                   the multiyear contract; or

3                   “(ii) the amount of unrecovered costs  
4                   that would have been recouped through am-  
5                   ortization over the full term of the contract  
6                   (including the term canceled).”.

7 **SEC. 113. FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT STRIKE**  
8                   **TEAMS.**

9           (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—The Secretary concerned shall  
10 establish strike teams to assist the Secretary concerned  
11 with—

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

21                   (2) the implementation of any necessary site  
22 preparation work in advance of, or as part of, a  
23 *fireshed management project*;

24                   (3) the implementation of *fireshed management*  
25 *projects*; and

1           (4) *any combination of purposes described in*  
2 *paragraphs (1) through (3).*

3           (b) *MEMBERS.—*

4           (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned may*  
5 *appoint not more than 10 individuals to serve on a*  
6 *strike team under this section, to be composed of—*

7           (A) *employees of the department under the*  
8 *jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned;*

9           (B) *employees of a different Federal depart-*  
10 *ment or agency, with the consent of the head of*  
11 *that department or agency; and*

12           (C) *private contractors or volunteers from*  
13 *any nonprofit organization, State government,*  
14 *Indian Tribe, local government, quasi-govern-*  
15 *mental agency, academic institution, or private*  
16 *organization.*

17           (2) *REQUIREMENT.—In appointing individuals*  
18 *under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall*  
19 *appoint not fewer than 1 employee of the Federal*  
20 *agency with jurisdiction over the applicable Federal*  
21 *land.*

22           (c) *REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY.—The Secretary con-*  
23 *cerned shall—*

24           (1) *determine the sufficiency of the documents*  
25 *prepared by a strike team under this section; and*

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

3           (d) *SUNSET*.—The authority under this section termi-  
4 nates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment  
5 of this Act.

6 **SEC. 114. LOCALLY LED RESTORATION.**

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

10 **SEC. 115. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PART-**  
11 **nership Program.**

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

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

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

17           (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the  
18 period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

20           “(D) to recover from wildfire; or

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

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

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

1           (B) in subparagraph (F), by inserting “, as  
2           identified in the corresponding State forest ac-  
3           tion plan, Tribal-integrated resource manage-  
4           ment plan or Tribal forest management plan, or  
5           similar priority plan (such as a State wildlife or  
6           water plan)” before the semicolon;

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

9           “(2) *ADDITIONAL REPORTS.*—For each of fiscal  
10          years 2022 and 2023, and not less frequently than  
11          once every 2 fiscal years thereafter, the Chiefs shall  
12          submit a report describing projects for which funding  
13          is provided under the Program, including the status  
14          and outcomes of those projects, to—

15           “(A) in the Senate—

16           “(i) the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-  
17           trition, and Forestry;

18           “(ii) the Committee on Energy and  
19           Natural Resources;

20           “(iii) the Committee on Appropria-  
21           tions; and

22           “(iv) the Committee on Indian Affairs;  
23           and

24           “(B) in the House of Representatives—

25           “(i) the Committee on Agriculture;

1                   “(ii) the Committee on Natural Re-  
2                   sources; and

3                   “(iii) the Committee on Appropria-  
4                   tions.”; and

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

7 **SEC. 116. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORA-**  
8 **TION PROGRAM.**

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

11                   (1) in subsection (b)—

12                   (A) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), by striking  
13 “500 note” and inserting “7125”; and

14                   (B) in paragraph (3)—

15                   (i) in subparagraph (D), by striking  
16 “species;” and inserting “species or patho-  
17 gens;”;

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

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

22                   (iv) by adding at the end the following:  
23 “(I) address standardized monitoring ques-  
24 tions and indicators;”;

25                   (2) in subsection (c)(3)(A)—

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

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

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

6                   “(iii) include a Federal Government  
7 staffing plan for providing support to  
8 collaboratives established pursuant to sub-  
9 section (b)(2);”;

10          (3) in subsection (d)—

11           (A) in paragraph (2)—

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

14                   (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
15 the period at the end and inserting a semi-  
16 colon; and

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

19                   “(G) proposals that seek to use innovative  
20 implementation mechanisms, including conserva-  
21 tion finance agreements, good neighbor agree-  
22 ments entered into under section 8206 of the Ag-  
23 ricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a), and  
24 similar implementation mechanisms;

1           “(H) proposals that seek to reduce the risk  
2 of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase ecological  
3 restoration activities—

4           “(i) within areas across land owner-  
5 ships, including State, Tribal, and private  
6 land; and

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

11          “(I) proposals that seek to enhance water-  
12 shed health and drinking water sources.”; and

13          (B) in paragraph (3)—

14           (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
15 “10” and inserting “20”; and

16           (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
17 “2” and inserting “4”;

18          (4) in subsection (e)(3), by inserting “conflict  
19 resolution or collaborative governance,” before “and  
20 woody”; and

21          (5) in subsection (f)—

22           (A) in paragraph (4)(B)(ii), by striking  
23 “\$4,000,000” and inserting “\$8,000,000”; and

24           (B) in paragraph (6), by striking “2023”  
25 and inserting “2034”.

1 **SEC. 117. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK REDUC-**  
2 **TION.**

3 (a) *STRATEGY.*—

4 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 18 months*  
5 *after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary*  
6 *concerned, in coordination with the holders of permits*  
7 *to graze livestock on Federal land under the jurisdic-*  
8 *tion of the Secretary concerned and in consultation*  
9 *with other relevant stakeholders, shall develop a strat-*  
10 *egy to utilize livestock grazing as a wildfire risk re-*  
11 *duction tool on Federal land, consistent with the laws*  
12 *applicable to the Secretary concerned.*

13 (2) *INCLUSIONS.*—*The strategy under paragraph*  
14 *(1) shall include—*

15 (A) *the completion of any reviews required*  
16 *under the National Environmental Policy Act of*  
17 *1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to allow permitted*  
18 *grazing on vacant grazing allotments during in-*  
19 *stances of drought, wildfire, or other natural dis-*  
20 *asters that disrupt grazing on allotments already*  
21 *permitted;*

22 (B) *the use of targeted grazing to reduce*  
23 *hazardous fuels;*

24 (C) *an increased use of temporary permits*  
25 *to promote targeted fuels reduction and reduc-*  
26 *tion of invasive annual grasses;*

1           (D) an increased use of livestock grazing—

2                 (i) to eradicate invasive annual  
3                 grasses; and

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

6           (E) an integrated use of advanced tech-  
7                 nologies to dynamically adjust livestock place-  
8                 ment;

9           (F) an increased use of any authorities ap-  
10                plicable to livestock grazing, including modifica-  
11                tions to grazing permits or leases to allow  
12                variances pursuant to paragraph (3);

13           (G) the utilization of grazing on Federal  
14                land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary con-  
15                cerned in a manner that—

16                 (i) avoids conflicts with other uses of  
17                 that Federal land; and

18                 (ii) is consistent with any applicable  
19                 land management plan; and

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

22           (3) VARIANCES.—

23                 (A) IN GENERAL.—At the request of an au-  
24                 thorized grazing permittee or lessee, the Sec-  
25                 retary concerned may allow a temporary vari-

1            *ance to the terms and conditions of a grazing*  
2            *permit or lease to address significant changes in*  
3            *weather, forage production, the effects of fire or*  
4            *drought, or other temporary circumstances that*  
5            *impact resource conditions, to facilitate the long-*  
6            *term ecological health of the Federal land.*

7            *(B) VARIANCES.—In carrying out subpara-*  
8            *graph (A), the Secretary concerned may author-*  
9            *ize a temporary variance to the terms and condi-*  
10           *tions of the applicable grazing permit or lease to*  
11           *adjust the beginning date, the ending date, both*  
12           *the beginning date and ending date, or water*  
13           *transportation, as applicable, as specified in the*  
14           *applicable grazing permit or lease, subject to—*

15           *(i) the requirement that, unless other-*  
16           *wise specified in the appropriate allotment*  
17           *management plan or any other activity*  
18           *plan that is the functional equivalent to the*  
19           *appropriate allotment management plan*  
20           *under section 4120.2(a)(3) of title 43, Code*  
21           *of Federal Regulations (or a successor regu-*  
22           *lation), the applicable adjusted date of the*  
23           *season of use—*

24           *(I) occurs—*

1                   (aa) not earlier than 21 days  
2 before the beginning date specified  
3 in the applicable grazing permit  
4 or lease; or

5                   (bb) not later than 21 days  
6 after the ending date specified in  
7 the applicable grazing permit or  
8 lease; and

9                   (II) would not result in forage re-  
10 moval that exceeds the amount of ac-  
11 tive use specified in the applicable  
12 grazing permit or lease; and

13                   (ii) the requirement that, in accord-  
14 ance with applicable law (including regula-  
15 tions) and the terms and conditions of the  
16 applicable grazing permit or lease, an au-  
17 thorized grazing permittee or lessee using a  
18 variance under this paragraph shall develop  
19 and use a monitoring plan determined to be  
20 acceptable to the Secretary concerned as a  
21 reasonable way to track the effects of the  
22 variance on the long-term ecological health  
23 of the allotment on which the variance is  
24 used.

1       (b) *EFFECT ON EXISTING GRAZING PROGRAMS.*—

2       *Nothing in this section affects—*

3               (1) *any livestock grazing program carried out by*  
4       *the Secretary concerned as of the date of enactment*  
5       *of this Act; or*

6               (2) *any statutory authority for any program de-*  
7       *scribed in paragraph (1).*

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

9       *Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of*  
10       *2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542) is amended—*

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

12                       (A) *by redesignating paragraphs (1)*  
13                       *through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), re-*  
14                       *spectively;*

15                       (B) *by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so*  
16                       *redesignated) the following:*

17                               “(1) *ADJACENT LAND.*—*The term ‘adjacent land’*  
18                               *means non-Federal land, including State, local, Trib-*  
19                               *al, and private land, that is adjacent to, and within*  
20                               *the same watershed as, National Forest System land*  
21                               *on which a watershed protection and restoration*  
22                               *project is carried out under this section.”; and*

23                       (C) *in paragraph (2) (as so redesignated)—*

1                   (i) by redesignating subparagraphs (G)  
2                   and (H) as subparagraphs (K) and (L), re-  
3                   spectively; and

4                   (ii) by inserting after subparagraph  
5                   (F) the following:

6                   “(G) an acequia association;

7                   “(H) a local, regional, or other public entity  
8                   that manages stormwater or wastewater re-  
9                   sources or other related water infrastructure;

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

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

13                  (2) in subsection (b)—

14                   (A) by inserting “and adjacent land” before  
15                   the period at the end;

16                   (B) by striking “The Secretary” and insert-  
17                   ing the following:

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

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

20                   “(2) *REQUIREMENTS.*—A watershed protection  
21                   and restoration project under the Program shall be  
22                   designed—

23                   “(A) to protect and restore watershed  
24                   health, water supply and quality, a municipal

1           *or agricultural water supply system, and water-*  
2           *related infrastructure;*

3           *“(B) to protect and restore forest health*  
4           *from insect infestation and disease or wildfire;*  
5           *or*

6           *“(C) to advance any combination of the*  
7           *purposes described in subparagraphs (A) and*  
8           *(B).*

9           *“(3) PRIORITIES.—In selecting watershed protec-*  
10          *tion and restoration projects under the Program, the*  
11          *Secretary shall give priority to projects that would—*

12           *“(A) provide risk management benefits asso-*  
13           *ciated with drought, wildfire, post-wildfire con-*  
14           *ditions, extreme weather events, flooding, resil-*  
15           *ience to climate change, and watershed and fire*  
16           *resilience, including minimizing risks to water-*  
17           *shed health, water supply and quality, and*  
18           *water-related infrastructure, including munic-*  
19           *ipal and agricultural water supply systems;*

20           *“(B) support aquatic restoration and con-*  
21           *servations efforts that complement existing or*  
22           *planned forest restoration or wildfire risk reduc-*  
23           *tion efforts;*

24           *“(C) provide quantifiable benefits to water*  
25           *supply or quality and include the use of nature-*

1 based solutions, such as restoring wetland and  
 2 riparian ecosystems;

3 “(D) include—

4 “(i) partners with demonstrated capac-  
 5 ity to, and success in, designing and imple-  
 6 menting ecological restoration projects,  
 7 wildfire risk-reduction efforts, or post-wild-  
 8 fire restoration projects; or

9 “(ii) in the case of communities that  
 10 have historically lacked access to adequate  
 11 resources, partners with a strong likelihood  
 12 of success in designing and implementing a  
 13 watershed protection and restoration  
 14 project; and

15 “(E) include—

16 “(i) a contribution of funds or in-kind  
 17 support from non-Federal partners in an  
 18 amount greater than the amount required  
 19 under subsection (g)(2); or

20 “(ii) such other characteristics as the  
 21 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

22 “(4) CONDITIONS FOR PROJECTS ON ADJACENT  
 23 LAND.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—No project or activity  
 25 may be carried out under this section on adja-

1           *cent land, unless the owner of the adjacent land*  
 2           *provides express support for, and is a willing*  
 3           *and engaged partner in, carrying out that*  
 4           *project or activity.*

5           “(B) *EFFECT.*—*Nothing in this section au-*  
 6           *thorizes any change in—*

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

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

14           (3) *in subsection (c)—*

15                   (A) *in paragraph (1), by striking “agree-*  
 16                   *ments with” and all that follows through the pe-*  
 17                   *riod at the end and inserting the following:*  
 18                   *“agreements with end water users to protect and*  
 19                   *restore the condition of National Forest water-*  
 20                   *sheds and adjacent land that provide water to—*

21                           “(A) *end water users; or*

22                           “(B) *end water users to protect and restore*  
 23                   *the condition of National Forest watersheds and*  
 24                   *adjacent land that provide water for the benefit*  
 25                   *of another end water user.”;*

- 1                   (B) in paragraph (2)—
- 2                   (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
- 3                   “or” at the end;
- 4                   (ii) by redesignating subparagraph (D)
- 5                   as subparagraph (E); and
- 6                   (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
- 7                   (C) the following:
- 8                   “(D) in the case of an agreement with a
- 9                   State, a county, or an Indian tribe for a project
- 10                  carried out on National Forest System land—
- 11                  “(i) a good neighbor agreement entered
- 12                  into under section 8206 of the Agricultural
- 13                  Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); or
- 14                  “(ii) an agreement or contract entered
- 15                  into under the Tribal Forest Protection Act
- 16                  of 2004 (Public Law 108–278; 118 Stat.
- 17                  868); or”; and
- 18                  (C) by adding at the end the following:
- 19                  “(3) COOPERATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PART-
- 20                  NERS.—The Secretary shall cooperate, to the max-
- 21                  imum extent practicable, with non-Federal partners
- 22                  in carrying out assessments, planning, project design,
- 23                  and project implementation under this section.”;
- 24                  (4) in subsection (d)—

1           (A) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting  
2           the following:

3           “(2) *REQUIREMENTS.*—A water source manage-  
4           ment plan shall be—

5           “(A) designed to protect and restore ecologi-  
6           cal integrity (as defined in section 219.19 of title  
7           36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on  
8           the date of enactment of this subparagraph));

9           “(B) based on the best available scientific  
10          information; and

11          “(C) conducted in a manner consistent with  
12          the forest plan applicable to the National Forest  
13          System land on which the watershed protection  
14          and restoration project is carried out.”; and

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

16          “(4) *REDUCING REDUNDANCY.*—An existing wa-  
17          tershed plan, such as a watershed protection and res-  
18          toration action plan developed under section  
19          304(a)(3), or other applicable watershed planning  
20          documents approved by the Secretary may be used as  
21          the basis for a water source management plan under  
22          this subsection.”;

23          (5) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “purpose of”  
24          in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and all  
25          that follows through the period at the end and insert-

1        *ing “purpose of advancing any of the purposes de-*  
2        *scribed in subsection (b)(2).”;* and

3                *(6) in subsection (g)—*

4                        *(A) in paragraph (2)—*

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

7                                *(ii) by striking “The Secretary” and*  
8                                *inserting the following:*

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

11                                *(iii) by adding at the end the fol-*  
12                                *lowing:*

13                                *“(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive*  
14                                *the requirement under subparagraph (A) at the*  
15                                *discretion of the Secretary.”;*

16                        *(B) in paragraph (4)—*

17                                *(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking*  
18                                *“fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-*  
19                                *serting “fiscal years 2025 through 2031”;*

20                                *(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (C)*  
21                                *as subparagraph (D); and*

22                                *(iii) by inserting after subparagraph*  
23                                *(B) the following:*

24                                *“(C) SET-ASIDE FOR PARTNER PARTICIPA-*  
25                                *TION IN PLANNING AND CAPACITY.—Of the*

1           *amounts made available under subparagraphs*  
2           *(A) and (B) to carry out this section for each fis-*  
3           *cal year, the Secretary shall use not less than 10*  
4           *percent for non-Federal partner technical assist-*  
5           *ance participation and capacity-building efforts*  
6           *in developing or implementing a water source*  
7           *management plan under subsection (d).”; and*

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

9           “(5) *IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary*  
10          *may include the value of forest restoration and water-*  
11          *shed improvement work implemented on adjacent*  
12          *land in the project area in determining in-kind con-*  
13          *tributions to a project from non-Federal partners*  
14          *under paragraph (4)(A).”.*

15 **SEC. 119. WATERSHED CONDITION FRAMEWORK TECH-**  
16                           **NICAL CORRECTIONS.**

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

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

21                           (2) *in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the*  
22                           *end;*

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

25                           (4) *by adding at the end the following:*



1                   (F) by striking the subsection designation  
2                   and heading and all that follows through “and  
3                   the Secretary” and inserting the following:

4                   “(a) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

5                   “(1) *INDIAN TRIBE.*—The term ‘Indian Tribe’  
6                   has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the In-  
7                   dian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
8                   Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

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

13                  “(b) *ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS.*—The Secretary and  
14                  the Secretary of the Interior”;

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

16                         (A) by striking “contract or project” each  
17                         place it appears and inserting “contract, com-  
18                         pact, or project”;

19                         (B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
20                         by striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “sub-  
21                         section (b)”;

22                         (C) in paragraph (1), by striking “5304 et  
23                         seq.” and inserting “5301 et seq.”; and

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

1       “(d) *TORT CLAIMS PROCEDURE.*—For purposes of  
 2 chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, an employee  
 3 of an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization that enters into  
 4 an agreement, contract, or compact under subsection (b)  
 5 shall be considered an employee of the Forest Service while  
 6 carrying out activities and projects on behalf of the Forest  
 7 Service pursuant to that agreement, contract, or compact.

8       “(e) *PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.*—The Secretary  
 9 and the Secretary of the Interior shall—

10           “(1) not later than 180 days after the date of en-  
 11 actment of this subsection, make available, in an eas-  
 12 ily accessible format and location, on the website of  
 13 the Department of Agriculture and the Department of  
 14 the Interior, respectively, a list of the types of activi-  
 15 ties and projects that Indian Tribes and Tribal orga-  
 16 nizations may enter into agreements, contracts, or  
 17 compacts to perform under subsection (b); and

18           “(2) update the list under paragraph (1) as nec-  
 19 essary.”.

20 **SEC. 121. ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL WILDLAND FIRE**  
 21 **RESEARCH CENTERS.**

22 (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

23           (1) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.*—  
 24 The term “appropriate committees of Congress”  
 25 means—

1           (A) *the Committee on Energy and Natural*  
2           *Resources, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-*  
3           *tion, and Forestry, and the Committee on Ap-*  
4           *propriations of the Senate;*

5           (B) *the Committee on Natural Resources,*  
6           *the Committee on Agriculture, and the Com-*  
7           *mittee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-*  
8           *resentatives; and*

9           (C) *any other committee of Congress with*  
10          *the authority to facilitate the development of*  
11          *wildland fire research.*

12          (2) *CAREER PATHWAY.—The term “career path-*  
13          *way” has the meaning given that term in section 3*  
14          *of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29*  
15          *U.S.C. 3102).*

16          (3) *FEDERAL SCIENCE AGENCY.—The term “Fed-*  
17          *eral science agency” has the meaning given that term*  
18          *in section 103(f) of the America COMPETES Reau-*  
19          *thorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6623(f)).*

20          (4) *INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The*  
21          *term “institution of higher education” has the mean-*  
22          *ing given that term in section 101(a) of the Higher*  
23          *Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).*

24          (5) *LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVER-*  
25          *SITIES.—The term “land-grant colleges and univer-*

1        *sities” has the meaning given that term in section*  
2        *1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension,*  
3        *and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.*  
4        *3103).*

5            (6) *MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The term*  
6        *“minority-serving institution” means an institution*  
7        *defined in any of paragraphs (1) through (7) of sec-*  
8        *tion 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20*  
9        *U.S.C. 1067q(a)).*

10           (7) *REGIONAL CENTER.—The term “regional*  
11        *center” means a regional wildland fire research center*  
12        *established under subsection (c)(1).*

13           (8) *TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “Tribal*  
14        *organization” has the meaning given that term in*  
15        *section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-*  
16        *cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).*

17           (9) *WILDLAND FIRE.—The term “wildland fire”*  
18        *means any non-structure fire that occurs in vegeta-*  
19        *tion or natural fuels and includes wildfires origi-*  
20        *nating from an unplanned ignition or prescribed fire.*

21           (10) *WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.—*  
22        *The term “wildland fire management agencies”*  
23        *means—*

24                    (A) *the Forest Service;*

25                    (B) *the Bureau of Land Management;*

1                   (C) the National Park Service;

2                   (D) the United States Fish and Wildlife  
3                   Service; and

4                   (E) the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

5                   (11) WILDLAND FIRE RESEARCH.—The term  
6                   “wildland fire research” means research to better un-  
7                   derstand—

8                   (A) the causes and consequences of wildland  
9                   fires, including antecedent and contemporaneous  
10                  factors that increase the risk of catastrophic  
11                  events;

12                  (B) the spread and behavior of wildland  
13                  fires, including fires in the wildland-urban  
14                  interface;

15                  (C) the efficacy of mitigation strategies for  
16                  wildland fires;

17                  (D) the impact of wildland fires on public  
18                  health, safety, and the environment;

19                  (E) the rehabilitation and restoration of af-  
20                  fected ecosystems after wildland fires; and

21                  (F) the development of mitigation strategies  
22                  and techniques to improve the safety of wildland  
23                  fire managers and firefighters.

24                  (b) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—The Secretaries shall es-  
25                  tablish a competitive process for the selection and establish-

1 *ment of regional wildland fire research centers in accord-*  
2 *ance with subsection (c).*

3 (c) *SELECTION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL*  
4 *CENTERS.—*

5 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall select*  
6 *not fewer than 8 institutions of higher education or*  
7 *land-grant colleges and universities at which to estab-*  
8 *lish, in accordance with the timeline described in*  
9 *paragraph (2), regional centers to coordinate the de-*  
10 *velopment of wildland fire research.*

11 (2) *TIMELINE.—In establishing regional centers*  
12 *under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall establish—*

13 (A) *as soon as practicable after the date of*  
14 *enactment of this Act, subject to the availability*  
15 *of appropriations, a pilot program under which*  
16 *not fewer than 2 regional centers shall be estab-*  
17 *lished; and*

18 (B) *not later than 2 years after the date on*  
19 *which the pilot program is established under sub-*  
20 *paragraph (A), the remaining regional centers.*

21 (3) *CRITERIA FOR SELECTION.—*

22 (A) *IN GENERAL.—In establishing a re-*  
23 *gional center at an institution of higher edu-*  
24 *cation or land-grant college or university under*  
25 *this section, the Secretaries shall prioritize the*

1           *selection of institutions, colleges, or universities*  
2           *that meet not fewer than one of the following cri-*  
3           *teria:*

4                   (i) *Have existing programs of record*  
5                   *in wildland fire research.*

6                   (ii) *Have existing partnerships with*  
7                   *research institutions of the Federal Govern-*  
8                   *ment and other academic institutions and*  
9                   *entities relating to wildland fire research.*

10                  (iii) *Participate in or lead a program*  
11                  *under the Joint Fire Science Program.*

12                  (iv) *Are a minority-serving institution.*

13                  (B) *REGIONS.—The Secretaries shall estab-*  
14                  *lish not fewer than one regional center in each*  
15                  *of the following regions of the United States, as*  
16                  *defined by the Secretaries:*

17                   (i) *Alaska.*

18                   (ii) *California.*

19                   (iii) *The Pacific Northwest.*

20                   (iv) *The Pacific Islands.*

21                   (v) *The Plains and Northeast.*

22                   (vi) *The Rockies.*

23                   (vii) *The Southeast.*

24                   (viii) *The Southwest.*

1           (4) *PURPOSE.*—*Each regional center, with re-*  
2 *spect to the region covered by the regional center,*  
3 *shall—*

4                   (A) *to the extent practical, coordinate re-*  
5 *search with other wildland fire research entities,*  
6 *such as other academic institutions, the Environ-*  
7 *mental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic*  
8 *and Atmospheric Administration, the National*  
9 *Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics*  
10 *and Space Administration, the Department of*  
11 *Energy, the research and development program*  
12 *of the Forest Service, the National Laboratories,*  
13 *the United States Geological Survey, and State*  
14 *and regional research organizations;*

15                   (B) *improve the understanding of wildland*  
16 *fire through wildland fire research that can be*  
17 *applied by wildland fire management agencies;*

18                   (C) *develop technologies and other tools to*  
19 *understand, monitor, and predict wildland fire,*  
20 *including—*

21                           (i) *models to predict fire potential and*  
22 *the spread and behavior of wildland fire*  
23 *and smoke;*

1                   (ii) models to predict how vegetation  
2 will respond to changes in the environment  
3 and wildland fire;

4                   (iii) the integration of technologies to  
5 predict the spread and behavior of wildland  
6 fire and smoke in as near-real-time as pos-  
7 sible; and

8                   (iv) other innovations to be integrated  
9 into operational decision support systems  
10 relating to wildland fire, such as the  
11 Wildland Fire Decision Support System  
12 and the Interagency Fuel Treatment Deci-  
13 sion Support System;

14                  (D) develop technologies and other tools to  
15 safely support land management activities to re-  
16 duce the severity of wildland fire;

17                  (E) leverage predictive capabilities to re-  
18 duce the impact of smoke on communities and  
19 wildfire incident management teams, including  
20 wildland firefighters;

21                  (F) improve the understanding of post-fire  
22 risk to the landscape, including flash flooding  
23 potential and watershed impacts;

1           (G) test and operate models to support land  
2 management decision-making, including  
3 through—

4           (i) operating models to support man-  
5 agement of wildland fire and vegetation;

6           (ii) the demonstration of integration  
7 technologies to support management of  
8 wildland fire in as near-real-time as pos-  
9 sible; and

10           (iii) the incorporation of decision  
11 science and social science that examines the  
12 perception and adoption of information re-  
13 lated to wildland fire risk;

14           (H) develop a career pathway training pro-  
15 gram with respect to carrying out wildland fire  
16 research;

17           (I) develop data management protocols to  
18 allow for full and open exchange of data pursu-  
19 ant to the principles of findability, accessibility,  
20 interoperability, and reusability (commonly re-  
21 ferred to as the “FAIR principles”) and archive  
22 and access that data;

23           (J) develop training programs for pre-  
24 scribed fire implementation; and

1                   (K) make its work and data fully and open-  
2                   ly available.

3           (d) *ADVISORY BOARDS.*—

4                   (1) *IN GENERAL.*—In accordance with chapter  
5                   10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred  
6                   to as the “Federal Advisory Committee Act”), the Sec-  
7                   retary shall establish at each regional center an advi-  
8                   sory board, to be known as the “Regional Advisory  
9                   Board”, to carry out the duties described in para-  
10                  graph (4).

11                  (2) *COMPOSITION.*—

12                   (A) *IN GENERAL.*—Each Regional Advisory  
13                   Board shall consist of members, who shall be  
14                   from, or have responsibility covering, the region  
15                   covered by the relevant regional center, including  
16                   at minimum—

17                           (i) one regional representative from  
18                           each wildland fire management agency, ap-  
19                           pointed by that agency;

20                           (ii) one representative from a State  
21                           government agency from each State located  
22                           in that region with expertise in forestry and  
23                           wildland fire mitigation and management,  
24                           appointed by the Governor of that State;

1           (iii) one representative from an Indian  
2           Tribe or Tribal organization from that re-  
3           gion with expertise in forestry and wildland  
4           fire mitigation and management on Tribal  
5           or Federal land, appointed by the Secre-  
6           taries; and

7           (iv) additional representatives elected  
8           under subparagraph (B)(ii).

9           (B) ELECTED MEMBERSHIP.—

10          (i) SUBCOMMITTEE.—Each Regional  
11          Advisory Board shall solicit and approve,  
12          on at least an annual basis, nominations  
13          for individuals with operational expertise  
14          in wildland fire mitigation and manage-  
15          ment to serve as a representative on a sub-  
16          committee to the Regional Advisory Board  
17          for the purposes of clause (ii), composed of  
18          not more than 15 individuals, including  
19          representatives from, as applicable—

20               (I) institutions of higher edu-  
21               cation or land-grant colleges and uni-  
22               versities;

23               (II) nongovernmental organiza-  
24               tions;

25               (III) private industry;

1                   (IV) *the wildland firefighter com-*  
2                   *munity, including organizations that*  
3                   *represent the interests of wildland fire-*  
4                   *fighters; and*

5                   (V) *Southwest Ecological Restora-*  
6                   *tion Institutes established under sec-*  
7                   *tion 5(a) of the Southwest Forest*  
8                   *Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of*  
9                   *2004 (16 U.S.C. 6704(a)).*

10                  (ii) *ELECTION.—The subcommittee de-*  
11                  *scribed in clause (i) for a Regional Advi-*  
12                  *sory Board may elect a member or members*  
13                  *of the subcommittee to serve as a member of*  
14                  *the Regional Advisory Board under sub-*  
15                  *paragraph (A)(iv) for a 2-year term.*

16                  (3) *COMPENSATION.—Each member of a Re-*  
17                  *gional Advisory Board shall serve on a voluntary*  
18                  *basis without compensation.*

19                  (4) *DUTIES.—Each Regional Advisory Board*  
20                  *shall—*

21                         (A) *ensure and support the coordination of*  
22                         *wildland fire research between the relevant re-*  
23                         *gional center and Federal and State land man-*  
24                         *agement agencies in that region;*

1           (B) *communicate the operational needs of*  
2           *Federal and State land management agencies*  
3           *and wildland fire management agencies in that*  
4           *region to the relevant regional center and to the*  
5           *Board governing the Wildfire Intelligence Center*  
6           *appointed under section 102(f);*

7           (C) *advise, in coordination with the rel-*  
8           *evant regional center, on research goals and ob-*  
9           *jectives; and*

10          (D) *assist the relevant regional center with*  
11          *the dissemination of research outputs and data*  
12          *to the Board governing the Wildfire Intelligence*  
13          *Center appointed under section 102(f) and Fed-*  
14          *eral and State land management agencies and*  
15          *wildland fire management agencies in that re-*  
16          *gion.*

17          (5) *MEETINGS.—Each Regional Advisory Board*  
18          *shall meet quarterly.*

19          (6) *TERM.—Unless specified otherwise, a member*  
20          *of a Regional Advisory Board shall serve for a term*  
21          *of 4 years.*

22          (7) *VACANCIES.—*

23                 (A) *IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on a Re-*  
24                 *gional Advisory Board—*

1                   (i) shall not affect the powers of the  
2                   Regional Advisory Board; and

3                   (ii) shall be filled in the same manner  
4                   as the original appointment was made by  
5                   not later than 180 days after the date on  
6                   which the vacancy occurs.

7                   (B) *FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM.*—An indi-  
8                   vidual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be ap-  
9                   pointed for the unexpired term of the member re-  
10                  placed.

11               (e) *REPORT ON WILDLAND FIRE RESEARCH.*—Not  
12               later than each of 2 years and 4 years after the date of  
13               enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in consultation with  
14               the Board governing the Wildfire Intelligence Center ap-  
15               pointed under section 102(f), shall submit to the appro-  
16               priate committees of Congress a report describing—

17                   (1) the progress each regional center has made in  
18                   the development of wildland fire research; and

19                   (2) recommendations to improve wildland fire  
20                   research.

21               (f) *CONSULTATION.*—In carrying out the requirements  
22               of this section, the Secretaries shall consult with—

23                   (1) Federal science agencies; and

24                   (2) the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

1 **SEC. 122. CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND AGREEMENTS TO**  
 2 **CARRY OUT CERTAIN ECOSYSTEM RESTORA-**  
 3 **TION ACTIVITIES.**

4 *Section 40804 of the Infrastructure Investment and*  
 5 *Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592a) is amended by adding at the*  
 6 *end the following:*

7 *“(g) CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND AGREEMENTS.—To*  
 8 *carry out the ecosystem restoration activities described in*  
 9 *subsection (b), the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through*  
 10 *the Chief of the Forest Service, may enter into contracts,*  
 11 *grants, or agreements, as appropriate, with State agencies,*  
 12 *Indian Tribes, institutions of higher education (as defined*  
 13 *in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20*  
 14 *U.S.C. 1001(a))), and multistate coalitions—*

15 *“(1) for the collection and maintenance of native*  
 16 *plant materials, including material from managed*  
 17 *seed orchards; and*

18 *“(2) for the production of native plant materials*  
 19 *for revegetation.”.*

20 **SEC. 123. REFORESTATION OF LAND DESTROYED BY HER-**  
 21 **MIT’S PEAK/CALF CANYON FIRE.**

22 *Section 104(d)(4) of the Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon*  
 23 *Fire Assistance Act (division G of Public Law 117–180;*  
 24 *136 Stat. 2172) is amended by adding at the end the fol-*  
 25 *lowing:*

26 *“(D) REFORESTATION.—*

1           “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding  
2           *paragraph (1)(B), subject to clause (ii), a*  
3           *claim that is paid for injury under this Act*  
4           *may include damages resulting from the*  
5           *Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon Fire for other-*  
6           *wise uncompensated resource losses for costs*  
7           *of reasonable efforts, as determined by the*  
8           *Administrator, incurred by the State of*  
9           *New Mexico not later than December 31,*  
10           *2030, to design and construct a center for*  
11           *the purpose of researching, developing, and*  
12           *generating native seedlings.*

13           “(ii) *LIMITATION.*—The payment of a  
14           *claim under this Act may not include*  
15           *amounts to design or construct a center de-*  
16           *scribed in clause (i) until after all claims*  
17           *by an injured person that are pending on*  
18           *the date of enactment of this subparagraph*  
19           *are paid or otherwise resolved.”.*

20   **SEC. 124. CONTRACT PREFERENCE FOR LOCAL CONTRAC-**  
21           **TORS FOR CERTAIN HAZARDOUS FUEL RE-**  
22           **DUCTION PROJECTS.**

23           *(a) IN GENERAL.*—Title I of the Healthy Forests Res-  
24           *toration Act of 2003 is amended—*

1           (1) *by redesignating sections 107 and 108 (16*  
 2 *U.S.C. 6517, 6518) as sections 108 and 109, respec-*  
 3 *tively; and*

4           (2) *by inserting after section 106 (16 U.S.C.*  
 5 *6516) the following:*

6 **“SEC. 107. CONTRACT PREFERENCE FOR LOCAL CONTRAC-**  
 7 **TORS FOR CERTAIN HAZARDOUS FUEL RE-**  
 8 **DUCTION PROJECTS.**

9           “(a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

10           “(1) *APPROPRIATE LOCAL CONTRACTOR.—The*  
 11 *term ‘appropriate local contractor’ means an entity*  
 12 *that carries out, pursuant to a contract or agreement,*  
 13 *1 or more authorized projects located—*

14           “(A) *in a State in which—*

15           “(i) *the entity has its principal place*  
 16 *of business, as certified by the entity or an*  
 17 *individual representing the entity; and*

18           “(ii) *not fewer than 26 percent of the*  
 19 *total workforce assigned to the applicable*  
 20 *contract or agreement (including sub-*  
 21 *contractors at any tier) will reside, as cer-*  
 22 *tified by the entity or an individual rep-*  
 23 *resenting the entity; or*

24           “(B) *within a 60-mile radius of the State*  
 25 *in which the entity is registered as a business or*

1           *has its principal place of business, as certified by*  
2           *the entity or an individual representing the enti-*  
3           *ty.*

4           “(2) *AUTHORIZED PROJECT.*—*The term ‘author-*  
5           *ized project’ includes any activity carried out pursu-*  
6           *ant to—*

7                   “(A) *an authorized hazardous fuel reduction*  
8                   *project; or*

9                   “(B) *a fireshed management project (as de-*  
10                  *finied in section 2 of the Fix Our Forests Act).*

11           “(3) *SECRETARY.*—*The term ‘Secretary’ means*  
12           *the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief*  
13           *of the Forest Service.*

14           “(b) *CONTRACT PREFERENCE.*—*Effective beginning on*  
15           *the date of enactment of the Fix Our Forests Act, the Sec-*  
16           *retary shall give preference in awarding a contract to carry*  
17           *out an authorized project in a State to an appropriate local*  
18           *contractor, to the maximum extent practicable.*

19           “(c) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 2 years after the date*  
20           *of enactment of the Fix Our Forests Act, and not less fre-*  
21           *quently than annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit*  
22           *to Congress a report that includes—*

23                   “(1) *a quantitative analysis of the number and*  
24                   *percentage of contracts awarded to appropriate local*  
25                   *contractors, the total dollar value of those contracts,*

1       *and an assessment of the economic impact of the con-*  
 2       *tract preference under subsection (b) on local employ-*  
 3       *ment and contractor capacity;*

4               “(2) *a description of the reasons for awarding a*  
 5       *contract to carry out an authorized project in a State*  
 6       *to an individual or entity that is not an appropriate*  
 7       *local contractor; and*

8               “(3) *a description of the implementation by the*  
 9       *Secretary of this section.*

10       “(d) *MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—*

11               “(1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish*  
 12       *a monitoring and evaluation process—*

13                       “(A) *to assess compliance with the require-*  
 14                       *ments of this section, including the contract pref-*  
 15                       *erence under subsection (b); and*

16                       “(B) *to support the reports required under*  
 17                       *subsection (c).*

18               “(2) *PARTICIPANTS.—The process described in*  
 19       *paragraph (1) may include participation by—*

20                       “(A) *any cooperating governmental agen-*  
 21                       *cies, including Tribal governments; and*

22                       “(B) *any other interested groups or individ-*  
 23                       *uals.”.*

24       (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents*  
 25       *contained in section 1(b) of the Healthy Forests Restoration*

1 *Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–148; 117 Stat. 1887) is*  
 2 *amended by striking the items relating to sections 107 and*  
 3 *108 and inserting the following:*

*“Sec. 107. Contract preference for local contractors for certain hazardous fuel reduction projects.*

*“Sec. 108. Effect of title.*

*“Sec. 109. Authorization of appropriations.”.*

## 4 ***Subtitle C—Litigation Reform***

### 5 ***SEC. 131. LITIGATION REFORM.***

6 *(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

7 *(1) AGENCY DOCUMENT.—The term “agency doc-*  
 8 *ument”, with respect to a fireshed management*  
 9 *project, means a record of decision, decision memo-*  
 10 *randum, environmental document, or programmatic*  
 11 *environmental document.*

12 *(2) COVERED AGENCY ACTION.—The term “cov-*  
 13 *ered agency action” means—*

14 *(A) the establishment of a fireshed manage-*  
 15 *ment project by an agency;*

16 *(B) the application of a categorical exclu-*  
 17 *sion to a fireshed management project;*

18 *(C) the preparation of any agency docu-*  
 19 *ment for a fireshed management project; and*

20 *(D) any other agency action as part of a*  
 21 *fireshed management project.*

22 *(3) NEPA TERMS.—The terms “categorical ex-*  
 23 *clusion”, “environmental document”, and “pro-*

1 *grammatic environmental document” have the mean-*  
2 *ings given those terms in section 111 of the National*  
3 *Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e).*

4 *(b) LIMITATIONS ON JUDICIAL REVIEW.—*

5 *(1) LIMITATIONS ON INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—*

6 *(A) TEMPORARY DELAY OF COVERED AGEN-*  
7 *CY ACTION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-*  
8 *sion of law, in the case of a claim arising under*  
9 *Federal law seeking judicial review of a covered*  
10 *agency action, a court shall not issue a prelimi-*  
11 *nary injunction against such covered agency ac-*  
12 *tion unless the court determines that—*

13 *(i) subject to subparagraph (C), such*  
14 *preliminary injunction is in the public in-*  
15 *terest;*

16 *(ii) the balance of equities favors the*  
17 *plaintiff;*

18 *(iii) the plaintiff is likely to succeed on*  
19 *the merits; and*

20 *(iv) the plaintiff is likely to suffer ir-*  
21 *reparable injury in the absence of prelimi-*  
22 *nary relief.*

23 *(B) PERMANENT LIMIT ON AGENCY AC-*  
24 *TION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of*  
25 *law, in the case of a claim arising under Federal*

1           *law seeking judicial review of a covered agency*  
2           *action, a court shall not issue a permanent in-*  
3           *junction against such covered agency action, or*  
4           *an order to otherwise permanently limit such*  
5           *covered agency action, unless a court determines*  
6           *that—*

7                   (i) *subject to subparagraph (C), such*  
8                   *permanent injunction or order is in the*  
9                   *public interest;*

10                   (ii) *the balance of equities favors the*  
11                   *plaintiff;*

12                   (iii) *the plaintiff has suffered or will*  
13                   *suffer irreparable injury; and*

14                   (iv) *no adequate remedy is available at*  
15                   *law.*

16           (C) *PUBLIC INTEREST DETERMINATION.—*

17                   (i) *IN GENERAL.—In determining*  
18                   *under subparagraphs (A) and (B) whether a*  
19                   *preliminary or permanent injunction*  
20                   *against, or other order with respect to, a*  
21                   *covered agency action is in the public inter-*  
22                   *est, the considerations of the court shall in-*  
23                   *clude—*

24                           (I) *the purpose for which an agen-*  
25                           *cy is undertaking the fireshed manage-*

1                    *ment project relating to such covered*  
2                    *agency action;*

3                    *(II) the likelihood that the fireshed*  
4                    *management project will achieve the*  
5                    *stated purpose of the fireshed manage-*  
6                    *ment project; and*

7                    *(III) the short- and long-term ef-*  
8                    *fects of proceeding with the covered*  
9                    *agency action, as compared to delaying*  
10                   *or limiting such covered agency action,*  
11                   *including the potential for significant*  
12                   *increases in wildfire risk or severity*  
13                   *and significant threats to the health of*  
14                   *the ecosystem.*

15                   *(ii) WEIGHT OF PUBLIC INTEREST*  
16                   *FACTOR.—In determining whether to issue*  
17                   *any injunction or order under subpara-*  
18                   *graph (A) or (B), a court shall give signifi-*  
19                   *cant, but not necessarily dispositive, weight*  
20                   *to its consideration of whether such order is*  
21                   *in the public interest.*

22                   *(2) REMAND.—*

23                   *(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any*  
24                   *other provision of law, in the case of a claim*  
25                   *arising under Federal law seeking judicial re-*

1 *view of a covered agency action, if the court re-*  
2 *mands the matter to the agency, the court shall*  
3 *remand with instructions to carry out, during*  
4 *the 180-day period beginning on the date of such*  
5 *remand, such additional actions as may be nec-*  
6 *essary to redress any cognizable harm giving rise*  
7 *to such claim.*

8 *(B) VACATUR.—*

9 *(i) IN GENERAL.—In remanding a*  
10 *matter to an agency under subparagraph*  
11 *(A), the court shall remand with vacatur*  
12 *only if—*

13 *(I) the seriousness of any defi-*  
14 *ciencies in the covered agency action*  
15 *weigh in favor of vacatur; and*

16 *(II) the court determines that any*  
17 *disruptive consequences of vacatur, in-*  
18 *cluding the short- and long-term effects*  
19 *of vacating the covered agency action*  
20 *or any part of such covered agency ac-*  
21 *tion, do not outweigh the justification*  
22 *for vacatur.*

23 *(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making the*  
24 *determination described in clause (i)(II),*

1           *the court shall consider whether vacatur*  
2           *would cause—*

3                   (I) *any significant increases in*  
4                   *wildfire risk or severity, and*

5                   (II) *any significant threats to the*  
6                   *health of the ecosystem.*

7           (C) *EFFECT OF REMAND ON AGENCY.—In*  
8           *the case of a covered agency action subject to re-*  
9           *mand without vacatur, or with partial vacatur,*  
10           *pursuant to this paragraph, the agency may—*

11                   (i) *continue to carry out such covered*  
12                   *agency action, or such parts of the covered*  
13                   *agency action as are not vacated, to the ex-*  
14                   *tent that doing so does not interfere with*  
15                   *any additional actions required pursuant to*  
16                   *subparagraph (A); and*

17                   (ii) *use any format, as appropriate, to*  
18                   *correct an agency document (including a*  
19                   *supplemental environmental document,*  
20                   *memorandum, or errata sheet), provided*  
21                   *that such format is appropriate to the na-*  
22                   *ture of the deficiency.*

23           (3) *PRESERVATION OF AUTHORITY.—Nothing in*  
24           *this section alters, limits, or displaces the authority*

1       of a court to review a covered agency action under  
2       section 706(2) of title 5, United States Code.

3       (c) *LIMITATIONS ON CLAIMS.*—Notwithstanding any  
4 other provision of law, a claim arising under Federal law  
5 seeking judicial review of a covered agency action shall be  
6 barred unless—

7           (1) with respect to an agency document or the  
8 application of a categorical exclusion noticed in the  
9 Federal Register, such claim is filed not later than  
10 150 days after the date of publication of a notice in  
11 the Federal Register of agency intent to carry out the  
12 firehosed management project relating to such covered  
13 agency document or application, unless a shorter pe-  
14 riod is specified in such Federal law; or

15           (2) in the case of an agency document or the ap-  
16 plication of a categorical exclusion not described in  
17 paragraph (1), if such agency document or applica-  
18 tion is otherwise published or noticed, such claim is  
19 filed not later than 150 days after the date that is the  
20 earlier of—

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

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

1 **SEC. 132. CONSULTATION ON FOREST PLANS.**

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

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

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

18                       “(B) *new information reveals effects of the*  
19 *land management plan that may affect a species*  
20 *listed or critical habitat designated under that*  
21 *Act in a manner or to an extent not previously*  
22 *considered.”.*

23       (b) *BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.*—Section  
24 *202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of*  
25 *1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712)* is amended by adding at the end  
26 *the following:*

1       “(g) *NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED*  
 2 *UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.*—*Notwithstanding any*  
 3 *other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required*  
 4 *to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the En-*  
 5 *dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or sec-*  
 6 *tion 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a*  
 7 *successor regulation), on a land use plan approved, amend-*  
 8 *ed, or revised under this section when—*

9               “(1) *a new species is listed or critical habitat is*  
 10 *designated under the Endangered Species Act of 1973*  
 11 *(16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or*

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

## 16       ***Subtitle D—Prescribed Fire***

### 17 ***SEC. 141. PRESCRIBED FIRE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES, POLI-*** 18 ***CIES, AND PRACTICES.***

19       (a) *DEFINITION OF PRESCRIBED FIRE.*—

20               (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*In this section, the term “pre-*  
 21 *scribed fire” means a fire deliberately ignited to burn*  
 22 *wildland fuels in a natural or modified state—*

23                       (A) *under specified environmental condi-*  
 24 *tions that are intended to allow the fire—*

1                   (i) to be confined to a predetermined  
2                   area; and

3                   (ii) to produce the fireline intensity  
4                   and rate of spread required to attain  
5                   planned resource management objectives;  
6                   and

7                   (B) in accordance with applicable law (in-  
8                   cluding regulations).

9                   (2) *EXCLUSION.*—In this section, the term “pre-  
10                  scribed fire” does not include a fire that is ignited for  
11                  the primary purpose of pile burning.

12                  (3) *CULTURAL BURNING.*—In this section, the  
13                  term “prescribed fire” includes specified cultural  
14                  burning activities that an Indian Tribe designates for  
15                  treatment as prescribed fire for the purposes of this  
16                  section.

17                  (b) *ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.*—

18                   (1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary concerned may  
19                   carry out eligible activities described in paragraph  
20                   (2) for hazardous fuels management with respect to  
21                   land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary con-  
22                   cerned.

23                   (2) *DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES.*—The activities  
24                   referred to in paragraph (1) are—

1           (A) *with respect to prescribed fires on Fed-*  
2 *eral land, or on non-Federal land if the Sec-*  
3 *retary concerned determines that such activities*  
4 *would benefit resources on Federal land—*

5                 (i) *entering into procurement contracts*  
6 *or cooperative agreements for prescribed fire*  
7 *activities;*

8                 (ii) *issuing grants from an existing*  
9 *grant program to a State, Indian Tribe,*  
10 *local government, prescribed fire council,*  
11 *prescribed burn association, or nonprofit or-*  
12 *ganization for the implementation of pre-*  
13 *scribed fires, including—*

14                     (I) *carrying out necessary envi-*  
15 *ronmental reviews;*

16                     (II) *carrying out any site prepa-*  
17 *ration necessary for implementing pre-*  
18 *scribed fires; and*

19                     (III) *conducting any required*  
20 *pre-ignition cultural and environ-*  
21 *mental surveys; and*

22                 (iii) *conducting outreach to the public,*  
23 *Indian Tribes and beneficiaries, and adja-*  
24 *cent landowners;*

1           (B) implementing prescribed fires on non-  
2 Federal land, if the Secretary concerned deter-  
3 mines that the prescribed fire would benefit Fed-  
4 eral land, including—

5           (i) carrying out necessary environ-  
6 mental reviews;

7           (ii) carrying out any site preparation  
8 necessary for implementing prescribed fires;  
9 and

10          (iii) conducting any required pre-igni-  
11 tion cultural and environmental surveys;

12          (C) providing training for prescribed fire  
13 and basic smoke management practices to Fed-  
14 eral employees and cooperators;

15          (D) conducting post-prescribed fire activi-  
16 ties, such as monitoring for hazard trees or re-  
17 ignitions and invasive species management; and

18          (E) providing technical or financial assist-  
19 ance to a State, Indian Tribe, local government,  
20 prescribed fire council, prescribed burn associa-  
21 tion, or nonprofit organization for the purpose of  
22 providing training for prescribed fire or basic  
23 smoke management practices, consistent with  
24 any standards developed by the National Wild-

1 *fire Coordinating Group or State-prescribed fire*  
2 *standards.*

3 (3) *PRIORITIZATION.*—

4 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Subject to subparagraph*  
5 *(B), the Secretary concerned shall coordinate*  
6 *with the other Secretary concerned, State and*  
7 *local government agencies, Indian Tribes, and*  
8 *applicable nongovernmental organizations to es-*  
9 *tablish prioritization criteria for carrying out*  
10 *the activities described in paragraph (2).*

11 (B) *REQUIREMENT.*—*In establishing cri-*  
12 *teria under subparagraph (A), the Secretary con-*  
13 *cerned shall give priority to a project that is—*

14 (i) *implemented across a large contig-*  
15 *uous area;*

16 (ii) *cross-boundary in nature;*

17 (iii) *located in an area that is—*

18 (I) *within or adjacent to the*  
19 *wildland-urban interface and identi-*  
20 *fied as a priority area in a statewide*  
21 *forest action plan, fireshed assessment,*  
22 *or community wildfire protection plan;*  
23 *or*

24 (II) *identified by the Secretary of*  
25 *the Interior, in consultation with the*

1                    *appropriate Indian Tribe, as impor-*  
2                    *tant to the protection of a Tribal trust*  
3                    *resource or the reserved or treaty rights*  
4                    *of an Indian Tribe identified by the*  
5                    *Secretary concerned, in consultation*  
6                    *with the appropriate Indian Tribe;*

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

10                    *(v) in an area that is designated as*  
11                    *critical habitat and in need of ecological*  
12                    *restoration or enhancement that can be*  
13                    *achieved with the aid of prescribed fire; or*  
14                    *(vi) supportive of potential operational*  
15                    *delineations or strategic response zones.*

16                    *(c) POLICIES AND PRACTICES.—The Secretary con-*  
17                    *cerned, in coordination with State and local governments*  
18                    *and Indian Tribes, shall develop a prescribed fire oper-*  
19                    *ational strategy for each region of the National Forest Sys-*  
20                    *tem or the Department of the Interior, as applicable, that*  
21                    *describes—*

22                    *(1) the fire deficit, by region; and*

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

1 **SEC. 142. HUMAN RESOURCES.**

2 (a) *COMPETENCIES FOR FIREFIGHTERS.*—*The Secre-*  
3 *taries, 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 certifi-*  
6 *cation to serve in a supervisory role for a prescribed fire*  
7 *and any other positions determined to be necessary by the*  
8 *Secretaries—*

9 (1) *in order to reduce the time required to obtain*  
10 *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 ex-*  
18 *tent 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 pre-*  
25 *scribed 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. 143. LIABILITY OF PRESCRIBED FIRE MANAGERS.**

13          (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

14           (1) *COVERED ACTIVITY.*—*The term “covered ac-*  
15          *tivity” means an activity carried out on Federal land*  
16          *directly related to a wildland fire, prescribed fire, or*  
17          *prescribed fire with cultural objectives in the course of*  
18          *executing a Federal action.*

19           (2) *COVERED ENTITY.*—*The term “covered enti-*  
20          *ty” means a non-Federal entity that—*

21           (A) carries out a covered activity; and

22           (B) is acting—

23           (i) under the direct supervision of a  
24          Federal employee; and

1                   (ii) *within the scope of a contract or*  
2                   *agreement in carrying out that covered ac-*  
3                   *tivity.*

4           (b) *INDEMNITY OF FEDERAL AND TRIBAL EMPLOY-*  
5 *EES.—The Secretaries, in coordination with the Attorney*  
6 *General, shall develop a voluntary training course for em-*  
7 *ployees involved in covered activities describing—*

8                   (1) *liability protections afforded to those employ-*  
9                   *ees when acting within the scope of their employment;*

10                   (2) *the limits on any liability protections under*  
11 *paragraph (1); and*

12                   (3) *reimbursements available for qualified em-*  
13 *ployees for professional liability insurance under sec-*  
14 *tion 636 of division A of Public Law 104–208 (5*  
15 *U.S.C. prec. 5941 note).*

16           (c) *INDEMNITY OF OTHER COOPERATORS.—*

17                   (1) *IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning on the*  
18 *date of enactment of this Act, a covered entity shall*  
19 *be considered to be an employee of the Federal Gov-*  
20 *ernment for purposes of chapter 171 of title 28,*  
21 *United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal*  
22 *Tort Claims Act”), while that covered entity carries*  
23 *out any covered activity.*

24                   (2) *GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the*  
25 *date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in con-*

1        *sultation with the Attorney General, shall issue guid-*  
 2        *ance regarding the necessary provisions of, and im-*  
 3        *plementation requirements for, contracts or agree-*  
 4        *ments that would extend liability protection to cov-*  
 5        *ered entities pursuant to paragraph (1).*

6            (3) *REIMBURSEMENT.*—*Beginning in the first*  
 7        *fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment of*  
 8        *this Act, the Secretaries shall request, through annual*  
 9        *appropriations, funds sufficient to reimburse the*  
 10       *Treasury for any claims paid during the preceding*  
 11       *fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (1).*

12        (d) *EFFECT.*—*Nothing in this section limits or other-*  
 13       *wise affects the application of—*

14            (1) *any statutory or judicial immunity to any*  
 15        *Federal employee;*

16            (2) *chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code*  
 17        *(commonly known as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”),*  
 18        *to any Federal employee; or*

19            (3) *section 314 of Public Law 101–512 (25*  
 20        *U.S.C. 5321 note).*

21        **SEC. 144. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.**

22        (a) *SMOKE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.*—

23            (1) *POLICY.*—*The Secretaries shall ensure that*  
 24        *policies, training, and programs of the Secretaries are*  
 25        *consistent with this subsection—*

1           (A) to facilitate greater use of prescribed  
2           fire in a safe and responsible manner, with ap-  
3           propriate monitoring to prevent prescribed fires  
4           from exceeding containment;

5           (B) to address public health and safety, in-  
6           cluding impacts from smoke from wildfires and  
7           prescribed fires; and

8           (C) to improve and leverage smoke modeling  
9           and smoke monitoring using existing systems  
10          and programs, including the Interagency  
11          Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program  
12          established under section 1114(f) of the John D.  
13          Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and  
14          Recreation Act (43 U.S.C. 1748b-1(f)), to pro-  
15          vide consistent forecasts on air quality impacts  
16          from wildfire and prescribed fire.

17          (2) COORDINATION AMONG FEDERAL, TRIBAL,  
18          AND STATE AIR QUALITY AGENCIES AND FEDERAL,  
19          TRIBAL, AND STATE LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.—  
20          To facilitate the use of prescribed fire on Federal,  
21          State, Tribal, and private land, the Executive Direc-  
22          tor, in cooperation with the Environmental Protec-  
23          tion Agency, Federal and State land management  
24          agencies, shall coordinate with State, Tribal, and

1 *local air quality agencies that regulate smoke under*  
2 *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 for prescribed fire in ac-*  
8 *cordance with sections 50.14 and 51.930 of title*  
9 *40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor*  
10 *regulations);*

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

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

22 *(D)(i) to promote basic smoke management*  
23 *practices and other best practices to protect the*  
24 *public from wildfire smoke;*

- 1           (ii) to disseminate information about basic  
2 smoke management practices;
- 3           (iii) to educate landowners that use pre-  
4 scribed fire about the importance of—
- 5               (I) using basic smoke management  
6 practices; and
- 7               (II) including basic smoke manage-  
8 ment practices as a component of a pre-  
9 scribed fire plan;
- 10          (iv) to share with the public information, in  
11 coordination with other State and local agencies  
12 with responsibility for smoke monitoring or reg-  
13 ulation, about measures that individuals can  
14 take to protect themselves from wildfire smoke;  
15 and
- 16          (v) to promote further development of  
17 smoke-ready efforts to allow communities to be  
18 prepared for smoke, including promotion of  
19 smoke planning in community wildfire protec-  
20 tion plans; and
- 21          (E) to develop guidance and tools to stream-  
22 line the demonstration of a clear causal relation-  
23 ship between prescribed fire smoke and a related  
24 exceedance or contribution to an exceedance of a  
25 national ambient air quality standard.

1           (3) *PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH.*—*To address the*  
2           *public health and safety concerns of the expanded use*  
3           *of prescribed fire under this subtitle, the Secretaries,*  
4           *in coordination with the Administrator of the Envi-*  
5           *ronmental Protection Agency and the Director of the*  
6           *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall con-*  
7           *duct research to improve or develop—*

8                   (A) *wildfire smoke prediction models;*

9                   (B) *smoke impact display tools for the pub-*  
10           *lic and decisionmakers, including for health im-*  
11           *pacts and transportation safety;*

12                  (C) *appropriate, cost-effective, and con-*  
13           *sistent communications strategies to mitigate the*  
14           *impacts of smoke from prescribed fire on nearby*  
15           *communities;*

16                  (D) *consistent nationally and scientifically*  
17           *supported messages regarding personal protec-*  
18           *tion equipment for the public;*

19                  (E) *prescribed fire activity tracking and*  
20           *emission inventory systems for planning and*  
21           *post-treatment accountability; and*

22                  (F) *air quality and atmospheric deposition*  
23           *monitoring to understand smoke impacts of*  
24           *wildland fires.*

1           **(b) DEVELOPMENT OF LANDSCAPE-SCALE FEDERAL**  
2 **PRESCRIBED FIRE PLANS.—**

3                   **(1) INCLUSION OF LANDSCAPE-SCALE PRE-**  
4 **SCRIBED FIRE PLANS.—***The Secretary concerned, with*  
5 *respect to units of the National Forest System and*  
6 *Bureau of Land Management districts with existing*  
7 *prescribed fire programs—*

8                           **(A) not later than 1 year after the date of**  
9 *enactment of this Act, shall determine which of*  
10 *those units or districts have landscape-scale pre-*  
11 *scribed fire plans;*

12                           **(B) not later than 2 years after the date of**  
13 *enactment of this Act, shall—*

14                                   **(i) determine whether each plan de-**  
15 *scribed in subparagraph (A) requires revi-*  
16 *sion; and*

17                                   **(ii) establish a schedule for the revision**  
18 *of each plan described in subparagraph (A)*  
19 *that requires revision; and*

20                           **(C) may develop landscape-scale prescribed**  
21 *fire plans for any units or districts that do not*  
22 *have landscape-scale prescribed fire plans, as de-*  
23 *termined appropriate by the Secretary con-*  
24 *cerned.*

1           (2) *ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.*—*In carrying*  
2 *out paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall—*

3           (A) *comply with—*

4                 (i) *the National Environmental Policy*  
5 *Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);*

6                 (ii) *the Endangered Species Act of*  
7 *1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);*

8                 (iii) *division A of subtitle III of title*  
9 *54, United States Code; and*

10                (iv) *any other applicable laws; and*

11           (B) *consider the site-specific environmental*  
12 *consequences of the landscape-scale prescribed*  
13 *fire decisions under this subsection.*

14           (3) *COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT.*—*In car-*  
15 *rying out paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned*  
16 *shall collaborate with diverse actors from academia,*  
17 *the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management*  
18 *research and development offices, nongovernmental or-*  
19 *ganizations, Indian Tribes, and other entities, as de-*  
20 *termined appropriate by the Secretary concerned.*

21           (4) *REPORTS.*—*Not later than 1 year after the*  
22 *date of enactment of this Act, and annually there-*  
23 *after, the Secretary concerned shall submit to Con-*  
24 *gress a report describing the progress of the Secretary*  
25 *concerned in carrying out this subsection.*

1 **SEC. 145. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS**  
2 **FOR PRESCRIBED FIRE.**

3 (a) *AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS.*—

4 (1) *DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.*—*In this*  
5 *subsection, the term “eligible entity” means a State,*  
6 *an Indian Tribe, a unit of local government, a fire*  
7 *district, a nongovernmental organization, and a pri-*  
8 *vate entity.*

9 (2) *AUTHORIZATION.*—*The Secretaries may each*  
10 *enter into a cooperative agreement or contract with*  
11 *an eligible entity, for a period of not longer than 10*  
12 *years, that authorizes the eligible entity—*

13 (A) *to coordinate, plan, or conduct a pre-*  
14 *scribed fire on Federal land; or*

15 (B) *to conduct a prescribed fire training*  
16 *event.*

17 (3) *SUBCONTRACTS.*—*A State, Indian Tribe,*  
18 *county, or eligible entity that enters into a coopera-*  
19 *tive agreement or contract under paragraph (1) may*  
20 *enter into a subcontract, in accordance with applica-*  
21 *ble employment and contracting laws and procedures*  
22 *of the State, Indian Tribe, county, or eligible entity—*

23 (A) *to conduct a prescribed fire on Federal*  
24 *land; or*

1           (B) to conduct a prescribed fire training  
2           event pursuant to that cooperative agreement or  
3           contract.

4           (4) *APPLICABLE LAW.*—A prescribed fire con-  
5           ducted pursuant to this subsection shall be carried out  
6           on a project-by-project basis under—

7           (A) existing authorities of the applicable  
8           Federal agency responsible for the management  
9           of the applicable Federal land; and

10           (B) the employment and contracting laws of  
11           an Indian Tribe in accordance with paragraph  
12           (3), as applicable.

13           (5) *PRESERVATION OF DECISION AUTHORITY.*—  
14           An eligible entity may not carry out a project under  
15           this subsection pursuant to a cooperative agreement  
16           or contract without the prior written approval of each  
17           Secretary that entered into the cooperative agreement  
18           or contract.

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

1 **“SEC. 4. TRIBAL PRESCRIBED BURN DEMONSTRATION**  
2 **PROJECT.**

3 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary may enter into a*  
4 *contract or agreement with an Indian Tribe under this Act*  
5 *that provides for prescribed burns on Federal land pursuant*  
6 *to this section.*

7 “(b) *SCOPE.*—*Notwithstanding any other provision of*  
8 *law, a contract or agreement entered into under this section*  
9 *may—*

10 “(1) *use a burn plan that, on approval by the*  
11 *Secretary, allows multiple prescribed burns to be con-*  
12 *ducted in accordance with the burn plan to eliminate*  
13 *the need for individual burn plans for each prescribed*  
14 *burn and enable forest managers to have the flexi-*  
15 *bility to conduct prescribed burns when conditions*  
16 *allow; and*

17 “(2) *include terms that—*

18 “(A) *the Secretary may authorize an In-*  
19 *Indian Tribe to plan, coordinate, and execute pre-*  
20 *scribed burns on the behalf of the Secretary with-*  
21 *in the scope of the burn plan including applying*  
22 *the National Wildfire Coordinating Group*  
23 *standards for prescribed fire planning and im-*  
24 *plementation, to the extent authorized by Federal*  
25 *law;*

1           “(B) any applicable Federal standard that  
2           requires a certain number of personnel to be on-  
3           hand during prescribed burns may be satisfied  
4           by regional Federal, State, or Tribal resources  
5           and personnel; and

6           “(C) where appropriate, the Secretary shall  
7           work with other Federal agencies and Tribal,  
8           State, and local governments to coordinate and  
9           communicate the shared objectives of the pre-  
10          scribed burn and ensure activities comply with  
11          applicable law and regulations.”.

12          (c) COOPERATIVE FUNDS AND DEPOSITS ACT AMEND-  
13          MENTS.—Public Law 94–148 (commonly known as the “Co-  
14          operative Funds and Deposits Act”) is amended—

15               (1) in the first sentence of the first section (16  
16               U.S.C. 565a–1), by inserting “prescribed fire and  
17               prescribed fire training events,” after “including fire  
18               protection,”; and

19               (2) in section 2 (16 U.S.C. 565a–2), by inserting  
20               “, section 4 of the Tribal Forest Protection Act of  
21               2004 (Public Law 108–278; 118 Stat. 868), or section  
22               145(a) of the Fix Our Forests Act” after “authorized  
23               by section 1”.

1 **SEC. 146. FACILITATING RESPONSIBLE USE OF PRE-**  
 2 **SCRIBED FIRE.**

3 *The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest*  
 4 *Service, shall—*

5 *(1) use all available resources to ensure pre-*  
 6 *scribed burns conducted by the Forest Service are ex-*  
 7 *tinguished; and*

8 *(2) update the prescribed burn policies of the*  
 9 *Forest Service to reflect the findings and rec-*  
 10 *ommendations included in the report of the Forest*  
 11 *Service entitled “National Prescribed Fire Program*  
 12 *Review” and dated September 2022.*

13 **TITLE II—PROTECTING**  
 14 **COMMUNITIES AT RISK**  
 15 **Subtitle A—Community Wildfire**  
 16 **Risk Reduction**

17 **SEC. 201. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PRO-**  
 18 **GRAM.**

19 *(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120 days after*  
 20 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries and the*  
 21 *Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Ad-*  
 22 *ministrator of the United States Fire Administration, shall*  
 23 *jointly establish an interagency program, to be known as*  
 24 *the “Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program” (re-*  
 25 *ferred to in this section as the “Program”), which shall con-*  
 26 *sist of at least 1 representative from each of the following:*

1           (1) *The Office of Wildland Fire of the Depart-*  
2           *ment of the Interior.*

3           (2) *The National Park Service.*

4           (3) *The Bureau of Land Management.*

5           (4) *The United States Fish and Wildlife Service.*

6           (5) *The Bureau of Indian Affairs.*

7           (6) *The Forest Service.*

8           (7) *The Federal Emergency Management Agency.*

9           (8) *The United States Fire Administration.*

10          (9) *The National Institute of Standards and*  
11          *Technology.*

12          (10) *The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-*  
13          *ministration.*

14          (11) *The National Wildfire Coordinating Group.*

15          (b) *PURPOSE.*—*The purpose of the Program is to sup-*  
16          *port interagency coordination in reducing the risk of, and*  
17          *the damages resulting from, wildland fires in communities*  
18          *(including Tribal communities) in the wildland-urban*  
19          *interface through—*

20                 (1) *advancing research and science in wildland*  
21                 *fire resilience, land management, and risk reduction*  
22                 *in the built environment, including support for non-*  
23                 *Federal research partnerships;*

24                 (2) *using current programming already avail-*  
25                 *able to Federal agencies;*

1           (3) supporting the development of fire-resistant  
2 building methods, codes, and standards for commu-  
3 nity wildland fire risk reduction, including by pro-  
4 moting ignition-resistant construction, defensible  
5 space, and other measures demonstrated to effectively  
6 reduce wildland fire risks, as informed by the best  
7 available science;

8           (4) supporting adoption by Indian Tribes and  
9 local governmental entities of fire-resistant building  
10 methods, codes, and standards;

11           (5) supporting efforts by Indian Tribes and local  
12 governmental entities to address the effects of  
13 wildland fire on those communities, including prop-  
14 erty damages, air quality, and water quality;

15           (6) encouraging public-private partnerships to  
16 conduct hazardous fuels management activities near  
17 and within the wildland-urban interface, including  
18 creating or improving defensible space around struc-  
19 tures;

20           (7) providing technical and financial assistance  
21 targeted towards communities (including Tribal com-  
22 munities) through streamlined and unified technical  
23 assistance and grant management mechanisms, in-  
24 cluding the portal and uniform grant application es-  
25 tablished under subsection (c)—

1           (A) to encourage critical risk-reduction  
2           measures on private property with high wildland  
3           fire risk exposure in those communities; and

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

6           (8) reducing risk in the built environment by en-  
7           couraging increased mitigation measures, such as the  
8           use of ignition-resistant construction and retrofitting  
9           materials;

10          (9) coordinating budgets among the agencies de-  
11          scribed in subsection (a) to identify gaps and reduce  
12          overlap;

13          (10) supporting the integration of wildland fire  
14          risk reduction measure and technical assistance into  
15          existing Federal programs, where practicable; and

16          (11) advancing the development of early wildfire  
17          detection and warning systems for rapid response and  
18          community alerts.

19          (c) *PORTAL AND UNIFORM GRANT APPLICATION.*—

20               (1) *IN GENERAL.*—As part of the Program, the  
21               Secretaries and the Administrator of the Federal  
22               Emergency Management Agency shall establish a por-  
23               tal through which a person may submit a single, uni-  
24               form application for any of the following:

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

4           (B) *An emergency management perform-*  
5           *ance grant under section 662 of the Post-Katrina*  
6           *Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6*  
7           *U.S.C. 762).*

8           (C) *A grant under section 33 of the Federal*  
9           *Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15*  
10           *U.S.C. 2229).*

11           (D) *A grant under section 34 of the Federal*  
12           *Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15*  
13           *U.S.C. 2229a).*

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

19           (2) *SIMPLIFICATION OF APPLICATION.—In estab-*  
20           *lishing the portal and application under paragraph*  
21           *(1), the Secretaries and the Administrator of the Fed-*  
22           *eral Emergency Management Agency shall seek to re-*  
23           *duce the complexity and length of the application*  
24           *process for the forms of assistance described in para-*  
25           *graph (1).*

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

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

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

9                 (2) *ensure coordination, as appropriate, with*  
10            *other Federal agencies not identified in that sub-*  
11            *section; and*

12                 (3) *seek to gather feedback, as appropriate, from*  
13            *States, Indian Tribes, local governments, academic or*  
14            *research institutions, private entities, and such other*  
15            *entities as the Secretaries and the Secretary of Home-*  
16            *land Security, acting through the Administrator of*  
17            *the United States Fire Administration, determine to*  
18            *be appropriate, to improve the function and operation*  
19            *of the Program.*

20           (e) *COORDINATION.*—*The Secretaries and the Sec-*  
21            *retary of Homeland Security, acting through the Adminis-*  
22            *trator of the United States Fire Administration, shall seek*  
23            *to ensure that States and Indian Tribes are invited and*  
24            *represented in meetings and other activities under this sec-*  
25            *tion.*

1           (f) *REPORT.*—Not later than 2 years after the date of  
2 enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once  
3 every 2 years thereafter, the Program, acting through the  
4 representatives described in subsection (a), shall submit to  
5 the relevant committees of Congress a report that—

6           (1) describes the activities carried out under the  
7 Program during the 2 preceding years;

8           (2) assesses the management, coordination, im-  
9 plementation, and effectiveness of Program activities;

10           (3) suggests improvements for the coordination  
11 and engagement of the Program with States, Indian  
12 Tribes, units of local government, and at-risk commu-  
13 nities;

14           (4) assesses trends and developments in science  
15 and engineering relating to wildfire risk reduction in  
16 the built environment, land-use planning, and vegeta-  
17 tion management that could be used to improve the  
18 effectiveness or efficiency of the Program;

19           (5) provides recommendations, to the maximum  
20 extent practicable—

21           (A) to improve the Program, including the  
22 ability of the Program to provide financial or  
23 technical assistance to States, Indian Tribes,  
24 units of local government, and at-risk commu-  
25 nities; and

1           (B) to modify existing requirements for  
2           Federal assistance or programs that support  
3           community wildfire risk reduction to improve  
4           the delivery, effectiveness, or availability of such  
5           assistance or programs;

6           (6) describes and itemizes the total amount of  
7           funding relating to community wildfire risk reduction  
8           that was obligated during the 2 preceding fiscal years  
9           by the agencies described in subsection (a); and

10          (7) describes any feedback incorporated from  
11          non-Federal stakeholders to improve the function and  
12          operation of the Program.

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

15   **SEC. 202. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE RESEARCH PRO-**  
16                                   **GRAM.**

17          (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretaries, acting jointly,  
18          shall expand the Joint Fire Science Program to include a  
19          performance-driven research and development program, to  
20          be known as the “Community Wildfire Defense Research  
21          Program” (referred to in this section as the “Program”),  
22          for the purpose of testing and advancing innovative designs  
23          to establish or improve the wildfire resistance of structures  
24          and communities.

1           (b) *PROGRAM PRIORITIES.*—*In carrying out the Pro-*  
2 *gram, the Secretaries shall evaluate efforts and opportuni-*  
3 *ties on or after the date of enactment of this Act to establish*  
4 *wildfire-resistant structures and communities through—*

5                   (1) *different affordable building materials, in-*  
6 *cluding mass timber;*

7                   (2) *home hardening, including policies to*  
8 *incentivize and incorporate defensible space;*

9                   (3) *preparation for wildland fire smoke;*

10                  (4) *subdivision design and other land-use plan-*  
11 *ning and design;*

12                  (5) *landscape architecture; and*

13                  (6) *other wildfire-resistant designs, as deter-*  
14 *mined by the Secretaries.*

15           (c) *COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE INNOVATION*  
16 *PRIZE.*—

17                   (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*In carrying out the Program,*  
18 *the Secretaries shall carry out a competition through*  
19 *which a person may submit to the Secretaries innova-*  
20 *tive designs for the establishment or improvement of*  
21 *an ignition-resistant structure or fire-adapted com-*  
22 *munity.*

23                   (2) *PRIZE.*—*Subject to the availability of appro-*  
24 *priations made in advance for that purpose, the Sec-*  
25 *retaries may award a prize under the competition de-*

1       scribed in paragraph (1), based on criteria established  
2       by the Secretaries and in accordance with paragraph  
3       (3).

4               (3) *SCALE*.—In awarding a prize under para-  
5       graph (2), the Secretaries shall prioritize for an  
6       award designs with the greatest potential to scale to  
7       existing infrastructure.

8               (d) *COLLABORATION AND NONDUPLICATION*.—In car-  
9       rying out the Program, the Secretaries shall ensure collabo-  
10      ration and nonduplication of activities with the Building  
11      Technologies Office of the Department of Energy.

12              (e) *COORDINATION*.—In carrying out the Program, the  
13      Secretaries shall coordinate with the Administrator of the  
14      United States Fire Administration.

15              (f) *SUNSET*.—The Program terminates on the date  
16      that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

17      **SEC. 203. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE GRANT PRO-**  
18                                              **GRAM IMPROVEMENTS.**

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

21                      (1) by striking paragraph (1)(B), and inserting  
22      the following:

23                                      “(B) to carry out projects, including—

24                                                      “(i) landscape and hazardous fuels re-  
25                                              duction treatments;

1           “(ii) the retrofit, modification, or  
2 maintenance of a structure to improve re-  
3 sistance to fire;

4           “(iii) creating defensible space around  
5 structures to improve resistance to fire;

6           “(iv) hardening infrastructure, includ-  
7 ing evacuation routes, to improve resistance  
8 to fire;

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

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

15 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

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

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

24 (3) in paragraph (3)—

1           (A) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking  
2           “continental”; and

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

4           “(D) *LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EX-*  
5           *PENSES.—Not more than 7 percent of funds obli-*  
6           *gated under this subsection may be used for ad-*  
7           *ministrative expenses incurred by the Secretary*  
8           *of Agriculture.”.*

9   **SEC. 204. UPDATED DEFINITION OF AT-RISK COMMUNITY.**

10       Section 101 of the *Healthy Forests Restoration Act of*  
11    2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511) is amended by striking paragraph  
12    (1) and inserting the following:

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

15           “(A) *an interface community (as defined in*  
16       *the notice entitled ‘Wildland Urban Interface*  
17       *Communities Within the Vicinity of Federal*  
18       *Lands That Are at High Risk From Wildfire’*  
19       *(66 Fed. Reg. 753 (January 4, 2001)) issued by*  
20       *the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of*  
21       *the Interior in accordance with title IV of the*  
22       *Department of the Interior and Related Agencies*  
23       *Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat. 1009));*

24           “(B) *a group of homes and other structures*  
25       *with basic infrastructure and services (such as*

1            *utilities and collectively maintained transpor-*  
 2            *tation routes) at risk from wildfire, as recognized*  
 3            *in a fireshed, State, Tribal, local, regional, terri-*  
 4            *torial, or national wildfire risk assessment; or*

5            *“(C) a group of homes and other structures*  
 6            *with basic infrastructure and services (such as*  
 7            *utilities and collectively maintained transpor-*  
 8            *tation routes), as determined by the Secretary of*  
 9            *Agriculture.”.*

10        ***Subtitle B—Vegetation Manage-***  
 11        ***ment, Reforestation, and Local***  
 12        ***Fire Risk Mitigation***

13        ***SEC. 211. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, FACILITY INSPEC-***  
 14                                            ***TION, AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE***  
 15                                            ***RELATING TO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND***  
 16                                            ***DISTRIBUTION FACILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY.***

17            *(a) HAZARD TREES WITHIN 150 FEET OF ELECTRIC*  
 18        *POWER LINE.—Section 512(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Land*  
 19        *Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.*  
 20        *1772(a)(1)(B)) is amended—*

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

23                                            *(2) in clause (i), by inserting “to” after the*  
 24                                            *clause designation; and*

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

3           (b) *CONSULTATION WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS.*—  
4           Section 512(c)(3)(E) of the Federal Land Policy and Man-  
5           agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(3)(E)) is amend-  
6           ed—

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

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

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

11                   “(iii) consulting with a private land-  
12                   owner with respect to any hazard trees  
13                   identified for removal from land owned by  
14                   the private landowner.”.

15          (c) *REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS.*—Section  
16          512(c)(4)(A) of the Federal Land Policy and Management  
17          Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(4)(A)) is amended by strik-  
18          ing clause (iv) and inserting the following:

19                   “(iv) ensures that—

20                           “(I) a plan submitted without a  
21                           modification under clause (iii) shall be  
22                           automatically approved by the date  
23                           that is 120 days after the date of sub-  
24                           mission; and

1                   “(II) for a plan submitted with a  
2                   modification under clause (iii), if the  
3                   plan is not approved by the date that  
4                   is 120 days after the date of submis-  
5                   sion, the Secretary concerned shall de-  
6                   velop and submit to the owner and op-  
7                   erator a letter describing—

8                   “(aa) a detailed timeline (to  
9                   conclude by the date that is 165  
10                  days after the date of submission  
11                  of the plan) for completing review  
12                  of the plan;

13                  “(bb) any identified defi-  
14                  ciencies in the plan and specific  
15                  opportunities for the owner or op-  
16                  erator to address each deficiency;  
17                  and

18                  “(cc) any other relevant in-  
19                  formation, as determined by the  
20                  Secretary concerned.”.

21                  (d) *TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.*—Section 512 of the  
22                  *Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976* (43  
23                  *U.S.C. 1772*) is amended—

1           (1) *in the section heading, by striking*  
2           “**MANAGMENT**” *and inserting “**MANAGEMENT**”;*  
3           *and*

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

6           (e) *VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW.—Not*  
7           *later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act,*  
8           *the Secretaries shall submit to the relevant committees of*  
9           *Congress a report describing, with respect to vegetation*  
10           *management plans submitted under section 512 of the Fed-*  
11           *eral Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.*  
12           *1772)—*

13           (1) *the extent to which those vegetation manage-*  
14           *ment plans under are reviewed and approved within*  
15           *the 120-day period required under subsection*  
16           *(c)(4)(A)(iv) of that section;*

17           (2) *for any vegetation management plan not re-*  
18           *viewed and approved by the applicable deadline de-*  
19           *scribed in paragraph (1), the reason for any delay in*  
20           *review or approval; and*

21           (3) *for any vegetation management plan sub-*  
22           *mitted for review and approval for which the Sec-*  
23           *retary concerned requested a modification, the*  
24           *timeline for reviewing the modification on resubmis-*  
25           *sion.*

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

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

4 *(1) by redesignating subsections (j) and (k) as*  
 5 *subsections (k) and (l), respectively; and*

6 *(2) by inserting after subsection (i) the following:*

7 *“(j) PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH OWNERS AND*  
 8 *OPERATORS OF ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION*  
 9 *FACILITIES.—*

10 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—In any special use permit or*  
 11 *easement on National Forest System land or land*  
 12 *under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Manage-*  
 13 *ment provided to the owner or operator of an electric*  
 14 *transmission or distribution facility, the Secretary*  
 15 *concerned may provide permission to cut and remove*  
 16 *trees or other vegetation from within striking distance*  
 17 *of the electric transmission or distribution facility*  
 18 *without requiring a separate timber sale, if that cut-*  
 19 *ting and removal is consistent with—*

20 *“(A) the applicable plan;*

21 *“(B) the applicable land and resource man-*  
 22 *agement plan or land use plan; and*

23 *“(C) other applicable environmental laws*  
 24 *(including regulations).*

25 *“(2) USE OF PROCEEDS.—A special use permit*  
 26 *or easement that includes permission for cutting and*

1 removal described in paragraph (1) shall include a  
 2 requirement that, if the owner or operator of the elec-  
 3 tric transmission or distribution facility sells any  
 4 portion of the material removed under the permit or  
 5 easement, the owner or operator shall provide to the  
 6 Secretary concerned any proceeds received from the  
 7 sale, less any costs incurred in 1 or both of the fol-  
 8 lowing activities:

9 “(A) Carrying out the project.

10 “(B) Maintenance within the vicinity of the  
 11 electric transmission or distribution facility that  
 12 reduces fire risk.

13 “(3) EFFECT.—Nothing in paragraph (2) shall  
 14 require the sale of any material removed under a per-  
 15 mit or easement that includes permission for cutting  
 16 and removal described in paragraph (1).”.

17 **SEC. 213. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR HIGH-PRIORITY**  
 18 **HAZARD TREES.**

19 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE.—The term  
 21 “high-priority hazard tree” means a standing tree  
 22 that—

23 (A) presents a visible hazard to people or  
 24 property due to conditions such as deterioration  
 25 of, or damage to, the root system, trunk, stem, or

1           *limbs of the tree, or the direction or lean of the*  
2           *tree, as determined by the Secretary;*

3           *(B) is determined by the Secretary to be*  
4           *highly likely to fail and, on failure, would be*  
5           *highly likely to cause injury to people or damage*  
6           *to Federal property; and*

7           *(C) is located—*

8                   *(i) within 300 feet of a National Forest*  
9                   *System road with a maintenance level of 3,*  
10                   *4, or 5;*

11                   *(ii) along a National Forest System*  
12                   *trail; or*

13                   *(iii) in a developed recreation site on*  
14                   *National Forest System land that is oper-*  
15                   *ated and maintained by the Secretary.*

16           (2) *HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE ACTIVITY.—*

17                   *(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “high-priority*  
18                   *hazard tree activity” means a forest manage-*  
19                   *ment activity that mitigates the risks associated*  
20                   *with high-priority hazard trees, including prun-*  
21                   *ing, felling, and disposal of a high-priority haz-*  
22                   *ard tree.*

23                   *(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “high-priority*  
24                   *hazard tree activity” does not include any activ-*  
25                   *ity—*

1                   (i) *conducted in a wilderness area or*  
2                   *wilderness study area;*

3                   (ii) *for the construction of a perma-*  
4                   *nent road or permanent trail;*

5                   (iii) *conducted on Federal land on*  
6                   *which, by Act of Congress or Presidential*  
7                   *proclamation, the removal of vegetation is*  
8                   *restricted or prohibited;*

9                   (iv) *conducted in an area in which ac-*  
10                   *tivities described in subparagraph (A)*  
11                   *would be inconsistent with the applicable*  
12                   *land and resource management plan; or*

13                   (v) *conducted in an inventoried*  
14                   *roadless area.*

15           (b) *CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—*

16                   (1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after*  
17                   *the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall*  
18                   *develop a categorical exclusion (as defined in 111 of*  
19                   *the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42*  
20                   *U.S.C. 4336e)) for high-priority hazard tree activi-*  
21                   *ties.*

22                   (2) *ADMINISTRATION.—In developing and ad-*  
23                   *ministering the categorical exclusion under para-*  
24                   *graph (1), the Secretary shall—*

1           (A) *comply with the National Environ-*  
2           *mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et*  
3           *seq.); and*

4           (B) *apply the extraordinary circumstances*  
5           *procedures under section 220.6 of title 36, Code*  
6           *of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations),*  
7           *in determining whether to use the categorical ex-*  
8           *clusion.*

9           (3) *PROJECT SIZE LIMITATION.—A project car-*  
10          *ried out using the categorical exclusion developed*  
11          *under paragraph (1) may not exceed 6,000 acres.*

12 **SEC. 214. SEEDS OF SUCCESS STRATEGY.**

13          (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the*  
14          *date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall jointly*  
15          *develop and implement a strategy, which may be an update*  
16          *to or expansion of existing efforts, to be known as the “Seeds*  
17          *of Success strategy”, to enhance the domestic supply chain*  
18          *of seeds, which may include herbaceous and tree seeds.*

19          (b) *ELEMENTS.—The strategy developed under sub-*  
20          *section (a) shall include a plan for each of the following:*

21                  (1) *Facilitating sustained interagency coordina-*  
22                  *tion in, and a comprehensive approach to, native*  
23                  *plant materials development and restoration.*

1           (2) *Promoting the re-seeding of native or fire-re-*  
2           *sistant vegetation post-wildfire, particularly in the*  
3           *wildland-urban interface.*

4           (3) *Creating and consolidating information re-*  
5           *lating to native or fire-resistant vegetation and shar-*  
6           *ing that information with Indian Tribes and State*  
7           *and local governments.*

8           (4) *Building regional programs and partner-*  
9           *ships to promote the development of materials made*  
10          *from plants native to the United States and restore*  
11          *those plants to their respective, native habitats within*  
12          *the United States, giving priority to the building of*  
13          *those programs and partnerships in regions of the*  
14          *Bureau of Land Management where the partnerships*  
15          *and programs do not exist on the date of enactment*  
16          *of this Act.*

17          (5) *Expanding workforce and infrastructure ca-*  
18          *capacity to locally collect, process, and store seed as nec-*  
19          *essary to implement revegetation and reforestation*  
20          *projects on priority land (as defined in section*  
21          *215(b)(1)).*

22          (6) *Expanding warehouse systems of the Secre-*  
23          *taries, particularly the cold storage capacity of the*  
24          *systems.*



1 (b) *INTERIOR REFORESTATION PROGRAM.*—

2 (1) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this subsection:*

3 (A) *COVERED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER*  
4 *EDUCATION.*—*The term “covered institution of*  
5 *higher education” means a land-grant college or*  
6 *university, including—*

7 (i) *an 1862 Institution (as defined in*  
8 *section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Ex-*  
9 *tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998*  
10 *(7 U.S.C. 7601));*

11 (ii) *an 1890 Institution (as defined in*  
12 *that section);*

13 (iii) *an institution that is eligible to*  
14 *receive funding under Public Law 87–788*  
15 *(commonly known as the “McIntire-Stennis*  
16 *Act of 1962”); and*

17 (iv) *a 1994 Institution (as defined in*  
18 *section 532 of the Equity in Educational*  
19 *Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.*  
20 *301 note; Public Law 103–382)).*

21 (B) *NATURAL REGENERATION; REFOREST-*  
22 *ATION; UNPLANNED EVENT.*—*The terms “natural*  
23 *regeneration”, “reforestation”, and “unplanned*  
24 *event” have the meanings given those terms in*  
25 *section 3(e)(4)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland*

1           *Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16*  
2           *U.S.C. 1601(e)(4)(A)).*

3           (C) *PRIORITY LAND.*—*The term “priority*  
4           *land” means historically forested land under the*  
5           *jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned that, due*  
6           *to an unplanned event—*

7                     (i) *requires reforestation to meet the*  
8                     *objectives described in an applicable land*  
9                     *use plan; and*

10                    (ii) *is unlikely to experience natural*  
11                    *regeneration.*

12           (2) *PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.*—*Not later than*  
13           *1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-*  
14           *retary of the Interior shall establish a program to im-*  
15           *plement reforestation projects on priority land identi-*  
16           *fied under paragraph (4)(A), in accordance with this*  
17           *section.*

18           (3) *SUPPORT.*—*In carrying out the program es-*  
19           *tablished under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the*  
20           *Interior may enter into—*

21                    (A) *cooperative agreements in accordance*  
22                    *with processes established by the Secretary of the*  
23                    *Interior; and*

24                    (B) *contracts, including contracts entered*  
25                    *into pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination*

1           *and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301*  
2           *et seq.).*

3           (4) *ANNUAL IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY*  
4           *PROJECTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of*  
5           *enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the*  
6           *Secretary of the Interior shall—*

7                   (A) *identify priority land within the*  
8                   *United States;*

9                   (B) *establish a list of reforestation projects*  
10                  *on priority land for the upcoming year, which*  
11                  *may include activities to ensure adequate and*  
12                  *appropriate seed and seedling availability to fur-*  
13                  *ther the objectives of other priority projects; and*

14                  (C) *estimate the costs necessary to imple-*  
15                  *ment the list established under subparagraph*  
16                  *(B).*

17           (5) *CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the pro-*  
18           *gram under this subsection, the Secretary of the Inte-*  
19           *rior shall consult or coordinate with, as appro-*  
20           *priate—*

21                   (A) *applicable State and local governments;*

22                   (B) *applicable Indian Tribes;*

23                   (C) *covered institutions of higher education;*

24                   (D) *Federal agencies that administer Fed-*  
25                  *eral land that adjoins, or is adjacent to, land*

1           that is the subject of a project identified under  
2           paragraph (4)(B); and

3                   (E) other stakeholders, at the discretion of  
4           the Secretary of the Interior.

5           (6) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year  
6           after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually  
7           thereafter for each of the following 6 years, the Sec-  
8           retary of the Interior shall submit to the relevant  
9           committees of Congress, the Committee on Appropria-  
10          tions of the Senate, and the Committee on Appropria-  
11          tions of the House of Representatives a report that in-  
12          cludes the following, with respect to the period covered  
13          by the report:

14                   (A) An accounting of all priority land.

15                   (B) A list of projects identified under para-  
16          graph (4)(B).

17                   (C) An accounting of any progress made on  
18          projects identified in any previous report under  
19          this paragraph.

20                   (D) An accounting of each contract and co-  
21          operative agreement established under the pro-  
22          gram under this subsection.

23                   (E) The amounts necessary to be appro-  
24          priated, in addition to amounts available from  
25          other sources, to implement reforestation projects

1           *on all priority land by not later than 10 years*  
 2           *after the date of submission of the report.*

3           (7) *FUNDING SOURCE REPORT.*—*Not later than 1*  
 4           *year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-*  
 5           *retary of the Interior shall submit to the relevant*  
 6           *committees of Congress, the Committee on Appropria-*  
 7           *tions of the Senate, and the Committee on Appropria-*  
 8           *tions of the House of Representatives a report that de-*  
 9           *scribes options for dedicated Federal funding other*  
 10          *than annual appropriations to support existing and*  
 11          *anticipated reforestation needs, including seed and*  
 12          *seedling availability.*

13          (8) *NONDUPLICATION.*—*In carrying out this sec-*  
 14          *tion, the Secretary of the Interior shall collaborate*  
 15          *with the Secretary and the Secretary of Defense to en-*  
 16          *sure the nonduplication of activities carried out*  
 17          *under section 214.*

18 **SEC. 216. REFORESTATION, NURSERIES, AND GENETIC RE-**

19                                   **SOURCES SUPPORT.**

20          (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

21                  (1) *ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.*—*The term “eligible re-*  
 22                  *ipient” means—*

23                                   (A) *a State forestry agency;*

24                                   (B) *an Indian Tribe; and*

1           (C) a private nursery or seed orchard that  
 2           has experience, as determined by the Secretary,  
 3           in growing high-quality native trees or seeds of  
 4           appropriate genetic sources in bareroot or con-  
 5           tainer stocktypes specific for reforestation, res-  
 6           toration, or conservation, including native  
 7           plants and seeds that are of cultural significance  
 8           to Indian Tribes.

9           (2) NURSERY.—The term “nursery” means a  
 10          tree or native plant nursery.

11          (3) SEED ORCHARD.—The term “seed orchard”  
 12          means a tree or native plant seed orchard.

13          (b) PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATION, AND OTHER AS-  
 14          SISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF NURSERIES AND SEED OR-  
 15          CHARDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the  
 16          Forest Service, shall—

17               (1) partner with Federal and State agencies, In-  
 18               dian Tribes, institutions of higher education, non-  
 19               profit organizations, and private nurseries to provide  
 20               training, technical assistance, and research to nursery  
 21               and tree establishment programs that support natural  
 22               regeneration, reforestation, agroforestry, and  
 23               afforestation;

24               (2) promote information-sharing to improve  
 25               technical knowledge and practices and understand re-

1       *forestation needs and demands for seed or seedlings,*  
2       *climate change impacts, tree genetics for resistance to*  
3       *pathogens and drought, and other issues as necessary*  
4       *to address all facets of the reforestation supply chain;*

5           *(3) provide technical and financial assistance to*  
6       *international nursery and tree establishment pro-*  
7       *grams through the Forest Service International Pro-*  
8       *grams, the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, and*  
9       *the International Institute of Tropical Forestry;*

10          *(4) collaborate with other relevant Federal de-*  
11       *partments and agencies, including the Foreign Agri-*  
12       *cultural Service, the United States Agency for Inter-*  
13       *national Development, and the United States Fish*  
14       *and Wildlife Service, and international organizations,*  
15       *including the Food and Agriculture Organization of*  
16       *the United Nations, to provide technical and finan-*  
17       *cial assistance relating to nurseries and reforestation;*

18          *(5) coordinate the efforts of the Department of*  
19       *Agriculture—*

20            *(A) to address the challenges associated with*  
21            *the reforestation supply chain, including work-*  
22            *force development; and*

23            *(B) to leverage economic development assist-*  
24            *ance for work with private nurseries;*

1           (6) *expand reforestation supply chains through*  
2 *science and research, seed collection and storage,*  
3 *workforce development, and nursery infrastructure*  
4 *and operations; and*

5           (7) *shorten the timeline for the approval of per-*  
6 *mits to collect seeds on National Forest System land.*

7           (c) *NURSERY AND SEED ORCHARD GRANTS.—*

8           (1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after*  
9 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall*  
10 *establish or expand an existing program to provide*  
11 *grants to eligible recipients to support nurseries and*  
12 *seed orchards.*

13           (2) *ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—An eligible recipient*  
14 *that receives a grant under paragraph (1) shall carry*  
15 *out a project that comprises 1 or more of the following*  
16 *activities:*

17                   (A) *The development, expansion, enhance-*  
18 *ment, or improvement of nursery production ca-*  
19 *capacity or other infrastructure—*

20                           (i) *to improve seed collection and stor-*  
21 *age;*

22                           (ii) *to increase seedling production,*  
23 *storage, and distribution; or*

24                           (iii) *to enhance seedling survival and*  
25 *properly manage tree genetic resources.*

1           (B) *The establishment or expansion of a*  
2           *nursery or seed orchard, including by acquiring*  
3           *equipment for a nursery or seed orchard.*

4           (C) *The development or implementation of*  
5           *quality control measures at nurseries or seed or-*  
6           *chards.*

7           (D) *The promotion of workforce develop-*  
8           *ment within any facet of the reforestation supply*  
9           *chain.*

10          (E) *Such other activities as the Secretary*  
11          *determines to be appropriate.*

12 **SEC. 217. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPAYMENT.**

13          (a) *ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD OPERATING PRO-*  
14          *CEDURES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-*  
15          *ment of this Act, the Secretaries shall—*

16               (1) *establish standard operating procedures re-*  
17               *lating to payment timelines for fire suppression cost-*  
18               *share agreements established under section 2 of the*  
19               *Act of May 27, 1955 (42 U.S.C. 1856a) (commonly*  
20               *known as the “Reciprocal Fire Protection Act”); and*

21               (2) *with respect to each fire suppression cost-*  
22               *share agreement in operation on that date—*

23                       (A) *review the agreement; and*

1                   (B) *modify the agreement as necessary to*  
2                   *comply with the standard operating procedures*  
3                   *established under paragraph (1).*

4           (b) *ALIGNMENT OF AGREEMENTS.—The standard op-*  
5           *erating procedures under subsection (a)(1) shall include a*  
6           *requirement that each fire suppression cost-share agreement*  
7           *shall be aligned with each cooperative fire protection agree-*  
8           *ment applicable to the entity subject to the fire suppression*  
9           *cost-share agreement.*

10          (c) *PAYMENTS.—With respect to payments made pur-*  
11          *suant to a fire suppression cost-share agreement, the stand-*  
12          *ard operating procedures under subsection (a)(1) shall re-*  
13          *quire that the paying entity shall reimburse a local fire de-*  
14          *partment or a State wildland firefighter agency if that enti-*  
15          *ty submits to the paying entity an invoice in accordance*  
16          *with applicable cost settlement procedures.*

17          (d) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress*  
18          *that the Secretaries should carry out reciprocal fire suppres-*  
19          *sion cost-share agreement repayments to local fire suppres-*  
20          *sion organizations and State wildland firefighting agencies*  
21          *as soon as practicable, but not later than 1 year, after the*  
22          *date on which the applicable fire suppression occurs.*

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

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

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

9 (a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

10 (1) *BIOCHAR.—The term “biochar” means car-*  
11 *bonized biomass produced by converting feedstock*  
12 *through reductive thermal processing for a nonfuel*  
13 *use.*

14 (2) *ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-*  
15 *ty” means—*

16 (A) *a unit of State or local government or*  
17 *Indian Tribe;*

18 (B) *a special district;*

19 (C) *an eligible institution;*

20 (D) *a public, private, or cooperative entity*  
21 *or organization;*

22 (E) *a National Laboratory (as defined in*  
23 *section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42*  
24 *U.S.C. 15801)); and*

1           (F) a partnership or consortium of 2 or  
2           more entities described in subparagraphs (A)  
3           through (E).

4           (3) *ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.*—The term “eligible  
5           institution” means a land-grant college or university,  
6           including—

7                   (A) an 1862 Institution (as defined in sec-  
8                   tion 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,  
9                   and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.  
10                  7601));

11                  (B) an 1890 Institution (as defined in that  
12                  section);

13                  (C) an institution that is eligible to receive  
14                  funding under Public Law 87–788 (commonly  
15                  known as the “McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962”);  
16                  and

17                  (D) a 1994 Institution (as defined in sec-  
18                  tion 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-  
19                  Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note;  
20                  Public Law 103–382)).

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

1           (5) *SECRETARIES.*—*The term “Secretaries”*  
2           *means—*

3                   (A) *the Secretary, acting through the Chief*  
4                   *of the Forest Service;*

5                   (B) *the Secretary of the Interior, acting*  
6                   *through the Director of the Bureau of Land*  
7                   *Management; and*

8                   (C) *the Secretary of Energy, acting through*  
9                   *the Director of the Office of Science.*

10          (b) *DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.*—

11               (1) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—

12                   (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Subject to the avail-*  
13                   *ability of appropriations made in advance for*  
14                   *that purpose, not later than 2 years after the*  
15                   *date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries*  
16                   *shall establish a program under which the Secre-*  
17                   *taries shall enter into partnerships with eligible*  
18                   *entities to carry out demonstration projects to*  
19                   *support the development and commercialization*  
20                   *of biochar in accordance with this subsection.*

21                   (B) *LOCATION.*—*In carrying out the pro-*  
22                   *gram established under subparagraph (A), the*  
23                   *Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent prac-*  
24                   *ticable, enter into partnerships with eligible enti-*  
25                   *ties in a manner that ensures that—*

1                   (i) at least 1 demonstration project is  
2                   carried out in each region of the Forest  
3                   Service; and

4                   (ii) at least 1 demonstration project is  
5                   carried out in each region of the Bureau of  
6                   Land Management.

7                   (2) *PROPOSALS.*—To be eligible to enter into a  
8                   partnership under paragraph (1)(A), an eligible enti-  
9                   ty shall submit to the Secretaries a proposal at such  
10                  time, in such manner, and containing such informa-  
11                  tion as the Secretaries may require.

12                  (3) *PRIORITY.*—In selecting proposals under  
13                  paragraph (2), the Secretaries shall give priority to  
14                  entering into partnerships with eligible entities that  
15                  submit proposals to carry out biochar demonstration  
16                  projects that—

17                         (A) have the most potential to improve for-  
18                         est health and resiliency;

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

22                         (C) have the most potential to dem-  
23                         onstrate—

24                                 (i) new and innovative uses of biochar;

1                   (ii) market viability for cost-effective  
2 biochar-based products;

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

6                   (iv) any combination of the purposes  
7 described in clauses (i) through (iii);

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

11                   (i) nearby land identified as having  
12 high, very high, or extreme risk of wildfire;

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

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

18                   (E) satisfy any combination of the purposes  
19 described in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

20                   (4) USE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the pro-  
21 gram established under paragraph (1)(A), the Secre-  
22 taries may enter into partnerships and provide fund-  
23 ing to the partnerships to carry out demonstration  
24 projects—

1           (A) to acquire and test various feedstocks  
2           and the efficacy of those feedstocks;

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

6           (C) to demonstrate—

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

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

11           (D) to build, expand, or establish biochar  
12           facilities;

13           (E) to conduct research relating to new and  
14           innovative uses of biochar;

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

18           (G) to carry out any other activities the  
19           Secretaries determine to be appropriate; or

20           (H) to achieve any combination of the pur-  
21           poses described in subparagraphs (A) through  
22           (G).

23           (5) *FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS.*—To the max-  
24           imum extent practicable, an eligible entity that car-  
25           ries out a biochar demonstration project under this

1        *subsection shall derive not less than 50 percent of the*  
2        *feedstock used under the project from forest thinning*  
3        *and management activities, including mill residues,*  
4        *conducted on National Forest System land or public*  
5        *land.*

6            (6) *REVIEW.—*

7            (A) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall*  
8            *conduct regionally specific research, including*  
9            *economic analyses and lifecycle assessments, re-*  
10           *lating to any biochar produced from a dem-*  
11           *onstration project carried out under the program*  
12           *established under paragraph (1)(A), including—*

13                (i) *the effects of that biochar on—*

14                        (I) *forest health and resiliency;*

15                        (II) *carbon sequestration, includ-*  
16                        *ing increasing soil carbon in the short-*  
17                        *term and long-term;*

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

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

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

4                   (ii) *the effectiveness of biochar as a co-*  
5                   *product of biofuels or in biochemicals; and*

6                   (iii) *the effectiveness of other potential*  
7                   *uses of biochar to determine if any such use*  
8                   *is technologically and commercially viable.*

9                   (B) *COORDINATION.*—*The Secretaries, to the*  
10                   *maximum extent practicable, shall provide data,*  
11                   *analyses, and other relevant information col-*  
12                   *lected under subparagraph (A) to recipients of*  
13                   *grants under subsection (c).*

14                   (7) *LIMITATION ON FUNDING FOR ESTABLISHING*  
15                   *BIOCHAR FACILITIES.*—*The amount provided by the*  
16                   *Secretaries under this subsection to an eligible entity*  
17                   *for establishing a biochar facility may not exceed 35*  
18                   *percent of the total capital cost of establishing that fa-*  
19                   *cility.*

20                   (c) *BIOCHAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT*  
21                   *PROGRAM.*—

22                   (1) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*The Secretary of the Inte-*  
23                   *rior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy,*  
24                   *shall establish, or expand an existing, applied biochar*  
25                   *research and development grant program to provide*

1       to eligible institutions grants, on a competitive basis,  
2       to carry out the activities described in paragraph (3).

3           (2) *APPLICATIONS.*—To be eligible to receive a  
4       grant under this subsection, an eligible institution  
5       shall submit to the Secretary of the Interior a pro-  
6       posal at such time, in such manner, and containing  
7       such information as the Secretary of the Interior may  
8       require.

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

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

15           (B) the effect of biochar on soil health,  
16      water retention, and air quality emissions, tak-  
17      ing into account variations in biochar, soil, cli-  
18      mate, and other factors;

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

21           (D) best management practices with respect  
22      to biochar and biochar-based products that maxi-  
23      mize—

24           (i) carbon sequestration benefits; and

1                   (ii) the commercial viability and ap-  
2                   plication of those products in forestry, agri-  
3                   culture, environmental remediation, water  
4                   quality improvement, and any other similar  
5                   uses, as determined by the Secretary of the  
6                   Interior;

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

9                   (i) uses in agriculture and environ-  
10                  mental remediation; and

11                  (ii) use as a coproduct in fuel produc-  
12                  tion;

13                  (F) new and innovative uses for biochar by-  
14                  products; and

15                  (G) opportunities to expand markets for  
16                  biochar and create related jobs, particularly in  
17                  rural areas.

18           (d) *REPORTS.*—

19                  (1) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.*—Not later than 2  
20                  years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
21                  retaries shall submit to Congress a report that—

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

1           (B) identifies any area of research needed to  
2           advance biochar commercialization; and

3           (C) identifies barriers to advancing biochar  
4           commercialization, including permitting and  
5           siting considerations.

6           (2) **MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF**  
7           **PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.**—Beginning with the second  
8           fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment of  
9           this Act, and annually thereafter until the date de-  
10          scribed in subsection (e), the Secretaries shall include  
11          in the materials submitted to Congress in support of  
12          the President's budget pursuant to section 1105 of  
13          title 31, United States Code, a report describing, for  
14          the fiscal year covered by the report, the status of—

15               (A) each demonstration project carried out  
16               under subsection (b); and

17               (B) each research and development grant  
18               provided under subsection (c).

19          (e) **SUNSET.**—The authority to carry out this section  
20          terminates on the date that is 7 years after the date of en-  
21          actment of this Act.

22          **SEC. 302. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**  
23          **PORTS.**

24          (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1           (1) *FEDERAL LAND*.—The term “Federal land”  
2 means any land under the jurisdiction of—

3                   (A) *the Secretary; or*

4                   (B) *the Secretary of the Interior.*

5           (2) *HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIVITY*.—

6                   (A) *IN GENERAL*.—The term “hazardous  
7 *fuels reduction activity*” means any vegetation  
8 *management activity to reduce the risk of wild-*  
9 *fire, including mechanical treatments, grazing,*  
10 *and prescribed burning.*

11                   (B) *EXCLUSION*.—The term “hazardous  
12 *fuels reduction activity*” does not include the  
13 *awarding of a contract to conduct an activity*  
14 *described in subparagraph (A).*

15           (b) *MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF PRESI-*  
16 *DENT’S BUDGET*.—

17                   (1) *IN GENERAL*.—Beginning with the first fiscal  
18 *year that begins after the date of enactment of this*  
19 *Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary concerned*  
20 *shall include in the materials submitted to Congress*  
21 *in support of the President’s budget pursuant to sec-*  
22 *tion 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a report de-*  
23 *scribing the number of acres of Federal land on which*  
24 *the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous fuels*

1        *reduction activities during the preceding fiscal year,*  
2        *as determined using—*

3                *(A) the methodology of the Secretary con-*  
4                *cerned in effect on the day before the date of en-*  
5                *actment of this Act; and*

6                *(B) the methodology described in paragraph*  
7                *(2).*

8                *(2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of a report*  
9                *required under paragraph (1), the Secretary con-*  
10               *cerned shall—*

11               *(A) in determining the number of acres of*  
12               *Federal land on which the Secretary concerned*  
13               *carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities*  
14               *during the period covered by the report—*

15               *(i) record acres of Federal land on*  
16               *which hazardous fuels reduction activities*  
17               *were completed during that period; and*

18               *(ii) record each acre described in*  
19               *clause (i) once in the report, regardless of*  
20               *whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction*  
21               *activities were carried out on that acre dur-*  
22               *ing the applicable period; and*

23               *(B) with respect to the acres of Federal land*  
24               *recorded in the report, include information relat-*  
25               *ing to—*

1           (i) *which acres are located in the*  
2           *wildland-urban interface;*

3           (ii) *the level of hazard potential of the*  
4           *acres on the first and last day of the period*  
5           *covered by the report;*

6           (iii) *the types of hazardous fuels reduc-*  
7           *tion activities completed with respect to the*  
8           *acres, including a description of whether*  
9           *those hazardous fuels reduction activities*  
10          *were conducted—*

11           (I) *in a wildfire managed for re-*  
12           *source benefits; or*

13           (II) *through a planned hazardous*  
14           *fuels reduction project;*

15           (iv) *the cost per-acre of the hazardous*  
16           *fuels reduction activities carried out during*  
17           *the period covered by the report;*

18           (v) *the region or System unit in which*  
19           *the acres are located; and*

20           (vi) *the effectiveness of the hazardous*  
21           *fuels reduction activities with respect to re-*  
22           *ducing the risk of wildfire.*

23           (3) *TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned*  
24           *shall make each report submitted under paragraph*  
25           *(1) publicly available on the website of the Depart-*

1 *ment of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior,*  
2 *as applicable.*

3 *(c) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—*

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

9 *(2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures*  
10 *required under paragraph (1) shall include—*

11 *(A) regular, standardized data reviews of*  
12 *the accuracy and timely input of data used to*  
13 *track hazardous fuels reduction activities;*

14 *(B) verification methods that validate*  
15 *whether those data accurately correlate to the*  
16 *hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out*  
17 *by the Secretary concerned;*

18 *(C) an analysis of the short- and long-term*  
19 *effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction ac-*  
20 *tivities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and*

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

1           *which acres are located outside the wildland-*  
2           *urban interface.*

3           (3) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 45 days after im-*  
4           *plementing the standardized procedures required*  
5           *under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall*  
6           *submit to Congress a report that describes—*

7                     (A) *the standardized procedures; and*

8                     (B) *any programmatic or policy rec-*  
9                     *ommendations to Congress to address limitations*  
10                    *in tracking data relating to hazardous fuels re-*  
11                    *duction activities under this subsection.*

12          (d) *GAO STUDY.*—*Not later than 2 years after the date*  
13 *of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the*  
14 *United States shall—*

15                 (1) *conduct a study regarding the implementa-*  
16                 *tion of this section, including any limitations with*  
17                 *respect to—*

18                     (A) *reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-*  
19                     *tivities under subsection (b); or*

20                     (B) *tracking data relating to hazardous*  
21                     *fuels reduction activities under subsection (c);*

22                     *and*

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

25                 (e) *NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.*—

1           (1) *IN GENERAL.*—No additional funds are au-  
2           thorized to carry out this section.

3           (2) *SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.*—The activi-  
4           ties authorized by this section are subject to the avail-  
5           ability of appropriations made in advance for those  
6           purposes.

7 **SEC. 303. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DE-**  
8                                   **PLOYMENT AND DEMONSTRATION PARTNER-**  
9                                   **SHIP.**

10          (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

11           (1) *COVERED AGENCY.*—The term “covered agen-  
12           cy” means—

13                           (A) each Federal land management agency  
14                           (as defined in section 802 of the Federal Lands  
15                           Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801));

16                           (B) the Department of Defense;

17                           (C) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

18                           (D) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
19                           Administration;

20                           (E) the Federal Emergency Management  
21                           Agency;

22                           (F) the National Aeronautics and Space  
23                           Administration;

24                           (G) the United States Fire Administration;

25                           (H) the General Services Administration;

1           (I) a State, Tribal, county, or municipal  
2           fire department, fire district, land management  
3           agency, natural resources agency, or equivalent  
4           agency operating through the United States Fire  
5           Administration or pursuant to an agreement  
6           with a Federal agency; and

7           (J) any other Federal agency involved in  
8           wildfire response.

9           (2) *COVERED ENTITY*.—The term “covered enti-  
10          ty” means—

11           (A) a private entity;

12           (B) a nonprofit organization; and

13           (C) an institution of higher education (as  
14           defined in section 101 of the Higher Education  
15           Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

16           (3) *PILOT PROGRAM*.—The term “Pilot Pro-  
17          gram” means the deployment and demonstration pilot  
18          program established under subsection (b).

19           (b) *ESTABLISHMENT*.—Not later than 1 year after the  
20          date of enactment of this Act, the Executive Director shall  
21          establish a deployment and demonstration pilot program  
22          for new and innovative wildfire prevention, detection, com-  
23          munication, response, and mitigation technologies.

24           (c) *FUNCTIONS*.—In carrying out the Pilot Program,  
25          the Executive Director shall—

1           (1) *consult with the National Wildfire Coordi-*  
2           *nating Group;*

3           (2) *in consultation with the heads of the covered*  
4           *agencies, identify and advance the demonstration and*  
5           *deployment of key technology priority areas, includ-*  
6           *ing for mature and commercially available tech-*  
7           *nologies, with respect to the deployment of wildfire*  
8           *prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation*  
9           *technologies, including—*

10                   (A) *innovations in hazardous fuels reduc-*  
11                   *tion activities or treatments, including the use of*  
12                   *prescribed or cultural fire;*

13                   (B) *spatial planning for unplanned human-*  
14                   *caused ignitions;*

15                   (C) *wildfire modeling and effectiveness algo-*  
16                   *rithms;*

17                   (D) *dispatch communications;*

18                   (E) *remote sensing, detection, and tracking;*

19                   (F) *safety equipment;*

20                   (G) *common operating pictures or oper-*  
21                   *ational dashboards;*

22                   (H) *interoperable commercial data;*

23                   (I) *autonomous suppression systems;*

24                   (J) *grid resilience;*

1           (K) *community resilience and home hard-*  
2           *ening; and*

3           (L) *prioritization and decision support*  
4           *tools;*

5           (3) *connect each covered entity selected to par-*  
6           *ticipate in the Pilot Program with the appropriate*  
7           *covered agency to coordinate real-time and on-the-*  
8           *ground testing of technology during wildfire mitiga-*  
9           *tion activities and training;*

10          (4) *define clear criteria for evaluating the success*  
11          *of technologies (including mature and commercially*  
12          *available technologies) demonstrated under the Pilot*  
13          *Program, focusing on effectiveness, scalability, and*  
14          *cost-efficiency; and*

15          (5) *coordinate with covered agencies to ensure*  
16          *the efficient deployment of scaled technologies, includ-*  
17          *ing through expanded public-private partnerships,*  
18          *multiagency contracting for procurement, and author-*  
19          *ization of covered agency staff with technological pro-*  
20          *curement expertise to assist other covered agencies in*  
21          *need of that expertise.*

22          (d) *APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to participate in*  
23          *the Pilot Program, a covered entity shall submit to the Ex-*  
24          *ecutive Director an application at such time, in such man-*  
25          *ner, and containing such information as the Executive Di-*

1 rector may require, including a proposal to demonstrate  
2 technologies specific to key technology priority areas identi-  
3 fied under subsection (c)(2).

4 (e) *EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS.*—

5 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—A covered agency may submit  
6 a statement to the Executive Director describing the  
7 effectiveness, scalability, and cost-efficiency of an ex-  
8 isting partnership, pilot project, or contract a covered  
9 entity providing a technology described in subsection  
10 (c)(2).

11 (2) *SUCCESSFULNESS.*—The Executive Director  
12 may deem a technology described in a statement sub-  
13 mitted under paragraph (1) to be a successful tech-  
14 nology for purposes of this section.

15 (f) *OUTREACH.*—The Executive Director, in coordina-  
16 tion with the heads of the covered agencies, shall make pub-  
17 licly available the key technology priority areas identified  
18 under subsection (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply  
19 under subsection (d) to deploy and demonstrate technologies  
20 to address those priority areas.

21 (g) *REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.*—Not later  
22 than 180 days after the date of establishment of the Pilot  
23 Program, and annually thereafter for the duration of the  
24 Pilot Program, the Executive Director shall submit to the  
25 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of

1 *the Senate, the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-*  
2 *nology of the House of Representatives, and the relevant*  
3 *committees of Congress a report that includes the following*  
4 *with respect to the Pilot Program:*

5           (1) *A brief description of potential technologies*  
6 *deployed and demonstrated.*

7           (2) *An estimate of the cost of acquiring each such*  
8 *technology and applying the technology at scale.*

9           (3) *Outreach efforts by covered agencies to cov-*  
10 *ered entities developing wildfire technologies.*

11           (4) *Assessments of, and recommendations relat-*  
12 *ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and*  
13 *application at-scale in the wildfire prevention, detec-*  
14 *tion, communication, and mitigation efforts of Fed-*  
15 *eral land management agencies (as defined in section*  
16 *802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement*  
17 *Act (16 U.S.C. 6801)).*

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

22           (6) *Barriers and solutions for procurement of*  
23 *technologies by covered agencies.*

24           (h) *SUNSET.—The Pilot Program terminates on the*  
25 *date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.*

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

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

5 *(1) conduct a study evaluating—*

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

8 *(B) transparency and accountability meas-*  
9 *ures in the budget and accounting process of the*  
10 *Forest Service; and*

11 *(C) the suitability and feasibility of estab-*  
12 *lishing a new Federal agency with responsibility*  
13 *for responding to, and suppressing, wildfires on*  
14 *Federal land; and*

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

17 **SEC. 305. KEEPING FOREST PLANS CURRENT AND MON-**  
18 **ITORED.**

19 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—*

20 *(1) to the maximum extent practicable and sub-*  
21 *ject to the availability of appropriations—*

22 *(A) ensure that each forest plan for a unit*  
23 *of the National Forest System is in compliance*  
24 *with the applicable requirements of section*  
25 *6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland Renew-*

1            *able Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.*  
2            *1604(f)(5)(A)); and*

3                    *(B) prioritize revising any forest plan not*  
4            *in compliance with that section;*

5            *(2) not be considered to be in violation of section*  
6            *6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable*  
7            *Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.*  
8            *1604(f)(5)(A)) solely because more than 15 years have*  
9            *passed without revision of the plan for a unit of the*  
10           *National Forest System;*

11           *(3) not later than 120 days after the date of en-*  
12           *actment of this Act, submit to the relevant committees*  
13           *of Congress a notice describing the date on which each*  
14           *forest plan referred to in paragraph (1)(A) was most*  
15           *recently revised, amended, or otherwise modified;*

16           *(4) seek to publish a new, complete version of*  
17           *any forest plan that the Secretary has been directed*  
18           *by court order to amend, revise, or modify by not*  
19           *later than 60 days after the date of the amendment,*  
20           *revision, or modification, subject to the availability of*  
21           *appropriations made in advance for that purpose;*  
22           *and*

23           *(5) maintain a central, publicly accessible*  
24           *website with links to—*

1           (A) *the most recently available forest plan*  
2           *adopted, amended, or modified by a court order*  
3           *as a single document; and*

4           (B) *the most recently published forest plan*  
5           *monitoring report for the administrative unit.*

6           (b) *GOOD FAITH UPDATES.—If the Secretary fails to*  
7           *act expeditiously and in good faith using available funding*  
8           *to revise, amend, or modify a plan for a unit of the Na-*  
9           *tional Forest System as required by an applicable law or*  
10          *court order—*

11           (1) *subsection (a) shall be void with respect to*  
12          *the plan; and*

13           (2) *a court of competent jurisdiction may order*  
14          *completion of the plan on an accelerated basis.*

15          (c) *REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of*  
16          *enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the rel-*  
17          *evant committees of Congress a report summarizing the im-*  
18          *plementation of this section.*

19          (d) *SUNSET.—The authority under this section termi-*  
20          *nates on September 30, 2031.*

21          **SEC. 306. CONTAINER AERIAL FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM.**

22           (a) *EVALUATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date*  
23          *of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in consultation*  
24          *with the National Interagency Aviation Committee and the*  
25          *Interagency Airtanker Board, shall jointly conduct an eval-*

1 *uation of the container aerial firefighting system to assess*  
2 *the use of that system to mitigate and suppress wildfires.*

3 *(b) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date*  
4 *of completion of the evaluation under subsection (a), the*  
5 *Secretaries, in consultation with the National Interagency*  
6 *Aviation Committee and the Interagency Airtanker Board,*  
7 *shall jointly submit to the relevant committees of Congress*  
8 *a report that describes the results of the evaluation under*  
9 *subsection (a).*

10 **SEC. 307. STUDY ON PINE BEETLE INFESTATION.**

11 *Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of*  
12 *this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the For-*  
13 *est Service, shall—*

14 *(1) carry out a study relating to the causes and*  
15 *effects of, and solutions for, the infestation of pine*  
16 *beetles in the Northeastern region of the United*  
17 *States; and*

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

21 **SEC. 308. STUDY ON WILDFIRE SMOKE.**

22 *Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of*  
23 *this Act, the Secretaries, in coordination with the Adminis-*  
24 *trator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall con-*  
25 *duct and publish a study—*

1           (1) reviewing the 2 most recent international ar-  
 2 rangements between the Secretaries and the Depart-  
 3 ment of Natural Resources of Canada concerning the  
 4 exchange of wildland fire management resources;

5           (2) describing the wildland fire management re-  
 6 sources exchanged under the international arrange-  
 7 ments described in paragraph (1);

8           (3) evaluating the effectiveness of the inter-  
 9 national arrangements described in paragraph (1) in  
 10 reducing wildfire smoke in the United States; and

11           (4) making recommendations on best practices to  
 12 be used in international arrangements to reduce  
 13 international wildfire smoke.

## 14 **Subtitle B—White Oak Resilience**

### 15 **SEC. 311. WHITE OAK RESTORATION INITIATIVE COALI-** 16 **TION.**

17           (a) *IN GENERAL.*—There is established a coalition, to  
 18 be known as the “White Oak Restoration Initiative Coali-  
 19 tion” (referred to in this section as the “Coalition”)—

20           (1) as a voluntary collaborative group of Fed-  
 21 eral, State, and local governments, Indian Tribes,  
 22 and private and nongovernmental organizations the  
 23 purpose of which is to carry out the duties described  
 24 in subsection (b); and

1           (2) *in accordance with the charter entitled*  
2           *“White Oak Initiative Coalition Charter” adopted by*  
3           *the White Oak Initiative Board of Directors on March*  
4           *21, 2023 (or a successor charter).*

5           (b) *DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in the*  
6           *charter referred to in subsection (a)(2), the duties of the Co-*  
7           *alition are—*

8           (1) *to coordinate Federal, State, Tribal, local,*  
9           *private, and nongovernmental activities for the res-*  
10           *toration of white oak trees and forests that support*  
11           *white oak trees in the United States; and*

12           (2) *to make program and policy recommenda-*  
13           *tions, consistent with applicable forest management*  
14           *plans, with respect to—*

15           (A) *changes necessary to address Federal*  
16           *and State policies that impede activities to im-*  
17           *prove the health, resiliency, and natural regen-*  
18           *eration of white oak trees;*

19           (B) *adopting or modifying Federal and*  
20           *State policies to increase the pace and scale of*  
21           *white oak regeneration and the resiliency of*  
22           *white oak trees;*

23           (C) *options to enhance communication, co-*  
24           *ordination, and collaboration among forest land*  
25           *owners, particularly with respect to cross-bound-*

1           ary projects, to improve the health, resiliency,  
2           and natural regeneration of white oak trees;

3           (D) research gaps that should be addressed  
4           to improve the best available science on white  
5           oaks;

6           (E) outreach to forest landowners the land  
7           of which possesses white oak trees or white oak  
8           regeneration potential, as determined by the Co-  
9           alition; and

10           (F) options and policies necessary to im-  
11           prove the quality and quantity of white oak trees  
12           in tree nurseries.

13           (c) *ADMINISTRATIVE, STAFFING, AND TECHNICAL SUP-*  
14 *PORT.*—The Secretaries shall make available to the Coali-  
15 *tion such personnel for administrative support, technical*  
16 *services, and the development and dissemination of edu-*  
17 *cational materials as those Secretaries determine to be nec-*  
18 *essary to carry out this section.*

19           (d) *PRIVATE FUNDING.*—Subject to the availability of  
20 *appropriations made in advance for that purpose, the Sec-*  
21 *retary may make funds available to the Coalition to carry*  
22 *out this section from the account established pursuant to*  
23 *section 1241(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.*  
24 *3841(f)).*

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

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary, acting through the*  
3 *Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out*  
4 *5 pilot projects in units of the National Forest System to*  
5 *restore white oak trees in those units through white oak res-*  
6 *toration and natural regeneration practices that are con-*  
7 *sistent with applicable forest management plans.*

8 (b) *REQUIREMENT.*—*Of the pilot projects carried out*  
9 *under subsection (a), not fewer than 3 shall be carried out*  
10 *on units of the National Forest System that are reserved*  
11 *or withdrawn from the public domain.*

12 (c) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.*—*The Secretary may*  
13 *enter into cooperative agreements to carry out the pilot*  
14 *projects under this section.*

15 (d) *SUNSET.*—*The authority under this section termi-*  
16 *nates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment*  
17 *of this Act.*

18 **SEC. 313. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WHITE OAK RE-**  
19 **VIEW AND RESTORATION.**

20 (a) *ASSESSMENT.*—

21 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary of the Interior*  
22 *shall carry out an assessment of land under the ad-*  
23 *ministrative jurisdiction of the Department of the In-*  
24 *terior, including fish and wildlife refuges and aban-*  
25 *doned mine land, to evaluate—*

1           (A) *whether white oak trees are present on*  
2           *the land; and*

3           (B) *the potential to restore white oak forests*  
4           *on the land.*

5           (2) *USE OF INFORMATION.*—*In carrying out the*  
6           *assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the*  
7           *Interior may use information from sources other than*  
8           *the Department of the Interior, including the White*  
9           *Oak Initiative and the Forest Service.*

10          (3) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 90 days after the*  
11          *date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the In-*  
12          *terior shall submit to Congress, and make publicly*  
13          *available on the website of the Department of the In-*  
14          *terior, a report describing the results of the assessment*  
15          *carried out under this subsection.*

16          (b) *PILOT PROJECTS.*—*After the date of submission of*  
17          *the report under subsection (a)(3), the Secretary of the Inte-*  
18          *rior shall establish and carry out 5 pilot projects in dif-*  
19          *ferent areas of land described in subsection (a)(1) to restore*  
20          *and naturally regenerate white oak trees.*

21          (c) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.*—*The Secretary of the*  
22          *Interior may enter into cooperative agreements to carry out*  
23          *the pilot projects under subsection (b).*

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

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

6       (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*Not later than 180 days after*  
7 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall estab-*  
8 *lish a nonregulatory program, to be known as the “White*  
9 *Oak and Upland Oak Habitat Regeneration Program” (re-*  
10 *ferred to in this section as the “Program”).*

11       (b) *PURPOSES.*—*The purposes of the Program shall in-*  
12 *clude—*

13               (1) *coordinating restoration and conservation ac-*  
14 *tivities among Federal, State, and local entities, In-*  
15 *Indian Tribes, and conservation partners to address*  
16 *white oak restoration priorities;*

17               (2) *improving and regenerating white oak and*  
18 *upland oak forests and the wildlife habitat such for-*  
19 *ests provide;*

20               (3) *carrying out coordinated restoration and*  
21 *conservation activities that lead to the increased*  
22 *growth of species of white oak in native white oak re-*  
23 *gions;*

1           (4) *facilitating strategic planning to maximize*  
2           *the resilience of white oak systems and habitats under*  
3           *changing climate conditions;*

4           (5) *engaging the public through outreach, edu-*  
5           *cation, and citizen involvement to increase capacity*  
6           *and support for coordinated restoration and conserva-*  
7           *tion activities for species of white oak; and*

8           (6) *increasing scientific capacity to support the*  
9           *planning, monitoring, and research activities nec-*  
10          *essary to carry out such coordinated restoration and*  
11          *conservation activities.*

12          (c) *CONSULTATION.*—*In establishing the Program, the*  
13          *Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service,*  
14          *shall consult with—*

15                 (1) *the heads of Federal agencies, including—*

16                         (A) *the Director of the United States Fish*  
17                         *and Wildlife Service; and*

18                         (B) *the Chief of the Natural Resources Con-*  
19                         *servation Service;*

20                 (2) *the Governor of each State in which restora-*  
21                 *tion efforts will be carried out pursuant to the Pro-*  
22                 *gram; and*

23                 (3) *Indian Tribes.*

24          (d) *DUTIES.*—*In carrying out the Program, the Sec-*  
25          *retary shall—*

1           (1) *draw on the best available science and man-*  
2           *agement plans for species of white oak to identify,*  
3           *prioritize, and implement restoration and conserva-*  
4           *tion activities that will improve the growth of white*  
5           *oak trees in the United States;*

6           (2) *collaborate and coordinate with the White*  
7           *Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition established by*  
8           *section 311(a) to prioritize white oak restoration ini-*  
9           *tiatives;*

10          (3) *adopt a white oak restoration strategy that—*

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

15                (B) *targets cost-effective projects with meas-*  
16                *urable results; and*

17                (C) *maximizes restoration outcomes with no*  
18                *net gain of Federal full-time equivalent employ-*  
19                *ees; and*

20          (4) *establish voluntary grant and technical as-*  
21          *sistance programs in accordance with subsection (e).*

22          (e) *GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—*

23                (1) *DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:*

1           (A) *FOUNDATION.*—*The term “Foundation”*  
2           *means the National Fish and Wildlife Founda-*  
3           *tion.*

4           (B) *GRANT PROGRAM.*—*The term “grant*  
5           *program” means the voluntary grant and tech-*  
6           *anical assistance program established under para-*  
7           *graph (2).*

8           (2) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*To the extent that funds*  
9           *are available to carry out this section, the Secretary*  
10          *shall establish a voluntary grant and technical assist-*  
11          *ance program to achieve the purposes of the Program*  
12          *described in subsection (b).*

13          (3) *ADMINISTRATION.*—

14               (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall offer*  
15               *to enter into a cooperative agreement with the*  
16               *Foundation to manage and administer the grant*  
17               *program.*

18               (B) *FUNDING.*—*Subject to the availability*  
19               *of appropriations made in advance for that pur-*  
20               *pose, on entering into a cooperative agreement*  
21               *with the Foundation under subparagraph (A),*  
22               *the Secretary shall pay to the Foundation to*  
23               *carry out this subsection for each fiscal year an*  
24               *advance payment of the entire amount for the*  
25               *applicable fiscal year—*

1                   (i) on October 1 of that fiscal year; or

2                   (ii) as soon as practicable thereafter.

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

10                  (f) *SUNSET.*—The authority under this section termi-  
11                  nates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment  
12                  of this Act.

13                  **SEC. 315. TREE NURSERY SHORTAGES.**

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

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

21                         (2) coordinate the strategy under paragraph (1)  
22                         with—

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

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

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

5                   (1) be based on the best available science and  
6                   data, including the consideration of Indigenous  
7                   knowledge; and

8                   (2) identify and address—

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

11                           (B) regional reforestation opportunities and  
12                           the seedling supply necessary to fulfill those op-  
13                           portunities;

14                           (C) opportunities to enhance seedling diver-  
15                           sity, improve quality, quantity, genetic re-  
16                           sources, and availability, and close gaps in seed  
17                           inventories; and

18                           (D) barriers to expanding, enhancing, or  
19                           creating new infrastructure to increase nursery  
20                           capacity.

21 **SEC. 316. WHITE OAK RESEARCH.**

22           (a) *DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.*—In this  
23 section, the term “eligible institution” means an institution  
24 of higher education, including an 1862 Institution, an 1890  
25 Institution, and a 1994 Institution (as those terms are de-

1 *fined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,*  
2 *and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)).*

3 (b) *RESEARCH.—The Secretary may enter into a*  
4 *memorandum of understanding with an Indian Tribe or*  
5 *an eligible institution to collaboratively conduct research re-*  
6 *lating to—*

7 (1) *white oak genes with resistance or tolerance*  
8 *to stress;*

9 (2) *white oak trees that exhibit heritable vigor*  
10 *for the purpose of increasing survival and growth;*

11 (3) *establishing a genetically diverse white oak*  
12 *seed bank capable of responding to stressors;*

13 (4) *providing a sustainable supply of white oak*  
14 *seedlings and genetic resources;*

15 (5) *improved methods for aligning seed sources*  
16 *with the future climate at planting sites;*

17 (6) *reforestation of white oak trees through nat-*  
18 *ural and artificial regeneration;*

19 (7) *improved methods for retaining and increas-*  
20 *ing white oak trees in forests;*

21 (8) *improved methods for reforesting abandoned*  
22 *mine land sites; and*

23 (9) *economic and social aspects of white oak for-*  
24 *est management across land ownerships.*

1           (c) *CONSULTATION.*—*In carrying out research under*  
2 *subsection (b), an Indian Tribe or eligible institution may*  
3 *consult with such States, nonprofit organizations, and other*  
4 *institutions of higher education and scientific entities as*  
5 *the Indian Tribe or eligible institution determines to be ap-*  
6 *propriate.*

7           (d) *SUNSET.*—*The authority under this section termi-*  
8 *nates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment*  
9 *of this Act.*

10 **SEC. 317. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRI-**  
11 **CULTURE.**

12           (a) *PARTNERSHIPS.*—

13               (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary, acting through*  
14 *the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agri-*  
15 *culture, shall enter into a partnership with an eligi-*  
16 *ble entity described in paragraph (2) to conduct re-*  
17 *search on improving white oak species resiliency,*  
18 *health, and preservation, including research on—*

19                       (A) *population-scale sequencing;*

20                       (B) *stress response traits;*

21                       (C) *seedling physiology and performance;*

22                       *and*

23                       (D) *white oak product development.*

24               (2) *ELIGIBLE ENTITY.*—

1           (A) *IN GENERAL.*—An eligible entity re-  
2           ferred to in paragraph (1) is a land-grant college  
3           or university described in subparagraph (B) that  
4           has demonstrated—

5                   (i) scientific expertise relating to white  
6           oak;

7                   (ii) the ability to rapidly transfer tech-  
8           nologies to the stove industry;

9                   (iii) geographic proximity to con-  
10          centrated areas of white oak; and

11                  (iv) support for regional economic de-  
12          velopment.

13           (B) *LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVER-*  
14           *SITIES.*—A land-grant college or university re-  
15           ferred to in subparagraph (A) is—

16                   (i) an 1862 Institution (as defined in  
17           section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Ex-  
18           tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998  
19           (7 U.S.C. 7601));

20                   (ii) an 1890 Institution (as defined in  
21           that section); or

22                   (iii) a 1994 Institution (as defined in  
23           section 532 of the Equity in Educational  
24           Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.  
25           301 note; Public Law 103–382)).

1       (b) *PRIORITIES.*—*The Secretary, acting through the*  
2 *Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture,*  
3 *shall prioritize research relating to the resistance of white*  
4 *oak to disease, pest, heat, and drought in cultivated, new,*  
5 *and old-growth white oak timber stands.*

6 **SEC. 318. USDA FORMAL INITIATIVE.**

7       (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary, acting through the*  
8 *Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and*  
9 *in coordination with the Chief of the Forest Service, shall*  
10 *establish a formal initiative on white oak trees—*

11               (1) *to reestablish white oak forests where appro-*  
12 *priate;*

13               (2) *to improve the management of existing white*  
14 *oak forests to foster natural regeneration of white oak*  
15 *trees;*

16               (3) *to provide technical assistance to private*  
17 *landowners to reestablish, improve the management*  
18 *of, and naturally regenerate white oak trees;*

19               (4) *to improve and expand white oak nursery*  
20 *stock; and*

21               (5) *to adapt and improve white oak seedlings.*

22       (b) *SUNSET.*—*The authority under this section termi-*  
23 *nates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment*  
24 *of this Act.*

1 **SEC. 319. USE OF AUTHORITIES.**

2 *To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretaries*  
 3 *shall use the authorities provided under this title in com-*  
 4 *bination with other authorities to carry out projects, includ-*  
 5 *ing—*

6 (1) *good neighbor agreements entered into under*  
 7 *section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16*  
 8 *U.S.C. 2113a) (as amended by this Act); and*

9 (2) *stewardship contracting projects entered into*  
 10 *under section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration*  
 11 *Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) (as amended by this*  
 12 *Act).*

13 **TITLE IV—ENSURING CASUALTY**  
 14 **ASSISTANCE FOR FIREFIGHTERS**

15 **SEC. 401. WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT CASUALTY ASSIST-**  
 16 **ANCE PROGRAM.**

17 (a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

18 (1) *NEXT-OF-KIN.—The term “next-of-kin”, with*  
 19 *respect to an individual, means a person in the high-*  
 20 *est category of priority in relation to that individual,*  
 21 *as determined in accordance with the following (in*  
 22 *descending order of priority):*

23 (A) *A legal spouse of the individual.*

24 (B) *A child (whether by current or prior*  
 25 *marriage) aged 18 years or older of the indi-*  
 26 *vidual, in descending order of precedence by age.*

1           (C) *The father or mother of the individual,*  
2           *unless custody has been vested by court order in*  
3           *another individual, with an adoptive parent tak-*  
4           *ing precedence over a natural parent.*

5           (D) *A sibling (whether whole or half) aged*  
6           *18 years or older of the individual, in descending*  
7           *order of precedence by age.*

8           (E) *A grandfather or grandmother of the in-*  
9           *dividual.*

10          (F) *Any other relative of the individual,*  
11          *with the order of precedence to be determined in*  
12          *accordance with the civil laws of descent of the*  
13          *State of domicile of the individual at time of*  
14          *death.*

15          (2) *PROGRAM.—The term “program” means the*  
16          *Wildland Fire Management Casualty Assistance Pro-*  
17          *gram established under subsection (b).*

18          (b) *ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after*  
19          *the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Inte-*  
20          *rior shall establish a program, to be known as the*  
21          *“Wildland Fire Management Casualty Assistance Pro-*  
22          *gram”, to provide assistance to the next-of-kin of—*

23                 (1) *firefighters who, while in the line of duty—*  
24                 (A) *are killed;*

1           (B) require hospitalization or treatment at  
2           a medical facility due to a critical injury; or

3           (C) suffer illness as a result of an exposure  
4           or incident occurring during that line of duty;  
5           and

6           (2) wildland fire support personnel who are  
7           killed or require hospitalization or treatment at a  
8           medical facility due to a critical injury in the line  
9           of duty.

10          (c) *ELEMENTS.*—The program shall address each of the  
11         following:

12           (1) The initial, and any subsequent, notification  
13           to the next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire sup-  
14           port personnel who—

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

16                   (B) require hospitalization or treatment at  
17           a medical facility due to a critical injury or ill-  
18           ness in the line of duty.

19           (2) The reimbursement of next-of-kin for expenses  
20           associated with travel to visit firefighters or wildland  
21           fire support personnel who—

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

23                   (B) require hospitalization or treatment at  
24           a medical facility due to a critical injury or ill-  
25           ness in the line of duty.

1           (3) *The qualifications, assignment, training, du-*  
2 *ties, supervision, and accountability for the perform-*  
3 *ance of casualty assistance responsibilities.*

4           (4) *The relief or transfer of casualty assistance*  
5 *officers, including notification to survivors of critical*  
6 *injury or illness in the line of duty of the reassign-*  
7 *ment of those officers to other duties.*

8           (5) *Centralized short-term and long-term case*  
9 *management procedures for casualty assistance, in-*  
10 *cluding rapid access to expert case managers and*  
11 *counselors by—*

12                   (A) *survivors of firefighters or wildland fire*  
13 *support personnel; and*

14                   (B) *casualty assistance officers.*

15           (6) *The provision, through a computer-accessible*  
16 *website and other means and at no cost to survivors*  
17 *or next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire support*  
18 *personnel, of personalized, integrated information re-*  
19 *lating to Federal benefits and Federal financial as-*  
20 *sistance available to those survivors and next-of-kin.*

21           (7) *The provision to survivors and next-of-kin of*  
22 *firefighters or wildland fire support personnel of in-*  
23 *formation relating to mechanisms for registering com-*  
24 *plaints about, or requests for, additional assistance*  
25 *related to casualty assistance.*

1           (8) *Liaison with the Department of Agriculture,*  
 2           *the Department of Justice, and the Social Security*  
 3           *Administration to ensure prompt and accurate reso-*  
 4           *lution of issues relating to benefits administered by*  
 5           *those agencies for survivors of firefighters or wildland*  
 6           *fire support personnel.*

7           (9) *Data collection, in consultation with the*  
 8           *United States Fire Administration and the National*  
 9           *Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, regard-*  
 10          *ing the incidence and quality of casualty assistance*  
 11          *provided to survivors and next-of-kin of firefighters or*  
 12          *wildland fire support personnel.*

13          (d) *NO EFFECT ON OTHER LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH*  
 14          *BENEFITS.—The program shall not affect any existing au-*  
 15          *thority for line-of-duty death benefits for Federal fire-*  
 16          *fighters or wildland fire support personnel.*

## 17           **TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS**

### 18          **SEC. 501. USE OF FUNDS FROM COOPERATIVE FUNDS**

#### 19                           **AGREEMENTS.**

20          (a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

21                  (1) *COOPERATIVE FUNDS AGREEMENT.—The*  
 22                  *term “cooperative funds agreement” means an agree-*  
 23                  *ment under—*

1           (A) *the Act of June 30, 1914 (commonly*  
2           *known as the “Cooperative Funds Act” (16*  
3           *U.S.C. 498); or*

4           (B) *section 1 of the Act of March 3, 1925*  
5           *(16 U.S.C. 572).*

6           (2) *SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means*  
7           *the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest*  
8           *Service.*

9           (b) *TREATMENT.—*

10           (1) *IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-*  
11           *graph (2), notwithstanding any other provision of*  
12           *law, regulation, or agency decision, the Secretary*  
13           *shall fulfill the obligations of the Federal Government*  
14           *with respect to each cooperative funds agreement in*  
15           *effect on or after the date of enactment of this Act.*

16           (2) *EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may waive the*  
17           *applicability of paragraph (1) to a cooperative funds*  
18           *agreement if—*

19           (A) *the Secretary determines that 1 or more*  
20           *parties to the cooperative funds agreement have*  
21           *not fulfilled the obligations of the parties under*  
22           *the cooperative funds agreement; or*

23           (B) *fulfilling the obligations of the Federal*  
24           *Government with respect to the cooperative funds*

1           *agreement would violate section 1341 of title 31,*  
2           *United States Code.*

3       (c) *LIMITATIONS.—*

4           (1) *FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A Federal employee*  
5           *(including seasonal, permanent seasonal, and tem-*  
6           *porary employees) hired using funds provided under*  
7           *a cooperative funds agreement shall not, for the dura-*  
8           *tion of the cooperative funds agreement, be subject*  
9           *to—*

10                   (A) *any limitation on hiring (commonly re-*  
11                   *ferred to as a “hiring freeze”);*

12                   (B) *any reduction in force; or*

13                   (C) *any deferred resignation or voluntary*  
14                   *early retirement program.*

15           (2) *NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—The non-Federal*  
16           *funds provided to the Secretary pursuant to a cooper-*  
17           *ative funds agreement shall not be subject to any lim-*  
18           *itation on spending.*

19       **SEC. 502. EMERGENCY FOREST WATERSHED PROGRAM.**

20           (a) *FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION.—Section 404(b)*  
21           *of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2204(b))*  
22           *is amended by inserting “to carry out section 401” after*  
23           *“for a fiscal year”.*

1       (b) *EMERGENCY FOREST WATERSHED PROGRAM.*—  
2 *Title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C.*  
3 *2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

4 **“SEC. 408. EMERGENCY FOREST WATERSHED PROGRAM.**

5       “(a) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

6           “(1) *EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION*  
7 *MEASURES.*—*The term ‘emergency watershed protec-*  
8 *tion measures’ means measures that—*

9                   “(A) *are necessary to address runoff, soil*  
10 *erosion, and flooding caused by a natural dis-*  
11 *aster or any other natural occurrence that has*  
12 *caused a sudden impairment to natural re-*  
13 *sources on National Forest System land, and the*  
14 *damage, if not treated—*

15                           “(i) *would significantly impair or en-*  
16 *danger the natural resources on the Na-*  
17 *tional Forest System land; and*

18                                   “(ii) *would pose an immediate risk to*  
19 *water resources or loss of life or property in*  
20 *connection to a sudden impairment of a*  
21 *National Forest System watershed or down-*  
22 *stream of the National Forest System land*  
23 *or waterways; and*

1           “(B) would maintain or restore forest health  
2           and forest-related resources on the National For-  
3           est System land.

4           “(2) *NATURAL DISASTER*.—The term ‘natural  
5           disaster’ has the meaning given the term in section  
6           407(a).

7           “(3) *SPONSOR*.—The term ‘sponsor’ means—

8                   “(A) a State or local government;

9                   “(B) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section  
10                  4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-  
11                  cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); and

12                  “(C) a water district, water conservation  
13                  district, water utility, or special district.

14           “(b) *AUTHORIZATION*.—The Secretary, acting through  
15           a sponsor, is authorized to undertake emergency watershed  
16           protection measures on National Forest System land.

17           “(c) *AGREEMENTS; PAYMENTS*.—

18                   “(1) *IN GENERAL*.—Notwithstanding chapter 63  
19                  of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may  
20                  enter into an agreement with a sponsor and make  
21                  payments to the sponsor, on request of the sponsor, to  
22                  carry out emergency watershed protection measures.

23                   “(2) *REQUIREMENTS*.—

24                   “(A) *PROJECT TIMELINES*.—

1           “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*Following a nat-*  
2           *ural disaster or natural occurrence that ne-*  
3           *cessitates the carrying out of emergency wa-*  
4           *tershed protection measures, the Secretary*  
5           *shall execute agreements under paragraph*  
6           *(1) as expeditiously as possible.*

7           “(ii) *TIMELINE.*—*Each agreement*  
8           *under paragraph (1) shall include a*  
9           *timeline by which the sponsor shall complete*  
10           *all emergency watershed protection meas-*  
11           *ures during the 2-year period following the*  
12           *conclusion of the applicable natural disaster*  
13           *or natural occurrence, as determined by the*  
14           *Secretary, that necessitated the carrying out*  
15           *of those measures.*

16           “(iii) *CONTINUED MONITORING.*—*A*  
17           *sponsor that has entered into an agreement*  
18           *under paragraph (1) may monitor, main-*  
19           *tain, repair, or replace emergency water-*  
20           *shed protection measures for a period of not*  
21           *more than 3 years following the conclusion*  
22           *of the natural disaster or natural occur-*  
23           *rence, as determined by the Secretary, that*  
24           *necessitated the carrying out of those meas-*  
25           *ures when failure to do so would result in*

1                    *unacceptable risk to National Forest System*  
2                    *land or downstream water users.*

3                    “(B) *PAYMENTS.*—*The Secretary, in accord-*  
4                    *ance with an agreement entered into under para-*  
5                    *graph (1)—*

6                           *“(i) may make partial payments prior*  
7                           *to completion of the applicable project; and*

8                           *“(ii) shall make final payment for the*  
9                           *project not later than 30 days after the date*  
10                           *on which the project is completed.*

11                    “(d) *WAIVED MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.*—*The Sec-*  
12                    *retary shall waive any matching requirements for payments*  
13                    *made under subsection (c)(1).*

14                    “(e) *LIABILITY.*—

15                           *“(1) IN GENERAL.*—*A sponsor that carries out*  
16                    *emergency watershed protection measures pursuant to*  
17                    *an agreement under subsection (c)(1) shall not be re-*  
18                    *quired to indemnify the United States for any liabil-*  
19                    *ity resulting from carrying out emergency watershed*  
20                    *protection measures pursuant to that agreement.*

21                           *“(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.*—*Nothing in this sub-*  
22                    *section precludes liability for damages or costs relat-*  
23                    *ing to the carrying out of emergency watershed pro-*  
24                    *tection measures by a sponsor pursuant to an agree-*  
25                    *ment entered into under subsection (c)(1) if the spon-*



1           *of receiving, before the agricultural producer*  
2           *carries out the repair, replacement, or res-*  
3           *toration—*

4           “(A) *with respect to a payment to the agri-*  
5           *cultural producer for a replacement, 75 percent*  
6           *of the cost of the replacement, as determined by*  
7           *the Secretary; and*

8           “(B) *with respect to a payment to the agri-*  
9           *cultural producer for a repair or restoration, 50*  
10          *percent of the cost of the repair or restoration, as*  
11          *determined by the Secretary.”; and*

12          “(C) *in paragraph (2), by striking “60-day”*  
13          *and inserting “180-day”; and*

14          “(2) *by adding at the end the following:*

15          “(c) *WILDFIRE DETERMINATION.—A wildfire that*  
16          *causes damage eligible for a payment under subsection (a)*  
17          *includes—*

18                 “(1) *a wildfire that is not caused naturally, if*  
19                 *the damage is caused by the spread of the wildfire due*  
20                 *to natural causes; and*

21                 “(2) *a wildfire that is caused by the Federal*  
22                 *Government.”.*

1 **SEC. 504. IMPROVING THE EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORA-**  
2 **TION PROGRAM.**

3 *Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16*  
4 *U.S.C. 2206) is amended—*

5 *(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “wildfires,”*  
6 *and inserting “wildfires (including a wildfire that is*  
7 *not caused naturally, if the damage is caused by the*  
8 *spread of the wildfire due to natural causes, and a*  
9 *wildfire that is caused by the Federal Government),”;*

10 *(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection*  
11 *(f); and*

12 *(3) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-*  
13 *lowing:*

14 *“(e) ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—*

15 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give an*  
16 *owner of nonindustrial private forest land the option*  
17 *of receiving, before the owner carries out emergency*  
18 *measures under this section, not more than 75 percent*  
19 *of the cost of the emergency measures, as determined*  
20 *by the Secretary.*

21 *“(2) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If the funds provided*  
22 *under paragraph (1) are not expended by the end of*  
23 *the 180-day period beginning on the date on which*  
24 *the owner of nonindustrial private forest land receives*  
25 *those funds, the funds shall be returned within a rea-*  
26 *sonable timeframe, as determined by the Secretary.”.*

1 **SEC. 505. ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFIED DISASTER ASSIST-**  
 2 **ANCE INTAKE PROCESS AND SYSTEM.**

3 *The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency*  
 4 *Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) is amended by add-*  
 5 *ing at the end the following:*

6 **“SEC. 707. ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFIED DISASTER AS-**  
 7 **SISTANCE INTAKE PROCESS AND SYSTEM.**

8 *“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

9 *“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-*  
 10 *trator’ means the Administrator of the Federal Emer-*  
 11 *gency Management Agency.*

12 *“(2) APPLICANT.—The term ‘applicant’ means—*  
 13 *“(A) an individual, business, or organiza-*  
 14 *tion that applies for disaster assistance from a*  
 15 *disaster assistance program;*

16 *“(B) an individual, business, or organiza-*  
 17 *tion on behalf of which an individual described*  
 18 *in subparagraph (A) applies for disaster assist-*  
 19 *ance from a disaster assistance program; and*

20 *“(C) an individual, business, or organiza-*  
 21 *tion that seeks assistance as a beneficiary of a*  
 22 *State, local government, or Indian tribal govern-*  
 23 *ment that received assistance under a disaster*  
 24 *assistance program.*

25 *“(3) DISASTER ASSISTANCE AGENCY.—The term*  
 26 *‘disaster assistance agency’ means—*

1           “(A) *the Federal Emergency Management*  
2           *Agency; and*

3           “(B) *any Federal agency that provides dis-*  
4           *aster assistance to individuals, businesses, orga-*  
5           *nizations, States, local governments, Indian trib-*  
6           *al governments, communities, or organizations*  
7           *that the Administrator certifies as a disaster as-*  
8           *stance agency in accordance with subsection (f)*  
9           *to carry out the purposes of a disaster assistance*  
10           *program.*

11           “(4) *DISASTER ASSISTANCE INFORMATION.—The*  
12           *term ‘disaster assistance information’ includes any*  
13           *personal, biographical, demographic, geographical, fi-*  
14           *nancial, application decision, or other information*  
15           *that a disaster assistance agency, or a recipient of a*  
16           *Federal block grant from a disaster assistance agency,*  
17           *is authorized to collect, maintain, disclose, or use to—*

18           “(A) *process an application for disaster as-*  
19           *stance from a disaster assistance program; or*

20           “(B) *otherwise carry out the purpose of a*  
21           *disaster assistance program.*

22           “(5) *DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The*  
23           *term ‘disaster assistance program’ means—*

24           “(A) *a program that provides disaster as-*  
25           *stance to individuals and households under*

1           *title IV or V in accordance with sections 408 and*  
2           *502; or*

3           “(B) *any other assistance program author-*  
4           *ized by a Federal statute or funded with Federal*  
5           *appropriations under which a disaster assistance*  
6           *agency awards or distributes disaster assistance*  
7           *to an individual, household, or organization, or*  
8           *provides a Federal block grant for these purposes,*  
9           *that arises from a major disaster or emergency*  
10          *declared under section 401 or 501, respectively,*  
11          *including—*

12                   “(i) *disaster assistance;*

13                   “(ii) *long-term disaster recovery assist-*  
14                   *ance;*

15                   “(iii) *the post-disaster restoration of*  
16                   *infrastructure and housing;*

17                   “(iv) *post-disaster economic revitaliza-*  
18                   *tion;*

19                   “(v) *a loan authorized under section*  
20                   *7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.*  
21                   *636(b)); and*

22                   “(vi) *food benefit allotments under sec-*  
23                   *tion 412 of this Act and section 5(h) of the*  
24                   *Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.*  
25                   *2014(h)).*

1           “(6) *RECORD.*—The term ‘record’ has the mean-  
2           ing given the term in section 552a of title 5, United  
3           States Code.

4           “(b) *UNIFIED DISASTER ASSISTANCE INTAKE PROC-*  
5           *ESS AND SYSTEM.*—

6           “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 360 days  
7           after the date of enactment of this section, the Admin-  
8           istrator shall, in consultation with appropriate Fed-  
9           eral, State, local, and Indian tribal governments and  
10          entities, develop and establish a unified intake process  
11          and system for applicants for disaster assistance pro-  
12          vided by a disaster assistance agency to—

13               “(A) facilitate a consolidated application  
14               for any form of disaster assistance provided by  
15               a disaster assistance agency when appropriate to  
16               support the nature and purposes of the assist-  
17               ance;

18               “(B) carry out the purposes of disaster as-  
19               sistance programs swiftly, efficiently, equitably,  
20               and in accordance with applicable laws and pri-  
21               vacy and data protections; and

22               “(C) support the detection, prevention, and  
23               investigation of waste, fraud, abuse, or discrimi-  
24               nation in the administration of disaster assist-  
25               ance programs.

1           “(2) *CAPABILITIES OF THE CONSOLIDATED AP-*  
2           *PLICATION SYSTEM.—The unified intake process and*  
3           *system established under paragraph (1) shall—*

4                   “(A) *accept applications for disaster assist-*  
5                   *ance programs;*

6                   “(B) *allow for applicants to receive status*  
7                   *updates on applications for disaster assistance*  
8                   *programs;*

9                   “(C) *allow for applicants to update disaster*  
10                  *assistance information throughout the recovery*  
11                  *journeys of those applicants;*

12                  “(D) *allow for the distribution of informa-*  
13                  *tion on additional recovery resources to disaster*  
14                  *survivors that may be available in a disaster-*  
15                  *stricken jurisdiction, in coordination with ap-*  
16                  *propriate Federal, State, local, and Tribal part-*  
17                  *ners;*

18                  “(E) *provide disaster survivors with infor-*  
19                  *mation and documentation on the applications*  
20                  *of those disaster survivors for a disaster assist-*  
21                  *ance program;*

22                  “(F) *allow for the distribution of applica-*  
23                  *tion data to support faster and more effective*  
24                  *distribution of Federal disaster assistance, in-*

1           *cluding block grant assistance, for disaster recov-*  
2           *ery;*

3           “(G) *allow for disaster assistance agencies*  
4           *to communicate directly with disaster survivors;*  
5           *and*

6           “(H) *contain other capabilities determined*  
7           *necessary by the heads of disaster assistance*  
8           *agencies.*

9           “(3) *UPDATES.—Not later than 30 days after the*  
10          *date on which the Administrator receives a request*  
11          *from a disaster assistance agency to update questions*  
12          *in the consolidated application described in para-*  
13          *graph (1) needed to administer the disaster assistance*  
14          *programs of the disaster assistance agency, the Ad-*  
15          *ministrator shall make those updates.*

16          “(c) *AUTHORITIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.—The Admin-*  
17          *istrator may—*

18               “(1) *collect, maintain, disclose, and use disaster*  
19               *assistance information, including such information*  
20               *received from any disaster assistance agency, with*  
21               *any other disaster assistance agency for purposes of*  
22               *subsection (b)(1); and*

23               “(2) *subject to subsection (d), authorize the col-*  
24               *lection, maintenance, disclosure, and use of disaster*  
25               *assistance information collected on or after the date*

1 of enactment of this section by publishing a notice on  
2 a public website that—

3 “(A) includes a detailed description of—

4 “(i) the specific disaster assistance in-  
5 formation authorized to be collected, main-  
6 tained, disclosed, and used;

7 “(ii) why the collection, maintenance,  
8 disclosure, or use of the disaster assistance  
9 information is necessary to carry out the  
10 purpose of a disaster assistance program;

11 “(iii) how the collection, maintenance,  
12 disclosure, and use of disaster assistance in-  
13 formation incorporates fair information  
14 practices; and

15 “(iv) the disaster assistance agencies  
16 that will be granted access to the disaster  
17 assistance information to carry out the pur-  
18 pose of any disaster assistance program;  
19 and

20 “(B) provides that the submission of an ap-  
21 plication through a unified disaster application  
22 constitutes prior written consent to disclose dis-  
23 aster assistance information to disaster assist-  
24 ance agencies for the purpose of section 552a(b)  
25 of title 5, United States Code.

1       “(d) *COLLECTION AND SHARING OF RECORDS AND IN-*  
2 *FORMATION.—*—

3               “(1) *EFFECT OF PUBLICATION OF NOTICE ON*  
4 *PUBLIC WEBSITE.—The publication of a notice by the*  
5 *Administrator on a public website of a revision to the*  
6 *system of records of the unified intake process and*  
7 *system established under subsection (b)(1) prior to*  
8 *any new collection, maintenance, disclosure, or use of*  
9 *records to carry out the purposes of a disaster assist-*  
10 *ance program with respect to a major disaster or*  
11 *emergency declared by the President under section*  
12 *401 or 501, respectively, of this Act shall be deemed*  
13 *to satisfy the notice and publication requirements of*  
14 *section 552a(e)(4) of title 5, United States Code, for*  
15 *the entire period of performance for any assistance*  
16 *provided under a disaster assistance program.*

17               “(2) *PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT WAIVER.—*

18               “(A) *IN GENERAL.—Upon the declaration of*  
19 *a major disaster or emergency pursuant to sec-*  
20 *tion 401 or 501, respectively, of this Act, the Ad-*  
21 *ministrator may waive the requirements of sub-*  
22 *chapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States*  
23 *Code (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Re-*  
24 *duction Act’), with respect to the voluntary col-*  
25 *lection of information specific to the declared*

1           *major disaster or emergency needed to carry out*  
2           *the purposes of a disaster assistance program.*

3           “(B) *DURATION.*—*A waiver described in*  
4           *subparagraph (A) shall be in effect for the entire*  
5           *period of performance for any assistance pro-*  
6           *vided under a disaster assistance program with*  
7           *respect to a declared major disaster or emer-*  
8           *gency.*

9           “(C) *TRANSPARENCY.*—*If the Administrator*  
10           *waives the requirements described in subpara-*  
11           *graph (A), the Administrator shall—*

12                   “(i) *promptly post on a public*  
13                   *website—*

14                           “(I) *a brief justification for the*  
15                           *waiver; and*

16                           “(II) *the agencies and offices to*  
17                           *which the waiver shall apply;*

18                           “(ii) *update the information posted*  
19                           *under clause (i), as applicable; and*

20                           “(iii) *comply with the requirements of*  
21                           *subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44,*  
22                           *United States Code (commonly known as*  
23                           *the ‘Paperwork Reduction Act’) upon the*  
24                           *expiration of the period of performance of*  
25                           *any assistance provided under a disaster*

1           *assistance program if the collection of infor-*  
2           *mation may be utilized for the purposes of*  
3           *supporting the disaster assistance program*  
4           *in future major disaster or emergency dec-*  
5           *larations.*

6           “(D) *EFFECTIVENESS OF WAIVER.*—*Any*  
7           *waiver under subparagraph (A) shall take effect*  
8           *on the date on which the Administrator posts in-*  
9           *formation on the internet website as provided for*  
10           *under subparagraph (C).*

11           “(e) *DATA SECURITY.*—*The Administrator shall facili-*  
12           *tate the collection of disaster assistance information into*  
13           *a unified application only after—*

14           “(1) *the Administrator certifies that the unified*  
15           *application substantially complies with the data secu-*  
16           *rity standards established pursuant to subchapter II*  
17           *of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, and any*  
18           *other applicable Federal information security policy;*

19           “(2) *the Secretary of Homeland Security pub-*  
20           *lishes a privacy impact assessment for the unified ap-*  
21           *plication that is similar to the privacy assessment*  
22           *conducted under section 208(b)(1)(B) of the E-Gov-*  
23           *ernment Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note); and*

24           “(3) *the Administrator, in consultation with dis-*  
25           *aster assistance agencies, publishes standard rules of*

1 *behavior for disaster assistance agencies and per-*  
2 *sonnel granted access to disaster assistance informa-*  
3 *tion to protect such information from improper dis-*  
4 *closure.*

5 *“(f) CERTIFICATION OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE AGEN-*  
6 *CIES.—*

7 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may cer-*  
8 *tify a Federal agency as a disaster assistance agency*  
9 *only after posting an agreement between the Adminis-*  
10 *trator and the Federal agency on a public website*  
11 *that contains the detailed terms of the agreement.*

12 *“(2) CONTENTS OF AGREEMENT.—An agreement*  
13 *between the Administrator and a Federal agency de-*  
14 *scribed in paragraph (1) shall state that the Federal*  
15 *Emergency Management Agency and the Federal*  
16 *agency will—*

17 *“(A) collect, disclose, maintain, and use dis-*  
18 *aster assistance information in accordance*  
19 *with—*

20 *“(i) this section; and*

21 *“(ii) subject to subsection (i)(2), any*  
22 *existing policies of the Federal Emergency*  
23 *Management Agency and the Federal agen-*  
24 *cy for information protection and use;*

1           “(B) train any personnel granted access to  
2           disaster assistance information on the rules of  
3           behavior established by the Administrator under  
4           subsection (e)(3);

5           “(C) in the event of any unauthorized dis-  
6           closure of disaster assistance information—

7                   “(i) not later than 24 hours after dis-  
8                   covering the unauthorized disclosure—

9                           “(I) in the case of an unauthor-  
10                           ized disclosure by the Federal agency,  
11                           notify the Administrator of the disclo-  
12                           sure; and

13                           “(II) in the case of an unauthor-  
14                           ized disclosure by the Federal Emer-  
15                           gency Management Agency, notify dis-  
16                           aster assistance agencies of the disclo-  
17                           sure;

18                           “(ii) cooperate fully with the Adminis-  
19                           trator and disaster assistance agencies in  
20                           the investigation and remediation of the  
21                           disclosure; and

22                           “(iii) cooperate fully in the prosecution  
23                           of a person responsible for the disclosure;  
24                           and

1           “(D) assume responsibility for any com-  
2           pensation, civil liability, or other remediation  
3           measure awarded by a judgment of a court or  
4           agreed upon as a compromise of any potential  
5           claim by or on behalf of an applicant, including  
6           by obtaining credit monitoring and remediation  
7           services, for an improper disclosure of disaster  
8           assistance information that is—

9                   “(i) caused, directly or indirectly, by  
10                  the acts or omissions of an officer, employee,  
11                  or contractor of the Federal agency; or

12                  “(ii) from any electronic system of  
13                  records that was created or maintained by  
14                  the Federal agency pursuant to section  
15                  552a(e) of title 5, United States Code.

16           “(3) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—Nothing in this  
17           subsection shall be construed to require a Federal  
18           agency to sign an agreement described in paragraph  
19           (2) if the head of that Federal agency determines that  
20           the inclusion of the assistance program of that Fed-  
21           eral agency in the unified intake process and system  
22           established under this section is not appropriate to  
23           support the nature and purposes of the assistance pro-  
24           grams under the jurisdiction of that Federal agency.

25           “(g) *REPORTS.*—

1           “(1) *FEMA.*—Not later than 1 year after the  
2           date of enactment of this section, and every year  
3           thereafter for 2 years, the Administrator, in coordina-  
4           tion with the heads of disaster assistance agencies,  
5           shall submit to Congress a report on the implementa-  
6           tion of this section, including—

7                   “(A) how disaster assistance agencies are  
8                   working together to implement the requirements  
9                   under this section;

10                   “(B) the effect of this section on disaster  
11                   survivor burden and the speed and efficiency of  
12                   delivering disaster assistance; and

13                   “(C) a description of any other challenges  
14                   that require further legislative action.

15           “(2) *GAO.*—Not later than 3 years after the date  
16           of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General  
17           of the United States shall submit to Congress a report  
18           on how the implementation of this section has affected  
19           the disaster survivor experience, and any rec-  
20           ommendations for improvements to the requirements  
21           under this section.

22           “(h) *BRIEFINGS.*—Not later than 90 days after the  
23           date of enactment of this section, and again not later than  
24           180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Ad-  
25           ministrators shall brief Congress on—

1           “(1) *the status of the implementation of the re-*  
2 *quirements under this section; and*

3           “(2) *how disaster assistance agencies are work-*  
4 *ing together to implement the requirements under this*  
5 *section.*

6           “(i) *RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—*

7           “(1) *INAPPLICABILITY OF MATCHING PROGRAM*  
8 *PROVISIONS.—The disclosure and use of disaster as-*  
9 *sistance information subject to the requirements of*  
10 *section 552a of title 5, United States Code, among*  
11 *disaster assistance agencies or with State, local, or*  
12 *Tribal governments carrying out disaster assistance*  
13 *programs shall not—*

14           “(A) *be construed as a matching program*  
15 *for the purpose of section 552a(a)(8) of title 5,*  
16 *United States Code; or*

17           “(B) *be subject to subsection (e)(12), (o),*  
18 *(p)(1)(A)(ii), (q), (r), or (u) of section 552a of*  
19 *title 5, United States Code.*

20           “(2) *AUTHORITIES IN OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in*  
21 *this section shall be construed to affect the authority*  
22 *of an entity to share disaster assistance information*  
23 *regarding programs funded or facilitated by the enti-*  
24 *ty in accordance with any other law or agency policy.*

1           “(3) *APPLYING TO MULTIPLE PROGRAMS.—Nothing*  
2           *in this section shall be construed to require an*  
3           *applicant to apply to more than 1 disaster assistance*  
4           *program.*”

Calendar No. 212

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> Session  
**S. 1462**

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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.

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OCTOBER 27, 2025

Reported with an amendment