

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5963

To provide for cost-share waivers for projects carried out in response to wildland fires caused by certain Government actions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 7, 2025

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for cost-share waivers for projects carried out in response to wildland fires caused by certain Government actions, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Responsible Wildland
5 Fire Recovery Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to ensure that parties af-
8 fected by wildland fires resulting from management activi-

1 ties conducted by the Department of Agriculture on Na-
 2 tional Forest System land are eligible to receive 100 per-
 3 cent funding for the cost of remediating direct and indi-
 4 rect damages under authorized Federal recovery pro-
 5 grams.

6 **SEC. 3. COST-SHARE WAIVER FOR REHABILITATION FROM**
 7 **WILDLAND FIRES.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) COVERED MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The
 10 term “covered matching requirement” means a re-
 11 quirement under a program of the Secretary for
 12 wildland fire recovery for a State, Indian Tribe, lo-
 13 cality, or individual to provide matching funds, in
 14 cash, for a project.

15 (2) COVERED WILDLAND FIRE.—The term
 16 “covered wildland fire” means a wildland fire that
 17 the Secretary determines to be a result of manage-
 18 ment activities conducted by the Secretary on Na-
 19 tional Forest System land.

20 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 21 the Secretary of Agriculture.

22 (4) WILDLAND FIRE.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “wildland
 24 fire” means any non-structure fire that occurs
 25 in vegetation or natural fuels.

1 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “wildland
2 fire” includes wildfire, prescribed fire, and any
3 direct or indirect damage resulting in watershed
4 impairment.

5 (b) WAIVER.—Notwithstanding any other provision
6 of law, the Secretary may waive any covered matching re-
7 quirement for a project in response to a covered wildland
8 fire that is in an area affected by that covered wildland
9 fire.

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