

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 140

To address the forest health crisis on the National Forest System and public lands, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 16, 2025

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. RISCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To address the forest health crisis on the National Forest System and public lands, and for other purposes.

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

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

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Wildfire Prevention Act of 2025”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER RHETORIC

Sec. 101. Accelerating treatments on Federal land.

- Sec. 102. Annual reports.
- Sec. 103. Transparency in hazardous fuels reduction activity reporting.
- Sec. 104. Regional forest carbon accounting.
- Sec. 105. Wildland fire performance metrics.

TITLE II—FOREST MANAGEMENT

- Sec. 201. Vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance relating to electric transmission and distribution facility rights-of-way.
- Sec. 202. Timber sales on National Forest System land.
- Sec. 203. Categorical exclusion for high-priority hazard trees.
- Sec. 204. Intervenor status.
- Sec. 205. Utilizing grazing for wildfire risk reduction.

TITLE III—CULTURAL CHANGE IN AGENCIES

- Sec. 301. Mandatory use of existing authorities.
- Sec. 302. Public-private wildfire technology deployment and testbed partnership.
- Sec. 303. Repeal of FLAME reports.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “Federal land”
4 means—

5 (A) land of the National Forest System;

6 and

7 (B) public lands (as defined in section 103
8 of the Federal Land Policy and Management
9 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)), the surface of
10 which is administered by the Secretary of the
11 Interior, acting through the Director of the Bu-
12 reau of Land Management.

13 (2) **HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIV-**
14 **ITY.**—

15 (A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “hazardous
16 fuels reduction activity” means any vegetation

1 management activity to reduce the risk of wild-
 2 fire, including mechanical treatments and pre-
 3 scribed burning.

4 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “hazardous
 5 fuels reduction activity” does not include the
 6 awarding of a contract to conduct any activity
 7 described in subparagraph (A).

8 (3) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “National
 10 Forest System” has the meaning given the term
 11 in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland
 12 Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
 13 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

14 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “National
 15 Forest System” does not include any forest re-
 16 serve not created from the public domain.

17 (4) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
 18 retary concerned” means—

19 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
 20 through the Chief of the Forest Service, with
 21 respect to Federal land described in paragraph
 22 (1)(A); and

23 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting
 24 through the Director of the Bureau of Land

1 Management, with respect to Federal land de-
 2 scribed in paragraph (1)(B).

3 (5) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term
 4 “wildland-urban interface” has the meaning given
 5 the term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Res-
 6 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

7 **TITLE I—ACCOMPLISHMENTS** 8 **OVER RHETORIC**

9 **SEC. 101. ACCELERATING TREATMENTS ON FEDERAL** 10 **LAND.**

11 (a) BASELINE TREATMENTS FOR FUELS REDUCTION
 12 AND FOREST HEALTH.—For Federal land, the Secretary
 13 concerned shall determine—

14 (1) for each of fiscal years 2019 through
 15 2023—

16 (A) the number of acres mechanically
 17 thinned, for acres commercially thinned and for
 18 acres pre-commercially thinned; and

19 (B) the number of acres treated by pre-
 20 scribed fire; and

21 (2) the average of the numbers described in
 22 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) over
 23 the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

24 (b) ANNUAL GOALS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—For Federal land for fiscal
2 year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-
3 retary concerned shall establish annual—

4 (A) mechanical thinning goals for acres
5 commercially thinned and for acres pre-com-
6 mercially thinned; and

7 (B) prescribed fire goals.

8 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

9 (A) FISCAL YEARS 2025 AND 2026.—For
10 each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026, the goals
11 established under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
12 paragraph (1) shall be not less than the number
13 of acres described in subsection (a)(2).

14 (B) FISCAL YEARS 2027 AND 2028.—For
15 each of fiscal years 2027 and 2028, the goals
16 established under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
17 paragraph (1) shall be not less than 20 percent
18 more than the number of acres described in
19 subsection (a)(2).

20 (C) FISCAL YEAR 2029 AND SUBSEQUENT
21 FISCAL YEARS.—For fiscal year 2029 and each
22 fiscal year thereafter, the goals established
23 under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph
24 (1) shall be not less than 40 percent more than

1 the number of acres described in subsection
2 (a)(2).

3 (c) REGIONAL ALLOTMENTS.—Not later than 90
4 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
5 thereafter, the Secretary concerned shall assign annual
6 acreage allotments for mechanical thinning and prescribed
7 fire on Federal land, categorized by National Forest Sys-
8 tem region or by State, as appropriate.

9 (d) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary concerned shall
10 make publicly available the data described in subsections
11 (a), (b), and (c), including by publishing that data on the
12 website of the Forest Service and the website of the Bu-
13 reau of Land Management.

14 (e) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section
15 shall be construed to supersede or conflict with any other
16 provision of law, including—

17 (1) section 40803(b) of the Infrastructure In-
18 vestment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(b)); and

19 (2) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et
20 seq.).

21 (f) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.—The establishment of
22 annual goals under subsection (b)(1) and the assignment
23 of regional allotments under subsection (c) shall not be
24 subject to the requirements of the National Environmental
25 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

1 **SEC. 102. ANNUAL REPORTS.**

2 Not later than September 30, 2025, and annually
3 thereafter, the Secretary concerned shall publish on a pub-
4 lic website of the Forest Service and a public website of
5 the Bureau of Land Management the following informa-
6 tion with respect to the Federal land during the preceding
7 fiscal year:

8 (1) The number of acres treated pursuant to
9 section 40803(b) of the Infrastructure Investment
10 and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(b)).

11 (2)(A) The number of acres mechanically
12 thinned;

13 (B) the number of acres treated by prescribed
14 fire; and

15 (C) whether the number of acres described in
16 subparagraphs (A) and (B) met or exceeded the
17 acres described in section 101(b)(2).

18 (3) Any limitations or challenges, including liti-
19 gation or delays in the preparation of environmental
20 documentation, that hindered the Secretary con-
21 cerned from meeting or exceeding the annual goals
22 established under section 101(b)(1), if applicable.

23 (4) The number of acres that have undergone
24 a regeneration harvest.

(5) The number of acres described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) and paragraph (4) that are in an area identified as having—

(A) the expectation that, without remediation, at least 25 percent of standing live basal area greater than 1 inch in diameter may die over a 15-year time frame due to insects and diseases, as depicted on the National Insect and Disease Composite Risk Map; or

(B) a very high or high wildfire hazard potential.

(6) The number of acres described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) and paragraph (4) that use either of the following streamlined authorities for environmental review:

(A) A categorical exclusion.

(B) An emergency action authority of the Secretary concerned.

(7) The number of acres described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) and paragraph (4) with respect to which partners are used to carry out the work through—

(A) a good neighbor agreement under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a);

1 (B) a master stewardship agreement;

2 (C) a contract or agreement entered into
3 under the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004
4 (25 U.S.C. 3115a); or

5 (D) a stewardship end-result contract.

6 **SEC. 103. TRANSPARENCY IN HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUC-**
7 **TION ACTIVITY REPORTING.**

8 (a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION
9 REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE
10 PRESIDENT’S BUDGET.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned
12 shall include in the materials submitted in support
13 of the President’s budget pursuant to section 1105
14 of title 31, United States Code, a report describ-
15 ing—

16 (A) for each of fiscal years 2025 through
17 2030, the number of acres of Federal land on
18 which the Secretary concerned carried out haz-
19 ardous fuels reduction activities during each of
20 the preceding 6 fiscal years, as assessed by the
21 Secretary concerned using—

22 (i) the methodology of the Secretary
23 concerned in effect on the day before the
24 date of enactment of this Act; and

1 (ii) the methodology described in
2 paragraph (2); and

3 (B) for fiscal year 2031 and each fiscal
4 year thereafter, the number of acres of Federal
5 land on which the Secretary concerned carried
6 out hazardous fuels reduction activities during
7 each of the preceding 6 fiscal years, as assessed
8 by the Secretary concerned using the method-
9 ology described in paragraph (2).

10 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of the re-
11 ports required under paragraph (1), the Secretary
12 concerned shall—

13 (A) in determining the number of acres of
14 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned
15 carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities
16 during each fiscal year covered by the report—

17 (i) record acres of Federal land on
18 which hazardous fuels reduction activities
19 were completed during each such fiscal
20 year; and

21 (ii) record each acre described in
22 clause (i) once in the report with respect to
23 a fiscal year, regardless of whether mul-
24 tiple hazardous fuels reduction activities

1 were carried out on such acre during such
2 fiscal year; and

3 (B) with respect to the acres of Federal
4 land recorded in the report, include information
5 on—

6 (i) which such acres are located in the
7 wildland-urban interface;

8 (ii) the level of wildfire risk (high,
9 moderate, or low) on the first and last day
10 of each fiscal year covered by the report;

11 (iii) the types of hazardous fuels re-
12 duction activities completed for such acres,
13 delineating between whether such activities
14 were conducted—

15 (I) in a wildfire managed for re-
16 source benefits; or

17 (II) through a planned project;

18 (iv) the cost per acre of hazardous
19 fuels reduction activities carried out during
20 each fiscal year covered by the report;

21 (v) the region or System unit in which
22 the acres are located; and

23 (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous
24 fuels reduction activities on reducing the
25 risk of wildfire.

1 (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned
2 shall make each report submitted under paragraph
3 (1) publicly available on the website of the Depart-
4 ment of Agriculture and the Department of the Inte-
5 rior, as applicable.

6 (b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary con-
9 cerned shall implement standardized procedures for
10 tracking data relating to hazardous fuels reduction
11 activities carried out by the Secretary concerned.

12 (2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures
13 required under paragraph (1) shall include—

14 (A) regular, standardized data reviews of
15 the accuracy and timely input of data used to
16 track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

17 (B) verification methods that validate
18 whether such data accurately correlates to the
19 hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out
20 by the Secretary concerned;

21 (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term
22 effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction
23 activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

24 (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities
25 that occur partially within the wildland-urban

1 interface, methods to distinguish which acres
 2 are located within the wildland-urban interface
 3 and which acres are located outside the
 4 wildland-urban interface.

5 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 14 days after im-
 6 plementing the standardized procedures required
 7 under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall
 8 submit to Congress a report that describes—

- 9 (A) such standardized procedures; and
- 10 (B) program and policy recommendations
- 11 to Congress to address any limitations in track-
- 12 ing data relating to hazardous fuels reduction
- 13 activities under this subsection.

14 **SEC. 104. REGIONAL FOREST CARBON ACCOUNTING.**

15 Not later than September 30, 2025, and every 3
 16 years thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
 17 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

- 18 (1) using data from the forest inventory and
- 19 analysis program, determine the net forest carbon
- 20 balance on the land in the National Forest System
- 21 of each Forest Service region, including whether the
- 22 National Forest System land is—
- 23 (A) a carbon source; or
- 24 (B) a carbon sink; and

1 (2) publish the information described in para-
2 graph (1) on the website of the Forest Service.

3 **SEC. 105. WILDLAND FIRE PERFORMANCE METRICS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after
5 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned
6 shall submit to the committees of Congress described in
7 subsection (c) a report on existing key performance indica-
8 tors and potential outcome-based performance measures
9 to reduce wildfire risk on Federal land.

10 (b) INCLUSIONS.—The report submitted under sub-
11 section (a) shall identify solutions to track the implemen-
12 tation and effectiveness of hazardous fuels reduction ac-
13 tivities and forest restoration treatments, including strate-
14 gies—

15 (1) to track whether land management activities
16 are reducing wildfire hazards and ways to quantify
17 and track acres in maintenance status;

18 (2) to track place-based and locally led out-
19 comes;

20 (3) to standardize national-level monitoring
21 measures;

22 (4) to quantify catastrophic wildfire risk reduc-
23 tion;

1 (5) to identify modeling and data challenges
 2 that are preventing the transition to annual wildfire
 3 risk mapping updates; and

4 (6) to integrate advanced technologies or a
 5 combination of technologies and analyses that will
 6 benefit the quality of information reported.

7 (c) COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DESCRIBED.—The
 8 committees of Congress referred to in subsection (a) are—

9 (1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
 10 sources of the Senate;

11 (2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
 12 and Forestry of the Senate;

13 (3) the Committee on Natural Resources of the
 14 House of Representatives; and

15 (4) the Committee on Agriculture of the House
 16 of Representatives.

17 **TITLE II—FOREST MANAGEMENT**

18 **SEC. 201. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, FACILITY INSPEC-** 19 **TION, AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE** 20 **RELATING TO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND** 21 **DISTRIBUTION FACILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**

22 (a) HAZARD TREES WITHIN 50 FEET OF ELECTRIC
 23 POWER LINE.—Section 512(a)(1)(B)(ii) of the Federal
 24 Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.

1 1772(a)(1)(B)(ii)) is amended by striking “10” and in-
 2 serting “50”.

3 (b) PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH OWNERS AND
 4 OPERATORS OF ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION
 5 FACILITIES.—Section 512 of the Federal Land Pol-
 6 icy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772) is
 7 amended—

8 (1) in the section heading, by striking
 9 “**MANAGMENT**” and inserting “**MANAGEMENT**”;

10 (2) by redesignating subsections (j) and (k) as
 11 subsections (k) and (l), respectively; and

12 (3) by inserting after subsection (i) the fol-
 13 lowing:

14 “(j) PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH OWNERS AND
 15 OPERATORS OF ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION
 16 FACILITIES.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In any special use permit
 18 or easement on National Forest System or Bureau
 19 of Land Management land provided to the owner or
 20 operator of an electric transmission or distribution
 21 facility, the Secretary concerned may provide per-
 22 mission to cut and remove trees or other vegetation
 23 from within the vicinity of the electric transmission
 24 or distribution facility without requiring a separate

1 timber sale, if that cutting and removal is consistent
2 with—

3 “(A) the applicable plan;

4 “(B) the applicable land and resource
5 management plan or land use plan; and

6 “(C) other applicable environmental laws
7 (including regulations).

8 “(2) USE OF PROCEEDS.—A special use permit
9 or easement that includes permission for cutting and
10 removal described in paragraph (1) shall include a
11 requirement that, if the owner or operator of the
12 electric transmission or distribution facility sells any
13 portion of the material removed under the permit or
14 easement, the owner or operator shall provide to the
15 Secretary concerned any proceeds received from the
16 sale, less any transportation costs incurred in the
17 sale.

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

1 **SEC. 202. TIMBER SALES ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**
 2 **LAND.**

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

6 **SEC. 203. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR HIGH-PRIORITY**
 7 **HAZARD TREES.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

18 (B) is determined by the Secretary to be
 19 highly likely to fail and, if it failed, would be
 20 highly likely to cause injury to people or dam-
 21 age to Federal property; and

22 (C) is—

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

1 (ii) along a National Forest System
2 trail; or

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

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

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “high-pri-
8 ority hazard tree activity” means a forest man-
9 agement activity that mitigates the risks associ-
10 ated with high-priority hazard trees, which may
11 include pruning, felling, and disposal of those
12 high-priority hazard trees.

13 (B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “high-pri-
14 ority hazard tree activity” does not include—

15 (i) any activity conducted in a wilder-
16 ness area or wilderness study area;

17 (ii) any activity for the construction of
18 a permanent road or permanent trail;

19 (iii) any activity conducted on Federal
20 land on which, by Act of Congress or Pres-
21 idential proclamation, the removal of vege-
22 tation is restricted or prohibited;

23 (iv) any activity conducted in an area
24 in which activities described in subpara-
25 graph (A) would be inconsistent with the

applicable land and resource management
plan; or

(v) any activity conducted in an inven-
toried roadless area.

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

(b) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
shall develop a categorical exclusion (as defined in
111 of the National Environmental Policy Act of
1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e)) for high-priority hazard
tree activities.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—In developing and ad-
ministering the categorical exclusion under para-
graph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) comply with the National Environ-
mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et
seq.); and

(B) apply the extraordinary circumstances
procedures under section 220.6 of title 36, Code
of Federal Regulations (or successor regula-
tions), in determining whether to use the cat-
egorical exclusion.

1 (3) PROJECT SIZE LIMITATION.—A project car-
2 ried out using the categorical exclusion developed
3 under paragraph (1) may not exceed 3,000 acres.

4 **SEC. 204. INTERVENOR STATUS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of a civil action re-
6 lating to a qualified project described in subsection (b),
7 a unit of local government or an Indian Tribe shall be—

8 (1) entitled to intervene, as of right, in any sub-
9 sequent civil action; and

10 (2) considered to be a full participant in any
11 settlement negotiation relating to the qualified
12 project if the unit of local government or Indian
13 Tribe, as applicable, intervenes.

14 (b) DESCRIPTION OF QUALIFIED PROJECT.—A quali-
15 fied project referred to in subsection (a) is a project that—

16 (1) is located on Federal land adjacent, or with
17 sufficient minimum contacts, as determined by the
18 Secretary concerned, to the land under the jurisdic-
19 tion of the unit of local government or Indian Tribe,
20 as applicable;

21 (2) has been approved by the Secretary con-
22 cerned; and

23 (3)(A) reduces the risk posed by wildfire, insect,
24 or disease; or

1 (B) generates revenue from the harvesting of
2 timber.

3 **SEC. 205. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK REDUC-**
4 **TION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after
6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned
7 shall develop and submit to the Committee on Energy and
8 Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on
9 Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a
10 strategy to analyze and identify opportunities to use live-
11 stock grazing as a wildfire risk reduction tool on Federal
12 land, consistent with the laws applicable to the Secretary
13 concerned.

14 (b) INCLUSIONS.—The strategy developed under sub-
15 section (a) shall include an analysis of—

16 (1) opportunities—

17 (A) to increase the use of any authorities
18 applicable to livestock grazing, including modi-
19 fications to grazing permits or leases to allow
20 variances;

21 (B) to use targeted grazing to reduce haz-
22 ardous fuels;

23 (C) to integrate advanced technologies to
24 dynamically adjust livestock placement;

1 (D) to increase the use of livestock grazing
 2 to eradicate invasive annual grasses and as a
 3 post-fire restoration and recovery strategy, as
 4 appropriate; and

5 (E) to facilitate and expedite the tem-
 6 porary use of vacant allotments during extreme
 7 weather events or natural disasters; and

8 (2) any other opportunities determined to be
 9 appropriate by the Secretary concerned.

10 (c) 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 **TITLE III—CULTURAL CHANGE** 18 **IN AGENCIES**

19 **SEC. 301. MANDATORY USE OF EXISTING AUTHORITIES.**

20 Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment
 21 of this Act, with respect to each unit of Federal land that
 22 contains land described in section 102(5), the Secretary
 23 concerned shall use not fewer than 1 of the following
 24 streamlined authorities for environmental review:

1 (1) Section 603(a) of the Healthy Forests Res-
2 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591b(a)).

3 (2) Section 605(a) of the Healthy Forests Res-
4 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(a)).

5 (3) Section 606(b) of the Healthy Forests Res-
6 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e(b)).

7 (4) Section 40806(b) of the Infrastructure In-
8 vestment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592b(b)).

9 (5) Section 40807 of the Infrastructure Invest-
10 ment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592c).

11 (6) Section 207 of the Wildfire Suppression
12 Funding and Forest Management Activities Act (16
13 U.S.C. 6591c note; Public Law 115–141).

14 **SEC. 302. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DE-**
15 **PLOYMENT AND TESTBED PARTNERSHIP.**

16 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES.—The term
18 “appropriate committees” means—

19 (A) the Committees on Agriculture, Nutri-
20 tion, and Forestry, Energy and Natural Re-
21 sources, and Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
22 tation of the Senate; and

23 (B) the Committees on Agriculture, Nat-
24 ural Resources, and Science, Space, and Tech-
25 nology of the House of Representatives.

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

3 (A) each Federal land management agency
4 (as defined in section 802 of the Federal Lands
5 Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C.
6 6801));

7 (B) the Department of Defense;

8 (C) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
9 Administration;

10 (D) the United States Fire Administration;

11 (E) the Federal Emergency Management
12 Agency;

13 (F) the National Aeronautics and Space
14 Administration;

15 (G) the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

16 (H) any other Federal agency involved in
17 wildfire response.

18 (3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
19 tity” means—

20 (A) a private entity;

21 (B) a nonprofit organization; and

22 (C) an institution of higher education (as
23 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
24 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

1 (4) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “Pilot Pro-
 2 gram” means the deployment and testbed pilot pro-
 3 gram established under subsection (b).

4 (5) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
 5 means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Sec-
 6 retary of the Interior, acting jointly.

7 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after
 8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in co-
 9 ordination with the heads of the covered agencies, shall
 10 establish a deployment and testbed pilot program for new
 11 and innovative wildfire prevention, detection, communica-
 12 tion, and mitigation technologies.

13 (c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program,
 14 the Secretaries shall—

15 (1) incorporate the Pilot Program into an exist-
 16 ing interagency coordinating group on wildfires;

17 (2) in consultation with the heads of covered
 18 agencies, identify key technology priority areas with
 19 respect to the deployment of wildfire prevention, de-
 20 tection, communication, and mitigation technologies,
 21 including—

22 (A) hazardous fuels reduction activities or
 23 treatments;

24 (B) dispatch communications;

25 (C) remote sensing and tracking;

1 (D) safety equipment; and

2 (E) common operating pictures or oper-
3 ational dashboards; and

4 (3) connect each covered entity selected to par-
5 ticipate in the Pilot Program with the appropriate
6 covered agency to coordinate real-time and on-the-
7 ground testing of technology during wildland fire
8 mitigation activities and training.

9 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To participate in the Pilot Pro-
10 gram, a covered entity shall submit to the Secretaries an
11 application at such time, in such manner, and containing
12 such information as the Secretaries may require, which
13 shall include a proposal to test technologies specific to key
14 technology priority areas identified under subsection
15 (c)(2).

16 (e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECH-
17 NOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in
18 the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to
19 covered entities developing and applying emerging tech-
20 nologies that address issues identified by the Secretaries,
21 including artificial intelligence, quantum sensing, com-
22 puting and quantum-hybrid applications, augmented re-
23 ality, and 5G private networks and device-to-device com-
24 munications supporting nomadic mesh networks, for wild-
25 fire mitigation.

1 (f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination
 2 with the heads of the covered agencies, shall make publicly
 3 available the key technology priority areas identified under
 4 subsection (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply to
 5 test and demonstrate their technologies to address those
 6 priority areas.

7 (g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later
 8 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and
 9 each year thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Program,
 10 the Secretaries shall submit to the appropriate committees
 11 a report that includes the following with respect to the
 12 Pilot Program:

13 (1) A list of participating covered entities.

14 (2) A brief description of the technologies test-
 15 ed by such covered entities.

16 (3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring the
 17 technology tested in the Pilot Program and applying
 18 it at scale.

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

21 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-
 22 ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and
 23 application at-scale in the wildfire prevention, detec-
 24 tion, communication, and mitigation efforts of Fed-
 25 eral land management agencies (as defined in sec-

1 tion 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhance-
2 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 6801)).

3 (h) TERMINATION.—The Pilot Program shall expire
4 on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment
5 of this Act.

6 **SEC. 303. REPEAL OF FLAME REPORTS.**

7 Section 502 of the FLAME Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C.
8 1748a) is amended—

9 (1) by striking subsection (h); and

10 (2) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection

11 (h).

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