

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 91

To improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 14, 2025

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. SHEEHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, 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 “Western Wildfire Support 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—PREPARATION

Sec. 101. Firefighting account transparency.
Sec. 102. Reimbursement for wildfires caused by military training.

- Sec. 103. Strategic wildland fire management planning.
 Sec. 104. Study on integrating local firefighters into wildfire response.

TITLE II—WILDFIRE DETECTION AND SUPPRESSION SUPPORT

- Sec. 201. Wildfire detection equipment.
 Sec. 202. Slip-on tank units.
 Sec. 203. Research and development of unmanned aircraft system fire applications.
 Sec. 204. Study on drone incursions on wildfire suppression.
 Sec. 205. Study on modernizing wildfire response technologies.

TITLE III—POST-FIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

- Sec. 301. Funding for online guides for post-disaster assistance.
 Sec. 302. Post-fire management and recovery.
 Sec. 303. Long-Term Burned Area Rehabilitation account.
 Sec. 304. Prize for wildfire-related invasive species reduction.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term
 4 “congressional committees” means—

5 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
 6 Resources and the Committee on Appropria-
 7 tions of the Senate; and

8 (B) the Committee on Natural Resources
 9 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
 10 House of Representatives.

11 (2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
 12 means—

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

16 (B) units of the National Park System;

1 (C) units of the National Wildlife Refuge
2 System;

3 (D) land held in trust by the United States
4 for the benefit of Indian Tribes or members of
5 an Indian Tribe; and

6 (E) land in the National Forest System.

7 (3) FIRESHED.—The term “fireshed” means a
8 geographically delineated forest landscape, within
9 which a fire ignition would threaten homes, commu-
10 nities, or critical infrastructure.

11 (4) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—

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

17 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “National
18 Forest System” does not include—

19 (i) the national grasslands and land
20 utilization projects administered under title
21 III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant
22 Act (7 U.S.C. 1010 et seq.); or

23 (ii) National Forest System land east
24 of the 100th meridian.

1 (5) RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term
 2 “resource management plan” has the meaning given
 3 the term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Res-
 4 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

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

7 (A) the Secretary of the Interior; and

8 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

9 (7) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
 10 retary concerned” means—

11 (A) the Secretary of the Interior, in the
 12 case of Federal land under the jurisdiction of
 13 the Secretary of the Interior; and

14 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, in the
 15 case of Federal land under the jurisdiction of
 16 the Secretary of Agriculture.

17 **TITLE I—PREPARATION**

18 **SEC. 101. FIREFIGHTING ACCOUNT TRANSPARENCY.**

19 (a) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Section 104(a) of division
 20 O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (43
 21 U.S.C. 1748a–2(a)), is amended—

22 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
 23 striking “the fiscal year” and all that follows
 24 through “this division,” and inserting “each fiscal
 25 year,”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “report with
 2 respect to the additional new budget authority;” and
 3 inserting “report on the amounts obligated and the
 4 amounts expended from Wildland Fire Management
 5 accounts, including any amounts obligated or ex-
 6 pended using additional new budget authority under
 7 section 251(b)(2)(F) of the Balanced Budget and
 8 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C.
 9 901(b)(2)(F)), in the preceding fiscal year;”.

10 (b) INCLUSIONS.—Section 104(b) of division O of the
 11 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (43 U.S.C. 1748a–
 12 2(b)), is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding
 14 subparagraph (A), by striking “a statistically signifi-
 15 cant sample of large fires, including an analysis for
 16 each fire” and inserting “each catastrophic wildfire
 17 described in subsection (c), including an analysis for
 18 each such catastrophic wildfire”; and

19 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “by fire size”
 20 and all that follows through the semicolon at the end
 21 and inserting the following: “by—

22 “(A) the total ground-based operations
 23 costs;

24 “(B) the total aircraft operations costs;

25 “(C) the total personnel costs;

1 “(D) the total on-incident and off-incident
2 support costs;

3 “(E) the total funding allocated from the
4 Wildland Fire Management account of the Sec-
5 retary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agri-
6 culture (as applicable) to pay for administrative
7 costs; and

8 “(F) any other relevant factors, as deter-
9 mined by the Secretary of the Interior or the
10 Secretary of Agriculture (as applicable);”.

11 (c) CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE DESCRIBED.—Section
12 104 of division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,
13 2018 (43 U.S.C. 1748a–2), is amended by adding at the
14 end the following:

15 “(c) CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE DESCRIBED.—A cat-
16 astrophic wildfire referred to in subsection (b)(3) is a wild-
17 fire incident or wildfire complex that—

18 “(1) requires the mobilization or use of Federal
19 firefighting resources;

20 “(2)(A) burns at least 100,000 acres of land; or

21 “(B) burns at least 50,000 acres of land, with
22 a 50 percent or greater portion at high severity; and

23 “(3)(A) results in total suppression costs of
24 \$50,000,000 or more;

25 “(B) destroys 1 or more primary residences; or

1 “(C) directly results in the death of 1 or more
2 individuals.”.

3 **SEC. 102. REIMBURSEMENT FOR WILDFIRES CAUSED BY**
4 **MILITARY TRAINING.**

5 (a) **MUTUAL AID.**—In accordance with section 2 of
6 the Act of May 27, 1955 (42 U.S.C. 1856a) (commonly
7 known as the “Reciprocal Fire Protection Act”), the Sec-
8 retary of Defense shall seek to enter into reciprocal agree-
9 ments with State agencies for mutual aid in furnishing
10 fire suppression services.

11 (b) **REIMBURSEMENTS.**—Each reciprocal agreement
12 entered into under subsection (a) shall provide for the re-
13 imbursement of the State agency that is a party to the
14 agreement for fire suppression services provided by the
15 State agency as a result of a fire caused by military train-
16 ing or other planned actions carried out by the Depart-
17 ment of Defense in support of military operations.

18 (c) **LIMITATION.**—Services reimbursable under sub-
19 section (b) shall be limited to services directly attributable
20 to the fire for which reimbursement is sought.

21 (d) **APPLICATION.**—Each application from a State
22 agency for reimbursement for services under subsection
23 (b) shall provide an itemized request of the services cov-
24 ered by the application, including the costs of the services.

1 (e) FUNDS.—Reimbursements under subsection (b)
 2 shall be made from amounts authorized to be appropriated
 3 to the Department of Defense for operation and mainte-
 4 nance.

5 (f) EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—An agreement in effect
 6 as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be considered
 7 an agreement entered into under subsection (a) if the
 8 agreement otherwise meets the requirements of such an
 9 agreement under this section.

10 **SEC. 103. STRATEGIC WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN-**
 11 **NING.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30,
 13 2026, the Secretary concerned shall review existing spatial
 14 fire management policies for each fireshed on Federal land
 15 and issue, as appropriate, new or revised policies that in-
 16 corporate the best available science and planning tools.

17 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—Spatial fire management poli-
 18 cies issued under subsection (a) shall—

19 (1) be routinely reviewed and updated—

20 (A) to include forest management activities
 21 or changes in accessibility;

22 (B) not later than 1 year after the date on
 23 which a wildfire incident has occurred within
 24 the applicable fireshed; and

1 (C) not less frequently than once every 10
 2 years;

3 (2) identify potential wildfire and smoke risks
 4 to first responders, communities, critical infrastruc-
 5 ture, and high-value resources;

6 (3) be consistent with any resource manage-
 7 ment plan developed for the applicable fireshed;

8 (4) in coordination with any State that includes
 9 that fireshed, delineate potential wildland fire oper-
 10 ational delineations that—

11 (A) identify potential wildfire control loca-
 12 tions; and

13 (B) specify the places in which risk to
 14 wildfire responders may be elevated as a result
 15 of—

16 (i) exceeding a certain slope for the
 17 landscape;

18 (ii) containing an excess of hazardous
 19 fuels such that a threat would be posed
 20 under severe fire weather conditions; or

21 (iii) containing other known hazards;

22 (5) include a description of the weather condi-
 23 tions for the fireshed that would comprise severe fire
 24 weather conditions; and

1 (6) include other prefire planning provisions rel-
 2 evant to wildfire response, at the discretion of the
 3 Secretary concerned.

4 (c) WILDFIRE CONSIDERATION DURING LAND MAN-
 5 AGEMENT PLANNING.—To the maximum extent prac-
 6 ticable, the Secretary concerned shall include, on a team
 7 carrying out any development or revision of a resource
 8 management plan for Federal land containing 1 more
 9 firesheds, an employee that was involved in the develop-
 10 ment of the spatial fire management policies for that
 11 fireshed.

12 **SEC. 104. STUDY AND REPORT ON INTEGRATING LOCAL**
 13 **FIREFIGHTERS INTO WILDFIRE RESPONSE.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
 15 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland
 16 Security, acting through the Administrator of the U.S.
 17 Fire Administration and in coordination with the National
 18 Wildfire Coordinating Group, shall—

19 (1) conduct a study on the gaps in training for
 20 structural firefighters in high wildfire risk areas;
 21 and

22 (2) submit to the congressional committees a
 23 report describing the results of the study conducted
 24 under paragraph (1).

1 (b) INCLUSIONS.—The report submitted under sub-
2 section (a)(2) shall include—

3 (1) a summary of existing coordination prac-
4 tices between Federal wildland firefighters and
5 State, local, or Tribal firefighters;

6 (2) an analysis of the differences in best re-
7 sponse practices for State, local, or Tribal fire-
8 fighters when responding to a fire incident that
9 threatens a single structure as compared to a wild-
10 fire that threatens a community;

11 (3) existing training modules, or gaps in exist-
12 ing training modules, available through the National
13 Fire Academy to train State, local, or Tribal fire-
14 fighters on best response practices for a wildfire that
15 threatens a community; and

16 (4) an estimated cost and spending plan to ad-
17 dress any gaps in existing training modules de-
18 scribed in paragraph (3).

19 **TITLE II—WILDFIRE DETECTION** 20 **AND SUPPRESSION SUPPORT**

21 **SEC. 201. WILDFIRE DETECTION EQUIPMENT.**

22 To the extent practicable, the Secretary concerned
23 shall—

1 (1) expedite the placement of wildfire detection
2 equipment, such as sensors, cameras, and other rel-
3 evant equipment, in areas at risk of wildfire;

4 (2) expand the use of satellite data to improve
5 wildfire detection and response;

6 (3) expedite any permitting required by the
7 Secretary concerned for the installation, mainte-
8 nance, or removal of wildfire detection equipment;

9 (4) use unmanned aerial vehicles to assess
10 wildland fires in their incipient stages to determine
11 the appropriate initial response actions;

12 (5) review permitting described in paragraph
13 (3) and procurement requirements for wildfire detec-
14 tion equipment within the context of modern and in-
15 novative technology; and

16 (6) annually provide a forum for companies en-
17 gaging in the development and testing of emergent
18 wildland fire technology to engage with wildland fire
19 managers.

20 **SEC. 202. SLIP-ON TANKER UNITS.**

21 (a) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ACQUISITION OF
22 FIREFIGHTING SLIP-ON TANKER UNITS.—Section
23 40803(c)(5) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
24 Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(c)(5)) is amended by inserting “and
25 Indian Tribes” after “local governments”.

1 (b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-
 3 rior shall submit to the Committee on Energy and
 4 Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee
 5 on Natural Resources of the House of Representa-
 6 tives an annual report on the implementation of sec-
 7 tion 40803(c)(5) of the Infrastructure Investment
 8 and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(c)(5)), including a
 9 description of—

10 (A) the total number of slip-on tanker
 11 units purchased with financial assistance pro-
 12 vided by the Secretary of the Interior under
 13 that section in the preceding year, by State;

14 (B) the number of requests received by the
 15 Secretary of the Interior for financial assistance
 16 under that section to purchase slip-on tanker
 17 units in the preceding year; and

18 (C) any barriers identified by the Secretary
 19 of the Interior to the ability of local govern-
 20 ments and Indian Tribes to participate in the
 21 pilot program established under that section.

22 (2) TIMING.—

23 (A) INITIAL REPORT.—The Secretary of
 24 the Interior shall submit the first report re-

1 quired under paragraph (1) not later than Oc-
2 tober 1, 2026.

3 (B) SUNSET.—The requirements of this
4 subsection shall expire on October 1, 2028.

5 (c) INTEGRATION INTO WILDFIRE RESPONSE.—The
6 Secretaries, in coordination with recipients of financial as-
7 sistance for slip-on tanker units provided under section
8 40803(c)(5) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
9 Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(c)(5)), shall—

10 (1) in coordination with the Administrator of
11 the U.S. Fire Administration, promulgate guidance
12 for the mobilization of slip-on tanker units for wild-
13 fire response;

14 (2) as practicable, incorporate mobilized slip-on
15 tanker units into resource tracking systems; and

16 (3) collaborate with the Administrator of the
17 U.S. Fire Administration regarding any necessary
18 training for operators of slip-on tanker units.

19 **SEC. 203. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNMANNED**
20 **AIRCRAFT SYSTEM FIRE APPLICATIONS.**

21 (a) DEFINITION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYS-
22 TEM.—In this section, the term “unmanned aircraft sys-
23 tem” means an unmanned aircraft and associated ele-
24 ments (including, if applicable, communication links and
25 the components that control the unmanned aircraft) that

1 are required for the operator to operate safely and effi-
 2 ciently.

3 (b) RESEARCH.—The Secretaries shall, acting
 4 through the Joint Fire Science Program, work with uni-
 5 versities and other research institutions to carry out re-
 6 search and development on the wildfire response applica-
 7 tions of unmanned aircraft systems.

8 (c) TESTING.—The Secretaries may coordinate with
 9 the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration
 10 to test an unmanned aircraft system developed under this
 11 section at an unmanned aircraft test range in accordance
 12 with section 44803 of title 49, United States Code.

13 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 14 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretaries such
 15 sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

16 **SEC. 204. STUDY ON DRONE INCURSIONS ON WILDFIRE**
 17 **SUPPRESSION.**

18 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
 20 trator” means the Administrator of the Federal
 21 Aviation Administration.

22 (2) DRONE.—The term “drone” means an un-
 23 manned aircraft system owned by a private indi-
 24 vidual or entity.

1 (3) DRONE INCURSION.—The term “drone in-
 2 cursion” means the operation of a drone within any
 3 airspace for which the Administrator has issued a
 4 temporary flight restriction because of a wildfire.

5 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Administrator, in con-
 6 sultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Sec-
 7 retary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the For-
 8 est Service, shall conduct a study on the effects of drone
 9 incursions on wildfire suppression with respect to land
 10 managed by the Department of the Interior or the Depart-
 11 ment of Agriculture.

12 (c) STUDY CONTENTS.—In conducting the study re-
 13 quired under subsection (b), the Administrator shall—

14 (1) determine, for each of the 5 most recent
 15 calendar years—

16 (A) the number of occurrences in which a
 17 drone incursion interfered with wildfire suppres-
 18 sion; and

19 (B) the estimated effect of each occurrence
 20 described in subparagraph (A) on—

21 (i) the length of time required to
 22 achieve complete suppression;

23 (ii) any associated delay in the field-
 24 ing of aerial firefighting response units;
 25 and

1 (iii) the amounts expended by the
2 Federal Government; and

3 (2) evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of
4 various actions to prevent drone incursions, includ-
5 ing—

6 (A) the use of counter-drone radio towers;

7 (B) the use of reasonable force to disable,
8 damage, or destroy a drone;

9 (C) the seizure of a drone, including sei-
10 zure with a net device; and

11 (D) the dissemination of educational mate-
12 rials relating to the effects of drone incursions
13 on wildfire suppression.

14 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
15 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall sub-
16 mit to the congressional committees, the Committee on
17 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate,
18 and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
19 of the House of Representatives a report describing—

20 (1) the findings of the study required under
21 subsection (b); and

22 (2) any recommendations relating to those find-
23 ings.

1 **SEC. 205. STUDY ON MODERNIZING WILDFIRE RESPONSE**
2 **TECHNOLOGIES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall conduct a
4 study on—

5 (1) necessary improvements to radio commu-
6 nications systems and infrastructure during wildland
7 fire or prescribed fire operations, including—

8 (A) an assessment of the quality and reli-
9 ability of existing radio infrastructure;

10 (B) for any instance in which existing
11 radio communications infrastructure has failed,
12 an assessment of the impacts on forest manage-
13 ment or wildfire response activities;

14 (C) a comparison of existing options to im-
15 prove on-the-ground communications; and

16 (D) a cost analysis and estimated timeline
17 to install the most feasible option identified
18 under subparagraph (C);

19 (2) real-time or near-real-time situational
20 awareness tools for operational firefighters, includ-
21 ing—

22 (A) standards and requirements for such
23 tools to ensure interoperability between Federal
24 firefighting entities and applicable State, local,
25 Tribal, or other partners;

1 (B) any requirements for additional remote
2 sensing and mapping capabilities to fully lever-
3 age such situational awareness tools; and

4 (C) a cost comparison between commer-
5 cially available systems and internally developed
6 systems; and

7 (3) wildland fire predictive modeling, includ-
8 ing—

9 (A) an analysis of the data required to re-
10 duce predictive error for existing or developing
11 models;

12 (B) an analysis of computing needs to
13 more swiftly or accurately model wildland fire
14 using existing or developing models;

15 (C) the feasibility of using artificial intel-
16 ligence for wildland fire modeling; and

17 (D) existing or developing wildland fire
18 predictive models that could assist with estab-
19 lishing safe conditions for igniting a prescribed
20 fire.

21 (b) SUBMISSION AND PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not
22 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,
23 the Secretaries shall submit to the congressional commit-
24 tees and make publicly available the results of the study
25 conducted under subsection (a).

1 **TITLE III—POST-FIRE RECOVERY**

2 **SUPPORT**

3 **SEC. 301. FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR POST-DIS-**

4 **ASTER ASSISTANCE.**

5 (a) USE OF SERVICES OF OTHER AGENCIES.—Sec-
 6 tion 201(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
 7 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131(a)) is amend-
 8 ed—

9 (1) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at
 10 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

12 “(8) post-disaster assistance.”.

13 (b) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-
 14 ANCE.—Section 201 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
 15 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131)
 16 is amended by adding at the end the following:

17 “(e) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-
 18 ANCE.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
 20 Federal Emergency Management Agency may enter
 21 into cooperative agreements to provide funding or
 22 technical assistance to a State agency designated or
 23 established under subsection (c) to establish, update,
 24 or operate a website to provide information relating
 25 to post-disaster recovery funding and resources to a

1 community or an individual impacted by a major
2 disaster or emergency.

3 “(2) MANAGEMENT.—A website established, up-
4 dated, or operated under this subsection shall be—

5 “(A) managed by the State agency; and

6 “(B) suitable for the residents of the State
7 of the State agency.

8 “(3) CONTENT.—The Administrator may pro-
9 vide funding to a State agency under this subsection
10 to establish, update, or operate a website that pro-
11 vides only 1 or more of the following:

12 “(A) A list of Federal, State, and local
13 sources of post-disaster recovery funding or as-
14 sistance that may be available to a community
15 after a disaster or emergency.

16 “(B) A list of Federal, State, and local
17 sources of post-disaster recovery funding or as-
18 sistance that may be available to an individual
19 impacted by a major disaster or emergency.

20 “(C) A technical guide that lists and ex-
21 plains the costs and benefits of alternatives
22 available to a community to mitigate the im-
23 pacts of a major disaster or emergency and pre-
24 pare for sequential hazards, such as flooding
25 after a wildfire.

1 “(4) COOPERATION.—A State agency that re-
 2 ceives funding or technical assistance to establish,
 3 update, or operate a website under this subsection
 4 shall cooperate with the Secretary of the Interior,
 5 the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Hous-
 6 ing and Urban Development, the Administrator of
 7 the Small Business Administration, and the Admin-
 8 istrator of the Federal Emergency Management
 9 Agency in establishing, updating, or operating the
 10 website under this subsection.

11 “(5) UPDATES.—A State agency that receives
 12 funding to establish, update, or operate a website
 13 under this subsection shall update the website not
 14 less frequently than once every 180 days.”.

15 **SEC. 302. POST-FIRE MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
 17 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned
 18 shall establish 1 or more permanent Burned Area Emer-
 19 gency Response Teams (referred to in this section as a
 20 “BAER Team”) to coordinate immediate post-wildfire
 21 emergency stabilization and erosion planning efforts.

22 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—A BAER Team shall—

23 (1) survey the landscape affected by a wildfire
 24 to determine burn severity;

1 (2) identify and remove, as necessary, dead or
2 dying trees that may pose an immediate hazard to
3 individuals, communities, or critical infrastructure;

4 (3) stabilize or remove hazardous materials re-
5 sulting from a wildfire that may pose an immediate
6 hazard to individuals, communities, or the environ-
7 ment;

8 (4) conduct emergency landscape stabilization
9 and erosion prevention work, prioritizing efforts that
10 ensure public safety;

11 (5) prevent the proliferation and spread of
12 invasive species;

13 (6) assist with informing the public of hazards
14 resulting from a wildfire;

15 (7) collaborate, as necessary, with activities
16 under section 303; and

17 (8) conduct such other work as the Secretary
18 concerned determines to be necessary.

19 (c) DURATION.—To the maximum extent practicable,
20 a BAER Team shall coordinate and respond to immediate
21 post-wildfire emergency stabilization and erosion planning
22 needs for a period of not more than 1 year after the date
23 of containment of a wildfire.

24 (d) FUNDING.—The Secretary concerned may use to
25 carry out this section funds made available by section

1 40803(c)(16) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
2 Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(c)(16)).

3 **SEC. 303. LONG-TERM BURNED AREA REHABILITATION AC-**
4 **COUNT.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT.—There is estab-
6 lished in the Treasury of the United States the Long-
7 Term Burned Area Rehabilitation account for the Depart-
8 ment of Agriculture.

9 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2025 and
11 each fiscal year thereafter for the account established by
12 subsection (a) such sums as are necessary to carry out
13 the activities described in subsection (d), not to exceed
14 \$100,000,000.

15 (c) PRESIDENTIAL BUDGET REQUESTS.—For fiscal
16 year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary
17 of Agriculture shall submit through the budget request of
18 the President and in accordance with subsection (b), a re-
19 quest for amounts in the National Forest System appro-
20 priation account to carry out the activities described in
21 subsection (d).

22 (d) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Ag-
23 riculture shall use amounts in the account established by
24 subsection (a) for rehabilitation projects located at sites
25 impacted by a wildfire or post-wildfire flooding primarily

1 on Federal land, but may include areas on non-Federal
2 land, that—

3 (1) restore the functions of an ecosystem, in-
4 cluding—

5 (A) identifying areas where natural regen-
6 eration is unlikely to occur;

7 (B) revegetation and reforestation, includ-
8 ing coordinating any necessary site preparation,
9 salvage harvesting, and replanting;

10 (C) watershed restoration;

11 (D) invasive species mitigation and re-
12 moval; and

13 (E) wildlife habitat restoration; or

14 (2) repair or replace infrastructure or facilities
15 critical for land management activities.

16 (e) DURATION OF ACTIVITIES.—A rehabilitation
17 project under subsection (d) shall—

18 (1) begin not earlier than the date on which the
19 wildfire was contained; and

20 (2) be completed not later than 5 years after
21 the date on which the wildfire was contained.

22 (f) AGREEMENT AUTHORITY.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
24 may enter to agreements with non-Federal entities
25 to carry out activities described in subsection (d).

1 (2) COST SHARE.—The non-Federal share of
 2 the costs of implementing activities under an agree-
 3 ment entered into under paragraph (1)—

4 (A) shall be not more than 20 percent; and

5 (B) may include in-kind contributions.

6 (3) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this sub-
 7 section—

8 (A) requires the Secretary of Agriculture
 9 to enter into agreements with non-Federal enti-
 10 ties to carry out activities described in sub-
 11 section (d); or

12 (B) limits the effect of the prioritization
 13 requirements under subsection (g).

14 (g) PRIORITIZATION OF FUNDING.—The Secretary of
 15 Agriculture shall prioritize, on a nationwide basis, projects
 16 for which funding requests are submitted under this sec-
 17 tion based on downstream effects on water resources.

18 (h) REPORTING.—Beginning in fiscal year 2027, and
 19 each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture
 20 shall annually submit to Congress a report on the burned
 21 area recovery work performed using—

22 (1) amounts from the account established by
 23 subsection (a);

24 (2) amounts made available under the Act of
 25 June 9, 1930 (16 U.S.C. 576 et seq.); and

1 (3) amounts from the Reforestation Trust Fund
 2 established by section 303(a) of Public Law 96–451
 3 (16 U.S.C. 1606a(a)).

4 **SEC. 304. PRIZE FOR WILDFIRE-RELATED INVASIVE SPE-**
 5 **CIES REDUCTION.**

6 Section 7001(d) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Con-
 7 servation, Management, and Recreation Act (16 U.S.C.
 8 742b note; Public Law 116–9) is amended—

9 (1) by striking “paragraph (8)(A)” each place
 10 it appears and inserting “paragraph (9)(A)”;

11 (2) by striking “paragraph (8)(B)” each place
 12 it appears and inserting “paragraph (9)(B)”;

13 (3) by redesignating paragraph (8) as para-
 14 graph (9);

15 (4) by inserting after paragraph (7) the fol-
 16 lowing:

17 “(8) THEODORE ROOSEVELT GENIUS PRIZE
 18 FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDFIRE-RELATED INVASIVE
 19 SPECIES.—

20 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

21 “(i) BOARD.—The term ‘Board’
 22 means the Management of Wildfire-Related
 23 Invasive Species Technology Advisory
 24 Board established by subparagraph (C)(i).

1 “(ii) PRIZE COMPETITION.—The term
 2 ‘prize competition’ means the Theodore
 3 Roosevelt Genius Prize for the manage-
 4 ment of wildfire-related invasive species es-
 5 tablished under subparagraph (B).

6 “(B) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 180
 7 days after the date of enactment of the Western
 8 Wildfire Support Act of 2025, the Secretary
 9 shall establish under section 24 of the Steven-
 10 son-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980
 11 (15 U.S.C. 3719) a prize competition, to be
 12 known as the ‘Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize
 13 for the management of wildfire-related invasive
 14 species’—

15 “(i) to encourage technological innova-
 16 tion with the potential to advance the mis-
 17 sion of the National Invasive Species
 18 Council with respect to the management of
 19 wildfire-related invasive species; and

20 “(ii) to award 1 or more prizes annu-
 21 ally for a technological advancement that
 22 manages wildfire-related invasive species.

23 “(C) ADVISORY BOARD.—

24 “(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is es-
 25 tablished an advisory board, to be known

as the ‘Management of Wildfire-Related
Invasive Species Technology Advisory
Board’.

“(ii) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall
be composed of not fewer than 9 members
appointed by the Secretary, who shall pro-
vide expertise in—

“(I) invasive species;

“(II) biology;

“(III) technology development;

“(IV) engineering;

“(V) economics;

“(VI) business development and
management;

“(VII) wildfire; and

“(VIII) any other discipline, as
the Secretary determines to be nec-
essary to achieve the purposes of this
paragraph.

“(iii) DUTIES.—Subject to clause (iv),
with respect to the prize competition, the
Board shall—

“(I) select a topic;

“(II) issue a problem statement;

1 “(III) advise the Secretary re-
 2 garding any opportunity for techno-
 3 logical innovation to manage wildfire-
 4 related invasive species; and

5 “(IV) advise winners of the prize
 6 competition regarding opportunities to
 7 pilot and implement winning tech-
 8 nologies in relevant fields, including in
 9 partnership with conservation organi-
 10 zations, Federal or State agencies,
 11 federally recognized Indian Tribes,
 12 private entities, and research institu-
 13 tions with expertise or interest relat-
 14 ing to the management of wildfire-re-
 15 lated invasive species.

16 “(iv) CONSULTATION.—In selecting a
 17 topic and issuing a problem statement for
 18 the prize competition, the Board shall con-
 19 sult widely with Federal and non-Federal
 20 stakeholders, including—

21 “(I) 1 or more Federal agencies
 22 with jurisdiction over the management
 23 of invasive species;

1 “(II) 1 or more Federal agencies
2 with jurisdiction over the management
3 of wildfire;

4 “(III) 1 or more State agencies
5 with jurisdiction over the management
6 of invasive species;

7 “(IV) 1 or more State agencies
8 with jurisdiction over the management
9 of wildfire;

10 “(V) 1 or more State, regional,
11 or local wildlife organizations, the
12 mission of which relates to the man-
13 agement of invasive species; and

14 “(VI) 1 or more wildlife con-
15 servation groups, technology compa-
16 nies, research institutions, institutions
17 of higher education, industry associa-
18 tions, or individual stakeholders with
19 an interest in the management of
20 wildfire-related invasive species.

21 “(v) REQUIREMENTS.—The Board
22 shall comply with all requirements under
23 paragraph (9)(A).

24 “(D) ADMINISTRATION BY THE NATIONAL
25 INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL.—The Secretary,

1 acting through the Executive Director of the
 2 National Invasive Species Council, shall admin-
 3 ister the prize competition and perform the du-
 4 ties described in paragraph (9)(B)(i).

5 “(E) JUDGES.—

6 “(i) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary
 7 shall appoint not fewer than 3 judges who
 8 shall, except as provided in clause (ii), se-
 9 lect the 1 or more annual winners of the
 10 prize competition.

11 “(ii) DETERMINATION BY SEC-
 12 RETARY.—The judges appointed under
 13 clause (i) shall not select any annual win-
 14 ner of the prize competition if the Sec-
 15 retary makes a determination that, in any
 16 fiscal year, none of the technological ad-
 17 vancements entered into the prize competi-
 18 tion merits an award.

19 “(F) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later
 20 than 60 days after the date on which a cash
 21 prize is awarded under this paragraph, the Sec-
 22 retary shall submit to the Committee on Energy
 23 and Natural Resources of the Senate and the
 24 Committee on Natural Resources of the House

of Representatives a report on the prize competition that includes—

“(i) a statement by the Board that describes the activities carried out by the Board relating to the duties described in subparagraph (C)(iii);

“(ii) a description of the 1 or more annual winners of the prize competition; and

“(iii) a statement by 1 or more of the judges appointed under subparagraph (E) that explains the basis on which the 1 or more winners of the prize competition was selected.

“(G) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The Board and all authority provided under this paragraph shall terminate on December 31, 2028.”; and

(5) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “or (7)(C)(i)” and inserting “(7)(C)(i), or (8)(C)(i)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in clause (i), by inserting “and the amount of the initial cash prize awarded

1 for a year under paragraph (8)” after
2 “subparagraph (B)(i)(IX)”;

3 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(iii) ADDITIONAL WILDFIRE CASH
6 PRIZES.—If the Secretary determines that
7 funds are available for an additional cash
8 prize under the prize competition under
9 paragraph (8) for a year, the Secretary
10 shall determine the amount of the addi-
11 tional cash prize.”.

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