

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1923

To provide for the implementation of certain recommendations from the Report of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2025

Mr. HARDER of California (for himself, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. STANTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Education and Workforce, Oversight and Government Reform, Armed Services, Energy and Commerce, Science, Space, and Technology, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Small Business, 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 the implementation of certain recommendations from the Report of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission.

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 “Modernizing Wildfire
5 Safety and Prevention Act of 2025”.

1 SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

2 The table of contents for this Act is the following:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of Contents.
- Sec. 3. Definition of Report.

TITLE I—WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 101. Middle Fire Leaders Academy (Report Recommendation 55).
- Sec. 102. Wildfire workforce grant program (Report Recommendation 88).

TITLE II—WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER SUPPORT

- Sec. 201. Fire Service Retention and Retirement Portability (Report Recommendation 86).
- Sec. 202. Wildland Fire Management Casualty Assistance Program (Report Recommendation 87).

TITLE III—WILDFIRE SMOKE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

- Sec. 301. National Smoke Monitoring and Alert System (Report Recommendation 44).
- Sec. 302. Health risk assessment for Wildfire Smoke Exposure (Report Recommendation 100).

TITLE IV—FIRE MITIGATION AND TECHNOLOGY

- Sec. 401. Improvements to wildfire forage loss programs (Report Recommendation 59).
- Sec. 402. Improvements to FEMA Programs (Report Recommendations 66 and 64).
- Sec. 403. The Wildland Dynamic Risk Mapping Program (Report Recommendation 118).
- Sec. 404. Improvements to grant programs for community wildfire risk reduction and postfire recovery efforts (Report Recommendation 142).
- Sec. 405. Joint Office of the Fire Environment Center (Report Recommendations 104, 105, 106).
- Sec. 406. Interagency Data Collaboration Environment (Report Recommendation 107).
- Sec. 407. Requirements related to payment timing for certain programs addressing wildfire damages (Report Recommendation 61).

3 SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF REPORT.

4 In this Act, the term “Report” means the Report of
 5 the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commis-
 6 sion, dated September 2023.

1 **TITLE I—WORKFORCE**
2 **DEVELOPMENT**

3 **SEC. 101. MIDDLE FIRE LEADERS ACADEMY (REPORT REC-**
4 **COMMENDATION 55).**

5 (a) MIDDLE FIRE LEADERS ACADEMY.—Not later
6 than a 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
7 the Chief of the Forest Service, in coordination with Na-
8 tional Wildfire Coordinating Group, shall create a Middle
9 Fire Leaders Academy which shall be open to Federal and
10 non-Federal wildland fire response workforce employees.
11 The Middle Fire Leaders Academy shall provide—

12 (1) rapid training and certification for emerging
13 wildfire and beneficial fire leaders; and

14 (2) additional and expanded training of suffi-
15 cient quality to enable managers and decision mak-
16 ers responsible for addressing wildfire incidents and
17 prescribed burns to make informed decisions regard-
18 ing the beneficial application and management of
19 fire, including managing local fire regimes and other
20 forms of beneficial fire use.

21 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
23 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2035.

1 **SEC. 102. WILDFIRE WORKFORCE GRANT PROGRAM (RE-**
2 **PORT RECOMMENDATION 88).**

3 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Not later than 6 months
4 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
5 Education shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to
6 eligible entities to carry out a program described in sub-
7 section (c).

8 (b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
9 under this Act, an eligible entity shall submit to the Sec-
10 retary an application in such manner, at such time, and
11 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

12 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
13 a grant under this Act shall carry out an educational or
14 vocational program that leads to a degree, certificate, or
15 other recognized credential in wildfire emergency manage-
16 ment, including—

17 (1) agricultural landscape planning relating to
18 wildfire resilience;

19 (2) natural resource management relating to
20 wildfire resilience;

21 (3) emergency management;

22 (4) emergency medical technician services;

23 (5) paramedic services;

24 (6) fire science;

25 (7) firefighting;

1 (8) community planning relating to wildfire re-
2 silience;

3 (9) short- and long-term post fire recovery safe-
4 ty and operations training for structural firefighters
5 assigned to wildfire incidents; or

6 (10) any other program that trains individuals
7 in the wildfire mitigation, response, or recovery
8 workforce.

9 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) ACCREDITED LOCAL ACADEMY.—The term
11 “accredited local academy” means a partnership, be-
12 tween a local fire suppression organization and the
13 office of the Fire Marshall of a State, that delivers
14 a State Fire Training program.

15 (2) ACCREDITED REGIONAL TRAINING PRO-
16 GRAM.—The term “accredited regional training pro-
17 gram” means a partnership, between a junior or
18 community college or institution of higher education
19 and the office of the Fire Marshall of a State, or the
20 State Wildland Firefighting Agency or in combina-
21 tion of Federal Land Management Agencies, that
22 delivers an approved State Fire Training program
23 within a given region.

24 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
25 ty” means—

- 1 (A) a junior or community college;
- 2 (B) an institution of higher education;
- 3 (C) an accredited regional training pro-
- 4 gram;
- 5 (D) an accredited local academy; or
- 6 (E) a nonprofit entity with experience ad-
- 7 ministering education and training programs
- 8 for fire service personnel.

9 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The

10 term “institution of higher education” has the

11 meaning given such term in section 102 of the High-

12 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

13 (5) JUNIOR OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The

14 term “junior or community college” has the meaning

15 given such term in section 312 of the Higher Edu-

16 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058).

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is

18 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section

19 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2035.

1 **TITLE II—WILDLAND**
2 **FIREFIGHTER SUPPORT**

3 **SEC. 201. FIRE SERVICE RETENTION AND RETIREMENT**
4 **PORTABILITY (REPORT RECOMMENDATION**
5 **86).**

6 (a) CONTINUING ACCRUAL OF SERVICE FOR FIRE-
7 FIGHTERS.—

8 (1) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYS-
9 TEM.—Section 8401(14) of title 5, United States
10 Code, is amended to read as follows:

11 “(14) the term ‘firefighter’ means—

12 “(A) an employee, the duties of whose po-
13 sition—

14 “(i) are primarily to perform work di-
15 rectly connected with the control and extin-
16 guishment of nonwildland fires; and

17 “(ii) are sufficiently rigorous that em-
18 ployment opportunities should be limited to
19 young and physically vigorous individuals,
20 as determined by the Director considering
21 the recommendations of the employing
22 agency;

23 “(B) an employee, the duties of whose po-
24 sition—

1 “(i) are primarily to perform work di-
2 rectly connected with the control and extin-
3 guishment of wildland fires; and

4 “(ii) are sufficiently rigorous that em-
5 ployment opportunities should be limited to
6 young and physically vigorous individuals,
7 as determined by the Director considering
8 the recommendations of the employing
9 agency;

10 “(C) an employee who—

11 “(i) is transferred directly to a super-
12 visory or administrative position after per-
13 forming duties described in subparagraph
14 (A) for at least 3 years; and

15 “(ii) while serving in such supervisory
16 or administrative position, has no break in
17 service; or

18 “(D) an employee who—

19 “(i) occupies a supervisory or admin-
20 istrative position after performing duties
21 described in subparagraph (B) for not less
22 than 3 years; and

23 “(ii) has not more than 24 months in
24 total time of breaks in service;”.

25 (2) SERVICE BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the require-
2 ments under subparagraph (B), service per-
3 formed before the date of enactment of this Act
4 by an individual who, on the date of enactment
5 of this Act, is an employee (as defined in sec-
6 tion 8401(11) of title 5, United States Code)
7 shall, for the purposes of chapter 84 of title 5,
8 United States Code, be treated as service per-
9 formed by a firefighter if—

10 (i) such service was performed during
11 the period beginning on October 1, 2003,
12 and ending on the day before the date of
13 enactment of this Act;

14 (ii) at the time of performing such
15 service—

16 (I) the individual did not meet
17 the requirements to be a firefighter
18 under section 8401(14) of title 5,
19 United States Code, because of a
20 break in service; and

21 (II) would have met the require-
22 ments to be a firefighter under section
23 8401(14)(D) of title 5, United States
24 Code, as amended by this Act; and

1 (iii) appropriate deductions and
2 withholdings under sections 8422 and
3 8423 of title 5, United States Code, were
4 made during such service.

5 (B) CREDIT FOR SERVICE.—To receive
6 credit for eligible service under subparagraph
7 (A), the applicable individual shall—

8 (i) before the date on which the indi-
9 vidual separates from service in the agency
10 in which the individual holds a position on
11 the date of enactment of this Act, submit
12 a written election to the agency employing
13 the individual;

14 (ii) if the individual is not employed
15 by the agency that employed the individual
16 when the service described in subpara-
17 graph (A) was performed, submit a written
18 election to such agency; and

19 (iii) remit to the agency that em-
20 ployed the individual when such service
21 was performed the additional amount that
22 would have been deducted during the pe-
23 riod of prior service under section 8422 of
24 title 5, United States Code, from the pay
25 of the individual if the amendments made

1 by paragraph (1) had been in effect during
2 the prior service, plus any applicable inter-
3 est computed under section 8334(e) of title
4 5, United States Code.

5 (C) GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS.—If an
6 individual remits payment under subparagraph
7 (B)(iii) with respect to service described in sub-
8 paragraph (A), the agency that employed the
9 individual when such service was performed
10 shall remit to the Office of Personnel Manage-
11 ment (for deposit in the Treasury of the United
12 States to the credit of the Civil Service Retire-
13 ment and Disability Fund) the total additional
14 amount of Federal contributions that would
15 have been paid under section 8423 of title 5,
16 United States Code, if the amendments made
17 by paragraph (1) had been in effect during the
18 prior service, plus any applicable interest com-
19 puted in accordance with section 8334(e) of
20 title 5, United States Code.

21 (D) NOTIFICATION AND ASSISTANCE RE-
22 QUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Office of
23 Personnel Management shall—

24 (i) take such action as may be nec-
25 essary and appropriate to inform individ-

1 uals entitled to have any service credited
2 under this subsection, or to have any an-
3 nuity computed under this subsection, of
4 the entitlement to the credit or computa-
5 tion; and

6 (ii) upon request, assist any individual
7 described in clause (i) in obtaining such in-
8 formation in the possession of the Sec-
9 retary of Agriculture or the Secretary of
10 the Interior, as applicable, as may be nec-
11 essary to verify the entitlement of the indi-
12 vidual to have any service credited, or to
13 have any annuity computed, pursuant to
14 this subsection.

15 (E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
16 this subsection shall be construed to permit or
17 require the making of any contribution to the
18 Thrift Savings Fund that would not otherwise
19 have been permitted or required but for the en-
20 actment of this subsection.

21 (b) RETENTION OF ENHANCED RETIREMENT BENE-
22 FITS DURING PERIOD OF NON-FEDERAL SERVICE.—Sec-
23 tion 104(e)(2) of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
24 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5323(e)) is amended by
25 adding at the end the following: “Any Federal wildland

1 firefighter (as that term is defined in section 201(d) of
2 the Modernizing Wildfire Safety and Prevention Act of
3 2025) who retains coverage, rights, and benefits under
4 such chapter 83 or 84 pursuant to this paragraph shall
5 retain enhanced retirement benefits under either such
6 chapter.”.

7 (c) JOB-SHARING.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
8 vision of law, a Federal wildland firefighter or wildland
9 fire support personnel may occupy a position in the civil
10 service (as that term is defined in section 2101 of title
11 5, United States Code) and a position with a Tribal gov-
12 ernment under a job-share agreement even if the position
13 with a Tribal government is classified at a level higher
14 than the civil service position, including any level that is
15 above that of the highest level applicable to the General
16 Schedule.

17 (d) FEDERAL WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER.—In this
18 section, the term “Federal wildland firefighter” means a
19 person who is—

20 (1) in a temporary, seasonal, or permanent po-
21 sition at the Department of Agriculture or the De-
22 partment of the Interior or as a Tribal firefighter
23 who;

24 (A) maintains group, emergency incident
25 management, or fire qualifications, as estab-

1 lished annually by the Standards for Wildland
2 Fire Position Qualifications published by the
3 National Wildfire Coordinating Group; and

4 (B) primarily engages in or supports
5 wildland fire management activities, including
6 forestry and rangeland technicians and posi-
7 tions concerning aviation, engineering heavy
8 equipment operations, dispatch, or fire and
9 fuels management; or

10 (2) a Federal firefighter stationed on military
11 installations under the Department of Defense who
12 engages in or supports wildland fire management ac-
13 tivities, including forestry and rangeland technicians
14 and positions concerning aviation, engineering heavy
15 equipment operations, dispatch, or fire and fuels
16 management.

17 **SEC. 202. WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT CASUALTY AS-**
18 **SISTANCE PROGRAM (REPORT REC-**
19 **COMMENDATION 87).**

20 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later than 6
21 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
22 Secretary of the Interior shall develop a Wildland Fire
23 Management Casualty Assistance Program (referred to in
24 this section as the “Program”) to provide assistance to
25 the next of kin of—

1 (1) firefighters who, while in the line of duty,
2 suffer illness or are critically injured or killed; and

3 (2) wildland fire support personnel critically in-
4 jured or killed in the line of duty.

5 (b) ASPECTS OF PROGRAM.—The Program shall ad-
6 dress the following:

7 (1) The initial and any subsequent notifications
8 to the next of kin of a firefighter or wildland fire
9 support personnel who—

10 (A) was killed in the line of duty; or

11 (B) requires hospitalization or treatment
12 at a medical facility due to a line-of-duty injury
13 or illness.

14 (2) The reimbursement of next of kin for ex-
15 penses associated with travel to visit a firefighter or
16 wildland fire support personnel who—

17 (A) was killed in the line of duty; or

18 (B) requires hospitalization or treatment
19 at a medical facility due to a line-of-duty injury
20 or illness.

21 (3) The qualifications, assignment, training, du-
22 ties, supervision, and accountability for the perform-
23 ance of casualty assistance responsibilities.

24 (4) The relief or transfer of casualty assistance
25 officers, including notification to survivors of critical

1 injury or illness in the line of duty and next of kin
2 of the reassignment of such officers to other duties.

3 (5) Centralized, short-term and long-term case
4 management procedures for casualty assistance, in-
5 cluding rapid access by survivors of firefighters or
6 wildland fire support personnel and casualty assist-
7 ance officers to expert case managers and coun-
8 selors.

9 (6) The provision, through a computer acces-
10 sible website and other means and at no cost to sur-
11 vivors and next of kin of firefighters or wildland fire
12 support personnel, of personalized, integrated infor-
13 mation on the benefits and financial assistance avail-
14 able to such survivors from the Federal Government.

15 (7) The provision of information to survivors
16 and next of kin of firefighters or wildland fire sup-
17 port personnel on mechanisms for registering com-
18 plaints about, or requests for, additional assistance
19 related to casualty assistance.

20 (8) Liaison with the Department of the Inte-
21 rior, the Department of Justice, and the Social Se-
22 curity Administration to ensure prompt and accurate
23 resolution of issues relating to benefits administered
24 by those agencies for survivors of firefighters or
25 wildland fire support personnel.

1 (9) Data collection regarding the incidence and
2 quality of casualty assistance provided to survivors
3 of firefighters or wildland fire support personnel.

4 (c) LINE OF DUTY DEATH BENEFITS.—The Pro-
5 gram shall not affect existing authorities for Line of Duty
6 Death benefits for Federal firefighters and wildland fire
7 support personnel.

8 (d) NEXT OF KIN DEFINED.—In this section, the
9 term “next of kin” means person or persons in the highest
10 category of priority as determined by the following list
11 (categories appear in descending order of priority):

12 (1) Surviving legal spouse.

13 (2) Children (whether by current or prior mar-
14 riage) age 18 years or older in descending prece-
15 dence by age.

16 (3) Father or mother, unless by court order
17 custody has been vested in another (adoptive parent
18 takes precedence over natural parent);

19 (4) Siblings (whole or half) age 18 years or
20 older in descending precedence by age.

21 (5) Grandfather or grandmother.

22 (6) Any other relative (precedence to be deter-
23 mined in accordance with the civil law of descent of
24 the deceased former member’s State of domicile at
25 time of death).

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
3 \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2035.

4 **TITLE III—WILDFIRE SMOKE**
5 **AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

6 **SEC. 301. NATIONAL SMOKE MONITORING AND ALERT SYS-**
7 **TEM (REPORT RECOMMENDATION 44).**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of the Na-
9 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, acting
10 through the Director of the National Weather Service, and
11 in conjunction with the Secretary of Agriculture acting
12 through the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secretary of
13 the Interior, the Administrator of the Environmental Pro-
14 tection Agency, and the Director of the Centers for Dis-
15 ease Control and Prevention shall establish a nationally
16 consistent smoke monitoring and alert system to provide
17 consistent, real-time information and forecasts on air
18 quality impacts from wildfire smoke, including wildfire
19 smoke in the built environment.

20 (b) INCREASE IN SMOKE SENSORS.—In carrying out
21 subsection (a), to ensure adequate and accessible data, the
22 Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
23 shall increase the availability and use of air monitoring
24 devices for wildfire smoke, including, to distinguish wild-

1 fire smoke from other forms of air pollution, increasing
2 the availability and use of—

3 (1) speciation monitors; and

4 (2) nonregulatory air monitors.

5 (c) USE OF SATELLITES.—In carrying out subsection
6 (a), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection
7 Agency shall explore the use of satellites.

8 (d) PUBLIC COUNTY-RESOLUTION SMOKE ALERT
9 SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND ROADWAYS SAFE-
10 TY.—In carrying out subsection (a), not later than 1 year
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
12 trator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
13 tration, acting through the Director of the National
14 Weather Service and in coordination with the Secretary
15 of Agriculture acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-
16 ice, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Administrator
17 of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Director
18 of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall
19 establish a public county-resolution smoke alert system for
20 public health and roadways safety which shall be based
21 on levels of particulate matter. The system established
22 under this subsection shall be in addition to the National
23 Weather Service Dense Smoke Advisories, which are based
24 on visibility.

1 (e) COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF AIR QUAL-
2 ITY AND SMOKE ALERT INFORMATION.—In carrying out
3 subsection (a), the Director of the National Weather Serv-
4 ice shall collect all air quality forecasts, including through
5 AirNow, public notifications, and alerts for smoke issued
6 by Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial air agencies
7 and disseminate them through weather forecast office net-
8 works to enable the Wireless Emergency Alerts System to
9 be extended to support smoke communications to protect
10 public health.

11 (f) FOREST SERVICE PERSONNEL AND SMOKE MONI-
12 TORING EQUIPMENT.—In carrying out subsection (a), not
13 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
14 Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief
15 of the Forest Service, in coordination with the Secretary
16 of the Interior, shall expand the personnel and smoke
17 monitoring equipment of the Forest Service to increase the
18 capacity of the Forest Service to assess wildfire smoke,
19 including wildfire smoke in the built environment, and
20 carry out prescribed fires.

21 (g) INTERAGENCY WILDLAND FIRE AIR QUALITY
22 RESPONSE PROGRAM PERSONNEL AND SMOKE MONI-
23 TORING EQUIPMENT.—In carrying out subsection (a), not
24 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
25 Act, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the

1 Interior shall expand the personnel (including air resource
2 advisors) of, and smoke monitoring equipment available
3 to, the Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response
4 Program established under section 1114(f) of the John D.
5 Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation
6 Act (43 U.S.C. 1748b–1(f)).

7 (h) EXPANSION OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPAC-
8 ITY.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection
10 (a), the Administrator of the Environmental Protec-
11 tion Agency shall expand the emergency response ca-
12 pacity, including personnel and equipment, of the
13 Environmental Protection Agency—

14 (A) to measure air pollution from wildfires
15 that involve combustion of hazardous materials;
16 and

17 (B) to communicate information during
18 smoke events resulting from wildfires.

19 (2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
20 “hazardous materials” means explosive, flammable,
21 combustible, corrosive, oxidizing, toxic, infectious, or
22 radioactive materials that, when involved in an acci-
23 dent and released in sufficient quantities, put some
24 portion of the general public in immediate danger
25 from exposure, contact, inhalation, or ingestion.

1 (i) IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING SYSTEMS.—In car-
2 rying out subsection (a), in order to maintain the Environ-
3 mental Protection Agency AirNow framework and tech-
4 nology as a state-of-the-art, real-time resource for pro-
5 viding robust and actionable information to protect public
6 health from wildfire smoke, the Administrator of the Envi-
7 ronmental Protection Agency shall, as the Administrator
8 determines appropriate, improve and modernize such
9 AirNow framework and technology, including by making
10 improvements to and otherwise modernizing AirNow.gov,
11 AirNow-Tech, the AirNow Environmental Protection
12 Agency and Forest Service Fire and Smoke Map, AirNow
13 Forecast Submittal System, and the AirNow mobile app.

14 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
15 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
16 \$32,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2035.

17 **SEC. 302. HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT FOR WILDFIRE**

18 **SMOKE EXPOSURE (REPORT RECOMMENDA-**

19 **TION 100).**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
21 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Na-
22 tional Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, in
23 consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental
24 Protection Agency, the Director of the Centers for Disease
25 Control and Prevention, the Administrator of the United

1 States Fire Administration, the Chief of the Forest Serv-
2 ice, and the Director of the Office of Wildland Fire, shall
3 complete a human health risk assessment for worker expo-
4 sure to wildfire smoke to estimate the nature and prob-
5 ability of adverse health effects in workers who may be
6 exposed to hazards from wildfire smoke, including wildfire
7 smoke in the built environment.

8 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSESSMENT.—The human
9 health risk assessment required under subsection (a) shall
10 address the following:

11 (1) The health problems for workers that may
12 be caused by exposure to wildfire smoke, including
13 wildfire smoke in the built environment.

14 (2) The probability that workers will experience
15 health problems when exposed to different con-
16 centrations of wildfire smoke, including wildfire
17 smoke in the built environment.

18 (3) The chemicals that workers are exposed to
19 from wildfire smoke, including wildfire smoke in the
20 built environment, as well as the overall level and
21 duration of such exposure.

22 (4) The differences in worker susceptibility to
23 health effects from exposure to wildfire smoke, in-
24 cluding wildfire smoke in the built environment.

1 (5) The effectiveness of mitigating both acute
2 and cumulative exposures to wildfire smoke, includ-
3 ing wildfire smoke in the built environment, in de-
4 creasing adverse health effects from such wildfire
5 smoke.

6 (c) BEST PRACTICES.—Not later than 6 months after
7 completing the human health risk assessment under sub-
8 section (a), the Director of the National Institute for Oc-
9 cupational Safety and Health shall develop and publish
10 best practices to mitigate worker exposure to wildfire
11 smoke, including wildfire smoke in the built environment.
12 Such best practices shall be informed by the human health
13 assessment completed under subsection (a).

14 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
15 authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the Na-
16 tional Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to
17 carry out this section \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years
18 2026 through 2028.

19 **TITLE IV—FIRE MITIGATION** 20 **AND TECHNOLOGY**

21 **SEC. 401. IMPROVEMENTS TO WILDFIRE FORAGE LOSS** 22 **PROGRAMS (REPORT RECOMMENDATION 59).**

23 (a) LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM.—Section
24 1501(c)(4)(A)(ii) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
25 U.S.C. 9081(c)(4)(A)(ii)) is amended by inserting “(in-

1 cluding a prescribed fire, beneficial fire, and wildfire man-
2 aged for resource objectives)” before the period.

3 (b) EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE PRO-
4 GRAM.—Section 1501(d)(1) of the Agricultural Act of
5 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(d)(1)) is amended by striking “and
6 wildfires” and inserting “wildfires, beneficial fires, pre-
7 scribed fires, and wildfires managed for resource objec-
8 tives”.

9 **SEC. 402. IMPROVEMENTS TO FEMA PROGRAMS (REPORT**
10 **RECOMMENDATIONS 66 AND 64).**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 324 of the Robert T.
12 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
13 (42 U.S.C. 5165b) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (b)(2)—

15 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
16 and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and
17 adjusting the margins accordingly; and

18 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i), as
19 so redesignated, by striking “provide the fol-
20 lowing percentage rates” and inserting “pro-
21 vide—

22 “(A) excess funds for management costs as
23 described in subsection (c); and

24 “(B) the following percentage rates”;

1 (2) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
2 section (d); and

3 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(c) USE OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR MANAGEMENT
6 COSTS.—

7 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
8 ‘excess funds for management costs’ means the dif-
9 ference between—

10 “(A) the amount of the applicable specific
11 management costs authorized under subsection
12 (b)(1) and subsection (b)(2)(B); and

13 “(B) as of the date on which the grant
14 award is closed, the amount of funding for
15 management costs activities expended by the
16 grantee or subgrantee receiving the financial as-
17 sistance for costs described in subparagraph
18 (A).

19 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR
20 MANAGEMENT COSTS.—The President may make
21 available to a grantee or subgrantee receiving finan-
22 cial assistance under section 403, 404, 406, 407, or
23 502 any excess funds for management costs.

1 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Excess funds for man-
2 agement costs made available to a grantee or sub-
3 grantee under paragraph (2) may be used for—

4 “(A) activities associated with building ca-
5 pacity to prepare for, recover from, or mitigate
6 the impacts of a major disaster or emergency
7 declared under section 401 or 501, respectively;
8 and

9 “(B) management costs associated with
10 any—

11 “(i) major disaster;

12 “(ii) emergency;

13 “(iii) disaster preparedness measure;

14 or

15 “(iv) mitigation activity or measure
16 authorized under section 203, 204, 205, or
17 404.

18 “(4) AVAILABILITY.—Excess funds for manage-
19 ment costs made available to a grantee or sub-
20 grantee under paragraph (2) shall remain available
21 to the grantee or subgrantee until the date that is
22 5 years after the date on which the excess funds for
23 management costs are made available under para-
24 graph (2).”.

1 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-
2 section (a) shall apply with respect to any grant award
3 in relation to a major disaster or emergency declared
4 under section 401 or 501, respectively, of the Robert T.
5 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
6 (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191)—

7 (1) the declaration of which is made on or after
8 the date of enactment of this Act; and

9 (2) that is funded with amounts appropriated
10 on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

11 (c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
13 of the United States shall submit to the Committee on
14 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-
15 ate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
16 ture of the House of Representatives a report—

17 (1) on the actual management costs described
18 in section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
19 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
20 5165b) during the period of a major disaster dec-
21 laration under section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C.
22 5170) to determine whether the amount set aside for
23 those management costs after the date of enactment
24 of this Act is appropriate; and

1 (2) that includes the management costs de-
2 scribed in section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
3 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
4 U.S.C. 5165b) for each disaster declared under dur-
5 ing the period of a major disaster declaration under
6 section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) during the
7 5-year period preceding the date of the report, the
8 amount set aside for those management costs, the
9 use of those management costs, the length of each
10 disaster, and the reason for the length of each dis-
11 aster.

12 (d) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds
13 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the amend-
14 ments made by subsection (a).

15 (e) TREATMENT OF MULTIPLE EVENTS STEMMING
16 FROM SAME WILDFIRE.—

17 (1) MAJOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE PRO-
18 GRAMS.—Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
19 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
20 U.S.C. 5170) is amended—

21 “(d) WILDLAND FIRE MAJOR DISASTER DECLARA-
22 TION.—In the case of an initial wildland fire major dis-
23 aster declaration under this section, the declaration shall
24 include any landslide, mudslide, flood, or other natural
25 disaster event which stems from the wildland fire occurring

1 within the 3-year period beginning on the first date of the
2 wildland fire.”.

3 (2) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Sec-
4 tion 501 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5191) is amended
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 “(d) WILDLAND FIRE MAJOR DISASTER DECLARA-
7 TION.—In the case of an initial wildland fire major dis-
8 aster declaration under this section, the declaration shall
9 include any landslide, mudslide, flood, or other natural
10 disaster event which stems from the wildland fire occurring
11 within the 3-year period beginning on the first date of the
12 wildland fire.”.

13 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
14 by this subsection shall apply with respect to events
15 occurring after the date of the enactment of this
16 Act.

17 (f) FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM POL-
18 ICY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
19 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
20 Management Agency shall recommend such regulations or
21 guidance as are necessary to make eligible assessments
22 and emergency stabilization to protect public safety, in-
23 cluding for the fire management assistance program under
24 section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and

1 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187), irrespective
2 of the incident period for a declared fire.

3 (g) CHANGES TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE POLICY
4 GUIDE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
5 ment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emer-
6 gency Management Agency shall amend the Public Assist-
7 ance Program and Policy Guide of the Federal Emergency
8 Management Agency to include guidance on wildfire-spe-
9 cific recovery challenges, including debris removal, emer-
10 gency protective measures, and the resulting toxicity of
11 drinking water resources.

12 (h) MITIGATION COST EFFECTIVENESS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
14 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall con-
15 duct a review of the criteria for evaluating the cost
16 effectiveness of projects intended to mitigate the im-
17 pacts of wildfire under sections 203 and 404 of the
18 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
19 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133; 5170c), includ-
20 ing—

21 (A) the establishment of precalculated ben-
22 efits criterion for common defensible space miti-
23 gation projects for wildfire mitigation;

24 (B) the use of nature-based infrastructure
25 in wildfire mitigation;

1 (C) considerations for vegetation manage-
2 ment for wildfire mitigation;

3 (D) reducing the negative effects of wild-
4 fire smoke on public health; and

5 (E) lessening the impact of wildfires on
6 water infrastructure.

7 (2) UPDATED CRITERIA.—Not later than 1 year
8 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
9 trator shall issue such guidance as is necessary to—

10 (A) update criteria for evaluating the cost
11 effectiveness of mitigation projects under sec-
12 tions 203 and 404 of the Robert T. Stafford
13 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
14 (42 U.S.C. 5133; 5170c) based on the results
15 of the review conducted under paragraph (1);
16 and

17 (B) prioritize such projects based on the
18 criteria updated under subparagraph (A).

19 **SEC. 403. THE WILDLAND DYNAMIC RISK MAPPING PRO-**
20 **GRAM (REPORT RECOMMENDATION 118).**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of
23 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
24 shall work jointly with the National Aeronautical and
25 Space Agency, United States Geological Survey, United

1 States Fire Administration, universities, and National
2 Laboratories to—

3 (1) develop dynamic risk and hazard maps for
4 the wildland and built environments in the United
5 States; and

6 (2) ensure that such dynamic risk maps are up-
7 dated as required to reflect each wildfire season—

8 (A) changes in the natural environment,
9 such as postflood or fire alterations;

10 (B) rapidly changing environmental condi-
11 tions;

12 (C) measure changes in fuels moisture on
13 the temporal scale; and

14 (D) utilize both remote sensing tech-
15 nologies and on the ground monitoring.

16 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
17 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator of the
18 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to
19 carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years
20 2026 through 2030.

1 **SEC. 404. IMPROVEMENTS TO GRANT PROGRAMS FOR COM-**
2 **MUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION AND**
3 **POSTFIRE RECOVERY EFFORTS (REPORT**
4 **RECOMMENDATION 142).**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall,
7 with respect to the grant programs for community wildfire
8 risk reduction and postfire recovery efforts carried out by
9 each such Secretary—

10 (1) increase the accessibility of such grant pro-
11 grams;

12 (2) reduce the complexity of the application
13 process for grants under such programs, including—

14 (A) by reducing the amount of information
15 required to apply; and

16 (B) to the maximum extent practicable, en-
17 abling auto-populating fields in the online appli-
18 cations for such grants;

19 (3) reduce administrative burden with respect
20 to such grant programs, including by—

21 (A) aligning program applications to re-
22 duce separate applications for similar programs;
23 and

24 (B) developing a common section for appli-
25 cations to reduce duplicative questions;

1 (4) review the statutory and administrative bar-
2 riers that impede the ability of communities to
3 quickly access funds under each such grant pro-
4 gram;

5 (5) increase technical assistance provided to ap-
6 plicants, recipients, and subrecipients; and

7 (6) increase outreach to potential applicants for
8 such grant programs, including by—

9 (A) providing appropriate dedicated staff
10 to assist individuals and communities in identi-
11 fying and applying for grants under such grant
12 programs; and

13 (B) notifying potential applicants of eligi-
14 bility and open application seasons with respect
15 to such grant programs.

16 (b) SECRETARIES DEFINED.—In this section, the
17 term “Secretaries” means the Secretary of the Interior,
18 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of
19 the Forest Service, the Administrator of the Federal
20 Emergency Management Agency, the Administrator of the
21 Small Business Administration, and the Administrator of
22 the Environmental Protection Agency.

1 **SEC. 405. JOINT OFFICE OF THE FIRE ENVIRONMENT CEN-**
2 **TER (REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS 104, 105,**
3 **106).**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than a 1 year after
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
7 trator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
8 ministration shall establish a joint office, which shall
9 be known as the “Joint Office of the Fire Environ-
10 ment Center”.

11 (2) STRUCTURE.—The Joint Office shall be
12 comprised of the following branches:

13 (A) TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING.—

14 Technology and Engineering, which shall—

15 (i) focus on modeling and the building
16 and testing of technology; and

17 (ii) may enter into public-private part-
18 nerships.

19 (B) DATA SERVICES.—Data Services,
20 which shall—

21 (i) be responsible for testing artificial
22 intelligence and machine learning tech-
23 nologies to support managers, firefighters,
24 and public health officials on the ground,
25 including producing decision consequence
26 data, modeling risk, and suggesting re-

1 sources based on fire and smoke conditions
2 at the time and place of ignition detection;
3 and

4 (ii) working with State, local, and
5 Tribal entities on data sharing.

6 (C) ANALYSIS AND PREDICTION.—Analysis
7 and Prediction.

8 (D) EDUCATION AND CONSULTATION.—
9 Education and Consultation, which shall be re-
10 sponsible for incident management.

11 (E) OTHER.—Any other branch deter-
12 mined necessary or appropriate by the Board.

13 (b) FUNCTIONS OF JOINT OFFICE.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—

15 (A) AVAILABILITY OF PRODUCTS AND IN-
16 FORMATION.—The Joint Office shall make
17 available any products and information devel-
18 oped by the Joint Office to—

19 (i) geographic area coordination cen-
20 ters;

21 (ii) incident management teams;

22 (iii) land managers;

23 (iv) air quality and water provider
24 agencies;

1 (v) State, local, and Tribal govern-
2 ments; and

3 (vi) public health agencies.

4 (B) SERVICES AND SUPPORT.—The Joint
5 Office shall provide real-time, science-based,
6 and data-rich scientific and technical analytic
7 services, decision support, and predictive serv-
8 ices to inform land and fuels management, com-
9 munity risk reduction, and fire management
10 and response, including the following:

11 (i) PREFIRE MITIGATION AND RISK
12 REDUCTION.—Prefire mitigation and risk
13 reduction activities for landscapes and
14 communities, including through assess-
15 ments and modeling of—

16 (I) climate condition;

17 (II) fuels;

18 (III) home ignition;

19 (IV) structure-to-structure
20 spread; and

21 (V) values at risk.

22 (ii) PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY
23 DURING AND AFTER FIRE.—Activities that
24 better protect public health and safety dur-
25 ing and after a fire, including mapping

1 services and data provision to support
2 evacuation decisions in communities at risk
3 and air quality monitoring and forecast
4 data to support health risk information
5 that helps protect the public from smoke
6 impacts associated with fire.

7 (iii) FIRE RESPONSE AND MANAGE-
8 MENT.—Fire response and management,
9 including—

10 (I) response preparedness and
11 initial attack readiness for new fires;

12 (II) deployment of response re-
13 sources; and

14 (III) firefighter movement deci-
15 sions during active fire management.

16 (iv) POSTFIRE ACTIVITIES.—Postfire
17 activities, including—

18 (I) vegetation recovery;

19 (II) debris flows and flooding;

20 (III) watershed protection; and

21 (IV) ecosystem health.

22 (C) COORDINATION OF FUNCTIONS.—The
23 Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-
24 mospheric Administration, in coordination with
25 each of the agencies specified in subparagraphs

1 (B) through (J) of subsection (c)(1), shall oper-
2 ate as a collective entity to produce accessible
3 products and services for a variety of users and
4 uses in fire management, including by—

5 (i) developing timely, manager-focused
6 models, technologies, assessments, and
7 forecasts to support fire operational deci-
8 sionmaking, and short- and long-term fire
9 planning; and

10 (ii) integrating the existing specialties
11 of the constituent land management, com-
12 munity preparedness, and public health
13 agencies.

14 (2) TECHNOLOGICAL COMMON OPERATING EN-
15 VIRONMENT.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Joint Office shall
17 develop a technological common operating envi-
18 ronment for practitioners across the spectrum
19 of risk mitigation, prescribed fire, response, and
20 postdisaster response to shepherd the creation
21 of highly dynamic decision support tools.

22 (B) PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION.—The
23 Joint Office shall ensure that public health in-
24 formation that is essential to integrate into this
25 common operating environment is provided to

1 ensure its products accurately reflect the depth
2 and breadth of the wildfire issues. Information
3 provided shall include air quality data and fore-
4 casts and information pertaining to the built
5 environment.

6 (c) BOARD OF THE JOINT OFFICE.—

7 (1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Joint
8 Office shall be governed by a board, comprised of 12
9 members, as follows:

10 (A) One member who is a career employee
11 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
12 ministration, appointed by the Administrator of
13 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-
14 istration.

15 (B) One member who is a career employee
16 of the United States Fire Administration, ap-
17 pointed by the Administrator of the United
18 States Fire Administration.

19 (C) One member who is a career employee
20 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency,
21 appointed by the Administrator of the Federal
22 Emergency Management Agency.

23 (D) One member who is a career employee
24 of the National Weather Service, appointed by
25 the Director of the National Weather Service.

1 (E) One member who is a career employee
2 of the Forest Service, appointed by the Chief of
3 the Forest Service.

4 (F) One member who is a career employee
5 of the Department of the Interior, appointed by
6 the Secretary of the Interior.

7 (G) One member who is a career employee
8 of the Bureau of Land Management, appointed
9 by the Director of the Bureau of Land Manage-
10 ment.

11 (H) One member who is a career employee
12 of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, appointed by
13 the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

14 (I) One member who is a career employee
15 of the National Park Service, appointed by the
16 Director of the National Park Service.

17 (J) One member who is a career employee
18 of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service,
19 appointed by the Director of the United States
20 Fish and Wildlife Service.

21 (K) Two members who are non-Federal
22 representatives of the wildfire community, ap-
23 pointed by the Board. Their initial terms can be
24 1 year each.

1 (L) Two members who are State represen-
2 tations of the wildfire community, appointed by
3 the Board. Their initial terms can be 1 year
4 each.

5 (2) TERMS.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each member shall be
7 appointed for a term of 5 years, except as pro-
8 vided in paragraphs (2) and (3).

9 (B) TERMS OF INITIAL APPOINTEES.—Of
10 the members first appointed—

11 (i) the members appointed under sub-
12 paragraphs (I), (J), and (K) of paragraph
13 (1) shall be appointed for terms of 1 year;

14 (ii) the members appointed under sub-
15 paragraphs (D) and (G) of paragraph (1)
16 shall be appointed for terms of 2 years;

17 (iii) the members appointed under
18 subparagraphs (F) and (H) of paragraph
19 (1) shall be appointed for terms of 3 years;
20 and

21 (iv) the members appointed under
22 subparagraphs (C) and (E) of paragraph
23 (1) shall be appointed for terms of 4 years.

24 (C) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed
25 to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration

1 of the term for which the member's predecessor
2 was appointed shall be appointed only for the
3 remainder of that term. A member may serve
4 after the expiration of that member's term until
5 a successor has taken office. A vacancy in the
6 Board shall be filled in the manner in which the
7 original appointment was made.

8 (3) PROHIBITION OF COMPENSATION OF FED-
9 ERAL EMPLOYEES.—Members of the Board who are
10 career employees of the United States may not re-
11 ceive additional pay, allowances, or benefits by rea-
12 son of their service on the Board.

13 (4) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall
14 receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of
15 subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions
16 under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United
17 States Code.

18 (5) QUORUM.—Nine members of the Board
19 shall constitute a quorum.

20 (6) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The
21 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board
22 shall be elected by the members of the Board. The
23 term of office of the Chairperson and Vice Chair-
24 person shall be 1 year.

1 (7) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet at least
2 quarterly and at a call of a majority of its members.

3 (d) DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF JOINT OFFICE; EX-
4 PERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—

5 (1) DIRECTOR.—The Joint Office shall have a
6 Director who shall be appointed by the Board. To
7 the extent or in the amounts provided in advance in
8 appropriation Acts, the Director shall be paid at a
9 rate of basic pay not to exceed the rate of basic pay
10 for level II of the Executive Schedule. The budget
11 and decisionmaking authority for the Joint Office is
12 vested in the Director.

13 (2) CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER, CHIEF FI-
14 NANCIAL OFFICER, CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER,
15 AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER.—With the ap-
16 proval of the Board, the Director may appoint a
17 Chief Information Officer, Chief Financial Officer,
18 Chief Technology Officer, and Chief Operating Offi-
19 cer.

20 (3) STAFF.—With the approval of the Board,
21 the Director may appoint at least 100 personnel and
22 may appoint such additional personnel as the Direc-
23 tor considers appropriate.

24 (4) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE
25 LAWS.—The Director and staff of the Joint Office

1 shall be appointed subject to the provisions of title
2 5, United States Code, governing appointments in
3 the competitive service, and shall be paid in accord-
4 ance with the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-
5 chapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to
6 classification and General Schedule pay rates.

7 (5) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the
8 approval of the Joint Office, the Director may pro-
9 cure temporary and intermittent services under sec-
10 tion 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at
11 rates for individuals not to exceed the daily equiva-
12 lent of the maximum annual rate of basic pay under
13 the General Schedule.

14 (6) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon re-
15 quest of the Director, the head of any Federal de-
16 partment or agency may detail, on a reimbursable
17 basis, any of the personnel of that department or
18 agency to the Joint Office to assist it in carrying out
19 its duties under this Act.

20 (e) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Joint Office may
21 contract with and compensate government and private
22 agencies or persons for supplies and services.

23 (f) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out its functions
24 under this section, the Joint Office is encouraged to con-
25 sult with and share relevant data with the Environmental

1 Protection Agency, the National Aeronautical and Space
2 Agency, the United States Geological Survey, and the Cen-
3 ters for Disease Control and Prevention.

4 (g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the
5 following definitions shall apply:

6 (1) JOINT OFFICE.—The term “Joint Office”
7 means the Joint Office of the Fire Environment
8 Center established under subsection (a)(1).

9 (2) BOARD.—The term “Board” means the
10 Board of the Joint Office established by subsection
11 (c).

12 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
13 the Director of the Joint Office required by sub-
14 section (d).

15 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
16 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator of the
17 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to
18 carry out this section \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal
19 years 2026 through 2035.

20 **SEC. 406. INTERAGENCY DATA COLLABORATION ENVIRON-**
21 **MENT (REPORT RECOMMENDATION 107).**

22 (a) EXPANSION OF INFORMATION SYSTEM.—Not
23 later than a 1 year after the date of the enactment of
24 this Act, the Administrator of the United States Fire Ad-
25 ministration shall expand the National Emergency Re-

1 sponse Information System to include real-time informa-
2 tion and analytics tools relating to prescribed fires as well
3 as wildfires that do not impact structures and infrastruc-
4 ture. The expansion of this system shall be compatible
5 with, and shared with, existing wildland fire information
6 collection at the Fire Environment Center established
7 under section 405.

8 (b) WILDFIRE DIGITAL DATA CENTER.—

9 (1) CREATION.—The Administrator of the
10 United States Fire Administration shall create a
11 data center to be known as the “Wildfire Digital
12 Data Center”. The Wildfire Digital Data Center
13 shall be a public, government, scientific research
14 data catalog and repository available to assist the
15 wildfire communities research and share data.

16 (2) DATA AND MODELING COLLABORATION EN-
17 VIRONMENT.—The Wildfire Digital Data Center
18 shall provide a data and modeling collaboration envi-
19 ronment for researchers across the wildfire commu-
20 nity to engage with data across agencies and dis-
21 ciplines.

22 (3) OPEN ACCESS.—The Administrator shall
23 ensure that the Wildfire Digital Data Center is in
24 compliance with the guidance on public access poli-
25 cies as specified in the Memorandum from the Office

1 of Science and Technology Policy of the Executive
2 Office of the President that was issued on August
3 25, 2022.

4 (4) INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN WILD-
5 FIRE DIGITAL DATA CENTER REPOSITORY.—The
6 Wildfire Digital Data Center shall include in its re-
7 pository information on the following areas:

8 (A) Outcomes and impacts of wildfire and
9 associated management actions.

10 (B) Real-time data on new fire starts.

11 (C) The effectiveness of wildfire risk miti-
12 gation measures.

13 (D) Public health research related to
14 wildland fire and fires in the built environment.

15 (5) INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED ON
16 WEBSITE.—The Administrator of the United States
17 Fire Administration shall coordinate with the Sec-
18 retary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of
19 the Forest Service, to include on the publicly acces-
20 sible website of the Wildfire Digital Data Center—

21 (A) information on postwildfire impacts
22 and State and Federal programs and funding
23 opportunities to address such impacts;

1 (B) State and Federal best practices relat-
2 ing to the short- and long-term mitigation of
3 wildfire; and

4 (C) with respect to wildfire, information on
5 ecological recovery, assessment science, and
6 State and Federal emergency declaration proc-
7 esses.

8 (6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
9 section shall be construed to affect the ownership of
10 individual agencies over their data sources.

11 (c) FINDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, INTEROPERABLE, AND
12 REUSABLE REQUIREMENT.—

13 (1) ACCESS REQUIREMENT FOR U.S. DEPART-
14 MENT OF THE INTERIOR LIBRARY ALONG WITH THE
15 NATIONAL EMERGENCY TRAINING CENTER LIBRARY
16 AND NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE LIBRARY.—
17 Through the Wildfire Digital Data Center, the U.S.
18 Department of the Interior Library along with the
19 National Emergency Training Center Library and
20 National Forest Service Library shall provide serv-
21 ices to make federally funded wildland and struc-
22 tural fire research data systems and data products
23 findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable
24 (FAIR).

1 (2) The services required by subparagraph (A)
2 shall be integrated with the National Emergency Re-
3 sponse Information System of the United States
4 Fire Administration to better collect data and model
5 the built environment.

6 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
7 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
8 \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2035.

9 **SEC. 407. REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO PAYMENT TIMING**
10 **FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS ADDRESSING**
11 **WILDFIRE DAMAGES (REPORT REC-**
12 **COMMENDATION 61).**

13 (a) EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM.—
14 Section 407(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16
15 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

16 (1) by striking “The” and inserting the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The”; and

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

20 “(2) PAYMENTS FOR EMERGENCY MEASURES
21 TO ADDRESS WILDFIRE.—In the case of an applica-
22 tion for a payment by an owner of nonindustrial pri-
23 vate forest land who carries out emergency measures
24 to restore the land after the land is damaged by a
25 wildfire, if the Secretary approves such application,

1 the Secretary shall provide payment to such owner
2 not later than 90 days after the date on which the
3 application was submitted to the Secretary.”.

4 (b) EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM.—Section
5 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C.
6 2203) is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(c) PAYMENTS FOR EMERGENCY WATERSHED PRO-
8 TECTION MEASURES TO ADDRESS WILDFIRE DAMAGE.—
9 In the case of an application for a payment for emergency
10 watershed protection measures addressing a sudden im-
11 pairment of a watershed caused by a wildfire, if the Sec-
12 retary approves such application, the Secretary shall pro-
13 vide such payment not later than 90 days after the date
14 on which the application was submitted to the Secretary.”.

15 (c) COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT LOAN AND
16 GRANT PROGRAMS.—

17 (1) DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM.—Section
18 306(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
19 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(19)) is amended
20 by adding at the end the following: “If the Secretary
21 approves an application for an essential community
22 facilities loan under this paragraph that is submitted
23 by an owner of nonindustrial private forest land (as
24 defined in section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act
25 of 1978) who carries out emergency measures (as

1 defined in such section) to restore the land after the
2 land is damaged by a wildfire and the Secretary ap-
3 proves the application, the Secretary shall provide
4 the loan to the owner within 90 days after date the
5 application is submitted.”

6 (2) GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 306(a)(19) of
7 such Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(19)) is amended by add-
8 ing at the end the following:

9 “(C) PAYMENTS FOR EMERGENCY MEAS-
10 URES TO ADDRESS WILDFIRE.—If the Secretary
11 approves an application for a grant under this
12 paragraph that is submitted by an owner of
13 nonindustrial private forest land (as defined in
14 section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of
15 1978) who carries out emergency measures (as
16 defined in such section) to restore the land
17 after the land is damaged by a wildfire and the
18 Secretary approves the application, the Sec-
19 retary shall provide the grant to the owner
20 within 90 days after date the application is sub-
21 mitted.”.

22 (d) DISASTER RELIEF AND MITIGATION PRO-
23 GRAMS.—The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
24 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) is
25 amended—

1 (1) in section 203, by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(m) ASSISTANCE FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION.—If
4 the President approves an application for financial assist-
5 ance under this section to implement predisaster hazard
6 mitigation measures related to the mitigation of wildfires,
7 the President shall provide such assistance within 90 days
8 after the date such application is submitted.”;

9 (2) in section 404, by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(h) ASSISTANCE FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION.—If
12 the President approves an application for hazard mitiga-
13 tion assistance under this section that is related to the
14 mitigation of wildfires, the President shall provide such
15 assistance within 90 days after the date such application
16 is submitted.”;

17 (3) in section 407(e), by adding at the end the
18 following:

19 “(3) PAYMENTS RELATED TO WILDFIRE.—Not-
20 withstanding the requirements of paragraphs (1)
21 and (2), if the President approves an application for
22 a grant under this section to remove debris or
23 wreckage resulting from a wildfire, such grant shall
24 be paid in full no later than the date that is 90 days
25 after the last day such wildfire occurred.”.

1 (4) in section 408—

2 (A) by redesignating subsections (i) and (j)
3 as subsections (j) and (k), respectively; and

4 (B) by inserting after subsection (h) the
5 following:

6 “(i) PAYMENTS RELATED TO WILDFIRE.—If the
7 President approves an application for financial assistance
8 under this section for necessary expenses or serious needs
9 related to a wildfire, the President shall provide such as-
10 sistance within 90 days after the last day such wildfire
11 occurred.”.

12 (e) SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DISASTER
13 LOAN PROGRAM.—The Small Business Administration
14 Disaster Loan program under Section 7(b) of the Small
15 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended—

16 (1) by redesignating the second paragraph (16)
17 (relating to statute of limitations) as paragraph
18 (17); and

19 (2) by inserting after paragraph (17) (as so re-
20 designated), the following new paragraph:

21 “(18) EMERGENCY MEASURES TO ADDRESS
22 WILDFIRE.—If the Administrator approves an appli-
23 cation for a loan under this subsection that is sub-
24 mitted by an owner of nonindustrial private forest
25 land (as defined in section 407 of the Agricultural

1 Credit Act of 1978) who carries out emergency
2 measures (as defined in such section) to restore the
3 land after the land is damaged by a wildfire, the Ad-
4 ministrator shall ensure that such loan is disbursed
5 not later than 90 days after date of such approval.”.

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