

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1462

To improve forest management activities on National Forest System land, public land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and Tribal land to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested land, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 10, 2025

Mr. CURTIS (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. PADILLA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To improve forest management activities on National Forest System land, public land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and Tribal land to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested land, and for other purposes.

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

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

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Fix Our Forests Act”.

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—LANDSCAPE-SCALE RESTORATION

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

- Sec. 101. Designation of fireshed management areas.
 Sec. 102. Wildfire Intelligence Center.
 Sec. 103. Fireshed Registry.
 Sec. 104. Shared stewardship.
 Sec. 105. Fireshed assessments.
 Sec. 106. Emergency fireshed management.
 Sec. 107. Sunset.

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

- Sec. 111. Modification of treatment of certain revenue and payments under good neighbor agreements.
 Sec. 112. Fixing stewardship end result contracting.
 Sec. 113. Fireshed management project strike teams.
 Sec. 114. Locally led restoration.
 Sec. 115. Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Program.
 Sec. 116. Collaborative forest landscape restoration program.
 Sec. 117. Utilizing grazing for wildfire risk reduction.
 Sec. 118. Water Source Protection Program.
 Sec. 119. Watershed Condition Framework technical corrections.
 Sec. 120. Tribal forest protection management activities and projects.

Subtitle C—Litigation Reform

- Sec. 121. Commonsense litigation reform.
 Sec. 122. Consultation on forest plans.

Subtitle D—Prescribed Fire

- Sec. 131. Prescribed fire eligible activities, policies, and practices.
 Sec. 132. Human resources.
 Sec. 133. Liability of prescribed fire managers.
 Sec. 134. Environmental review.
 Sec. 135. Cooperative agreements and contracts for prescribed fire.
 Sec. 136. Facilitating responsible use of prescribed fire.

TITLE II—PROTECTING COMMUNITIES IN WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE

Subtitle A—Community Wildfire Risk Reduction

- Sec. 201. Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program.
 Sec. 202. Community Wildfire Defense Research Program.
 Sec. 203. Community wildfire defense accountability.
 Sec. 204. Community wildfire defense grant program improvements.
 Sec. 205. Updated definition of at-risk community.

Subtitle B—Vegetation Management, Reforestation, and Local Fire Suppression

- Sec. 211. Vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance relating to electric transmission and distribution facility rights-of-way.
- Sec. 212. Fire-safe electrical corridors.
- Sec. 213. Categorical exclusion for high-priority hazard trees.
- Sec. 214. Seeds of Success strategy.
- Sec. 215. Program to support priority reforestation and restoration projects.
- Sec. 216. Reforestation, nurseries, and genetic resources support.
- Sec. 217. Fire department repayment.

TITLE III—TRANSPARENCY, TECHNOLOGY, AND PARTNERSHIPS

Subtitle A—Transparency and Technology

- Sec. 301. Biochar innovations and opportunities for conservation, health, and advancements in research.
- Sec. 302. Accurate hazardous fuels reduction reports.
- Sec. 303. Public-private wildfire technology deployment and demonstration partnership.
- Sec. 304. GAO study on Forest Service policies.
- Sec. 305. Keeping forest plans current and monitored.
- Sec. 306. Container Aerial Firefighting System.
- Sec. 307. Study on pine beetle infestation.

Subtitle B—White Oak Resilience

- Sec. 311. White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition.
- Sec. 312. Forest Service pilot program.
- Sec. 313. Department of the Interior white oak review and restoration.
- Sec. 314. White oak regeneration and upland oak habitat.
- Sec. 315. Tree nursery shortages.
- Sec. 316. White oak research.
- Sec. 317. USDA formal initiative.
- Sec. 318. Use of authorities.

TITLE IV—ENSURING CASUALTY ASSISTANCE FOR FIREFIGHTERS

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

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **END WATER USER.**—The term “end water
4 user” has the meaning given the term in section
5 303(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of
6 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542(a)).

7 (2) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The term “Execu-
8 tive Director” means the Executive Director of the

1 Wildfire Intelligence Center appointed under section
2 102(g).

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

8 (4) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREA.—The term
9 “fireshed management area” means a fireshed man-
10 agement area designated under section 101(a).

11 (5) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT.—The
12 term “fireshed management project” means any of
13 the following forest or vegetation management activi-
14 ties:

15 (A) A hazardous fuels management activ-
16 ity.

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

18 (C) Removing hazard trees, dead trees, or
19 dying trees, as determined by a responsible offi-
20 cial.

21 (D) Developing, approving, or conducting
22 routine maintenance under a vegetation man-
23 agement, facility inspection, and operation and
24 maintenance plan under section 512(c) of the

1 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
2 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)).

3 (E) Removing trees to address over-
4 stocking or crowding in a forest stand, con-
5 sistent with achieving the appropriate basal
6 area of the forest stand, as determined by a re-
7 sponsible official.

8 (F) Using treatments to address insects or
9 disease or to control vegetation competition or
10 invasive species.

11 (G) A wet-meadow, floodplain, or riparian
12 restoration activity that increases wildfire re-
13 sistance.

14 (H) A forest stand improvement activity
15 necessary to protect life and property from cat-
16 astrophic wildfire, as determined by a respon-
17 sible official.

18 (I) Any combination of activities described
19 in this paragraph.

20 (6) FIRESHED REGISTRY.—The term “Fireshed
21 Registry” means the registry established under sec-
22 tion 103(a).

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

1 (A) a land use plan prepared by the Bu-
 2 reau of Land Management for public land pur-
 3 suant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy
 4 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.
 5 1712);

6 (B) a land and resource management plan
 7 prepared by the Forest Service for a unit of the
 8 National Forest System pursuant to section 6
 9 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-
 10 sources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.
 11 1604); and

12 (C) a forest management plan (as defined
 13 in section 304 of the National Indian Forest
 14 Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103))
 15 with respect to Indian forest land or rangeland.

16 (8) GOVERNOR.—The term “Governor” means
 17 the Governor or other appropriate executive official
 18 of—

19 (A) a State; or

20 (B) an Indian Tribe.

21 (9) HAZARDOUS FUELS MANAGEMENT ACTIV-
 22 ITY.—The term “hazardous fuels management activ-
 23 ity” means a vegetation management activity, or any
 24 combination of such activities, that reduces the risk
 25 of wildfire, including mechanical thinning, mastica-

tion, prescribed burning, cultural burning (as determined by an applicable Indian Tribe), timber harvest, and grazing.

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

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

(A) is held in trust, or subject to a restriction against alienation, by the United States for an Indian Tribe or a member of an Indian Tribe; and

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

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

(II) formerly had a forest cover or vegetative cover that is capable of restoration.

(12) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the

1 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
2 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

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

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

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

13 (B) the land reconveyed to the United
14 States pursuant to the first section of the Act
15 of February 26, 1919 (40 Stat. 1179, chapter
16 47) (commonly known as “Coos Bay Wagon
17 Road Grant lands”) under the jurisdiction of
18 the Secretary of the Interior; and

19 (C) the land revested in the United States
20 by the Act of June 9, 1916 (39 Stat. 218,
21 chapter 137) (commonly known as “Oregon and
22 California Railroad Grant lands”) under the ju-
23 risdiction of the Secretary of the Interior.

1 (15) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—

2 The term “relevant committees of Congress”
3 means—

4 (A) in the Senate—

5 (i) the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
6 trition, and Forestry; and

7 (ii) the Committee on Energy and
8 Natural Resources; and

9 (B) in the House of Representatives—

10 (i) the Committee on Agriculture; and

11 (ii) the Committee on Natural Re-
12 sources.

13 (16) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
14 means—

15 (A) the Secretary; and

16 (B) the Secretary of the Interior.

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

19 (18) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term
20 “Secretary concerned” means—

21 (A) the Secretary, with respect to National
22 Forest System land; and

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

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

(A) has significant budgetary autonomy or control;

(B) was established by, or pursuant to, the laws of the State for the purpose of performing a limited and specific governmental or proprietary function primarily relating to land management; and

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

(20) STATE.—The term “State” means—

(A) each of the several States;

(B) the District of Columbia; and

(C) each territory of the United States.

TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE RESTORATION

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

SEC. 101. DESIGNATION OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREAS.

(a) DESIGNATIONS.—

1 (1) INITIAL DESIGNATIONS.—Subject to para-
2 graph (4), for the 5-year period beginning on the
3 date of enactment of this Act, the following firesheds
4 are designated as fireshed management areas:

5 (A) Each landscape-scale fireshed identi-
6 fied as a “high-risk fireshed” in the document
7 published by the Forest Service entitled “Wild-
8 fire Crisis Strategy” and dated January 2022.

9 (B) Of the 7,688 firesheds described in the
10 report published by the Rocky Mountain Re-
11 search Station of the Forest Service in 2019,
12 each landscape-scale fireshed identified by the
13 Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of
14 the Interior, as being in the top 20 percent for
15 wildfire exposure based on the following cri-
16 teria:

17 (i) Wildfire exposure and cor-
18 responding risk to communities, including
19 risk to life, critical infrastructure, and
20 other structures.

21 (ii) Wildfire exposure and cor-
22 responding risk to municipal watersheds,
23 including Tribal water supplies and sys-
24 tems.

1 (iii) Risk of vegetation type conversion
2 due to wildfire, based on information from
3 existing forest plans, State forest action
4 plans, and best available science.

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

15 (3) MAP-BASED UPDATED DESIGNATIONS.—

16 (A) MAP OF FIRESHEDS.—Not later than
17 the date that is 5 years after the date of enact-
18 ment of this Act, and not less frequently than
19 once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, in
20 consultation with the Secretary of the Interior,
21 shall submit to the relevant committees of Con-
22 gress an updated map of firesheds, which
23 shall—

24 (i) be based on the Fireshed Registry;
25 and

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

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

15 (C) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall
16 make each updated map prepared under this
17 paragraph publicly available on the Fireshed
18 Registry.

19 (4) LAND LOCATION AND CONTENT.—A
20 fireshed management area designated under this
21 subsection—

22 (A) shall not overlap with any other
23 fireshed management area; and

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

1 (5) COMBINING MULTIPLE FIRESHEDS.—On re-
2 ceipt of a request of an affected Governor, the Sec-
3 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of the In-
4 terior, may expand a fireshed management area des-
5 ignated under this subsection to include more than
6 1 fireshed.

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

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

14 **SEC. 102. WILDFIRE INTELLIGENCE CENTER.**

15 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

19 (2) CENTER.—The term “Center” means the
20 Wildfire Intelligence Center established under sub-
21 section (b).

22 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after
23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the
24 Secretary of the Interior shall establish a joint office, to
25 be known as the “Wildfire Intelligence Center”, the duties

1 of which are to study, plan, coordinate, and implement
2 issues of joint concern among the Department of Agri-
3 culture and the Department of the Interior, including—

4 (1) serving as the development and operational
5 center for the comprehensive assessment and pre-
6 diction of wildfires and fires that move into the built
7 environment to provide decision support services to
8 inform land and fuels management, community out-
9 reach and risk reduction, post-wildfire recovery and
10 rehabilitation, and fire management and response
11 activities carried out by entities, including—

12 (A) the Federal Government;

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

14 (C) land managers;

15 (D) incident management teams;

16 (E) the National Interagency Coordination
17 Center;

18 (F) geographic coordination centers;

19 (G) land, air, and water managers;

20 (H) burned area rehabilitation teams;

21 (I) public health entities; and

22 (J) other entities identified by the Board;

23 (2) facilitating collaboration and information
24 sharing across Federal and State departments and
25 agencies, Tribal entities, academia, and the private

1 sector with respect to matters relating to wildfires;
2 and

3 (3) addressing such other issues as the Sec-
4 retary and the Secretary of the Interior may identify
5 as issues of joint interest in support of the functions
6 of the Center described in subsection (d).

7 (c) HEADQUARTERS.—Not later than 1 year after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall select from
9 within the United States a permanent location for the
10 physical headquarters of the Center.

11 (d) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Center shall
12 include the following:

13 (1) Providing real-time, science-based, and
14 data-rich scientific and technical analytical services,
15 decision support, and predictive services across all
16 phases of fire to inform pre-fire land and fuels man-
17 agement, pre-fire community and built environment
18 risk reduction, active fire management and emer-
19 gency response, and post-fire recovery in the built
20 and natural environments.

21 (2) Assessing and monitoring wildfires and
22 wildfire conditions across all phases of fire, including
23 ignition, behavior, and spread, climate, weather,
24 drought, soil moisture, fuel conditions, smoke,
25 aerosols, fire severity, debris flows, and erosion.

1 (3) Comprehensive modeling of wildfire behav-
 2 ior and risks, including ignitions, wildfire intensity
 3 and spread inside the built and natural environ-
 4 ments, air quality, and dependence on burn history,
 5 vegetation conditions, climate, and weather.

6 (4) Providing and procuring, if commercially
 7 available, and combining existing data, mapping,
 8 technological, and consultation services to support
 9 pre-, active, and post-fire activities, including—

10 (A) creating and maintaining a real-time
 11 nationwide wildfire risk catalog by leveraging
 12 existing risk mapping at land management
 13 agencies;

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

16 (C) assisting with the creation of public
 17 safety power shutoff plans;

18 (D) assisting with the creation and updat-
 19 ing of wildfire response strategies, plans, and
 20 treatment and mitigation measures, including
 21 mitigation measures in the built environment
 22 and the development of community wildfire pro-
 23 tection plans;

24 (E) providing decision support and gridded
 25 and point data forecast and assessment prod-

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

5 (F) assisting with the safe and effective
6 use of prescribed fire.

7 (5) Consolidating air quality monitoring and
8 forecasting data to support health risk information
9 to help inform risks to public health and protect the
10 public from smoke impacts associated with wildfires,
11 including providing planning guidance for safe and
12 effective beneficial fire opportunities to prevent the
13 risk of wildfires.

14 (6) Providing accessible tools and products that
15 support emergency and land management decisions
16 relating to wildfire prevention, preparedness, and re-
17 sponse, including risk assessment and contingency
18 planning, which shall include the development of a
19 data interface to assist and inform, in real-time,
20 firefighters, first responders, and approved contrac-
21 tors in responding to wildfires, including the use of
22 any observations by the civil, military, and intel-
23 ligence communities of the Federal Government and
24 commercial Earth observations.

1 (7) Establishing an interoperable information
2 technology infrastructure accessible by Federal agen-
3 cies, State government offices, units of local govern-
4 ment, and Tribal governments.

5 (8) To the extent feasible, establishing data
6 interoperability through—

7 (A) the development of common data
8 standards;

9 (B) the provision of comprehensive search-
10 able data inventories;

11 (C) working with Tribal governments in
12 nation-to-nation partnership;

13 (D) the integration and sharing of infor-
14 mation and resources of the Federal Govern-
15 ment and State and local governments to sup-
16 port the essential functions of the Center;

17 (E) the development of data standards to
18 protect confidential information that may be es-
19 sential to the core functions of the Center;

20 (F) regular updates and maintenance of
21 research and technology essential to achieving
22 the core functions of the Center; and

23 (G) the development and maintenance of a
24 big-data architecture to compile, maintain,

1 standardize, and evaluate data associated with
2 the core functions of the Center.

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

14 (A) the use and implementations of wild-
15 fire risk assessments;

16 (B) the applied use of the database and in-
17 formation developed under paragraphs (7) and
18 (8);

19 (C) reducing losses from wildfires;

20 (D) increasing benefits from wildfires;

21 (E) resources available for communities
22 and responders working to improve wildfire pre-
23 paredness; and

1 (F) enhancing communication management
2 in emergency wildfire situations, land and re-
3 source management, and scientific studies.

4 (10) Working with Federal, State, and Tribal
5 agencies to develop and improve National Wildfire
6 Coordinating Group wildfire preparedness curricula
7 and training modules for—

8 (A) State, territorial, local, and Tribal offi-
9 cials; and

10 (B) Federal, State, territorial, local, and
11 Tribal emergency managers and responders.

12 (11) Maintaining the Fireshed Registry.

13 (12) Administering the pilot program estab-
14 lished under section 303 and streamlining procure-
15 ment processes for technologies identified under that
16 pilot program and technology systems related to ad-
17 dressing wildfire and smoke for purposes of scaling
18 such technologies and systems across Federal agen-
19 cies.

20 (e) ADMINISTRATION.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Sec-
22 retary of the Interior shall cooperatively administer
23 the Center.

24 (2) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior may transfer funds provided to establish, and carry out the duties of, the Center between—

(i) the Forest Service; and

(ii) the United States Geological Survey.

(B) NOTICE REQUIRED.—Not later than 15 days before transferring funds under subparagraph (A), the Secretary or the Secretary of the Interior, as applicable, shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a notice of the proposed transfer.

(f) BOARD.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Center shall be governed by a Board, to be composed of 16 members, as follows:

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

(B) 1 member who is a career employee of the research and development areas of the For-

1 est Service, to be appointed by the Chief of the
2 Forest Service.

3 (C) 1 member who is a career employee in
4 fire and aviation management of the Forest
5 Service, to be appointed by the Chief of the
6 Forest Service.

7 (D) 1 member who is a career employee of
8 the Department of the Interior, to be appointed
9 by the Secretary of the Interior.

10 (E) 1 member who is a career employee of
11 the Bureau of Land Management, to be ap-
12 pointed by the Director of the Bureau of Land
13 Management.

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

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

20 (H) 1 member who is a career employee of
21 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to
22 be appointed by the Director of the United
23 States Fish and Wildlife Service.

24 (I) 1 member who is a career employee of
25 the United States Geological Survey, to be ap-

1 pointed by the Director of the United States
2 Geological Survey.

3 (J) 1 member who is a career employee of
4 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-
5 istration, to be appointed by the Administrator
6 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
7 ministration.

8 (K) 1 member who is a career employee of
9 the National Weather Service, to be appointed
10 by the Director of the National Weather Serv-
11 ice.

12 (L) 1 member who is a career employee of
13 the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to
14 be appointed by the Administrator of the Fed-
15 eral Emergency Management Agency.

16 (M) 1 member who is a career employee of
17 the United States Fire Administration, to be
18 appointed by the Administrator of the United
19 States Fire Administration.

20 (N) 1 member who is a career employee of
21 the Department of Defense, to be appointed by
22 the Secretary of Defense.

23 (O) 1 member who is a career employee of
24 the National Science Foundation, to be ap-

1 pointed by the Director of the National Science
2 Foundation.

3 (P) 1 member who is a career employee of
4 the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-
5 tration, to be appointed by the Administrator of
6 the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-
7 tration.

8 (2) TERMS.—A member of the Board—

9 (A) shall be appointed for a term of 3
10 years; and

11 (B) may be reappointed for not more than
12 3 additional terms.

13 (3) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The
14 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board
15 shall—

16 (A) be selected by the members of the
17 Board from among the members appointed
18 under subparagraphs (B), (I), and (J) of para-
19 graph (1); and

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

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

1 (5) NONVOTING STATUS.—At the discretion of
2 the Board, the Board may include nonvoting observ-
3 ers to the Board.

4 (g) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—

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

8 (2) DROUGHT MONITORING.—The Executive
9 Director shall engage with relevant Federal agencies,
10 State agencies, and entities in the private sector to
11 improve drought monitoring, forecasting, commu-
12 nication, and response that may be essential to the
13 core functions of the Center, if the Executive Direc-
14 tor determines that the engagement is appropriate,
15 beneficial, and cost-effective.

16 (3) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Executive Director
18 may enter into and perform contracts, agree-
19 ments, memoranda of understanding, or other,
20 similar transactions, as the Executive Director
21 determines to be appropriate to carry out the
22 functions of the Center described in subsection
23 (d).

24 (B) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the

1 Board and the Executive Director shall submit
2 to the relevant committees of Congress a report
3 that provides—

4 (i) an assessment of existing con-
5 tracting authorities of the Executive Direc-
6 tor;

7 (ii) recommendations regarding
8 whether any new contracting authorities or
9 modifications of existing contracting au-
10 thorities are needed; and

11 (iii) a description of technologies that
12 may be commercially available to perform
13 the functions of the Center, together with
14 the costs and timelines of procuring those
15 technologies or developing relevant capa-
16 bilities.

17 (h) DETAILEES.—The Secretary and the Secretary of
18 the Interior may detail or assign to the Center such em-
19 ployees of the Department of Agriculture and the Depart-
20 ment of the Interior, respectively, as the Secretaries deter-
21 mine to be necessary to carry out the duties of the Center.

22 (i) INTERAGENCY FINANCING.—Notwithstanding
23 section 708 of the Financial Services and General Govern-
24 ment Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328;

1 136 Stat. 4706), or any other, similar provision of law,
 2 interagency financing may be used to fund the Center.

3 (j) COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND EN-
 4 TITIES.—To carry out the functions of the Center de-
 5 scribed in subsection (d), the Board shall coordinate with
 6 agencies represented on the Board and other relevant enti-
 7 ties, including—

8 (1) the National Wildfire Coordinating Group;

9 (2) State and Tribal governments;

10 (3) any other agency that—

11 (A) is responsible for the management of
 12 Federal or State land; or

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

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

18 (k) OPERATIONAL PLAN.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
 20 after the appointment of the Executive Director, the
 21 Executive Director shall submit to the relevant com-
 22 mittees of Congress an operational plan describing—

23 (A) the structure of the Center;

24 (B) staffing and funding needs of the Cen-
 25 ter;

1 (C) technological capabilities within the
2 Department of Agriculture, the Department of
3 the Interior, and the other Federal departments
4 and agencies comprising the Board that are
5 available to the Center;

6 (D) an assessment of the potential of com-
7 mercially available technologies to perform the
8 functions of the Center; and

9 (E) a timeline for full operational func-
10 tioning of the Center.

11 (2) INCLUSIONS.—The plan under paragraph
12 (1) shall include estimated costs, key milestones, co-
13 ordination strategies with Federal, State, and pri-
14 vate entities, and recommendations for ensuring the
15 effective operation of the Center.

16 (3) UPDATES.—The Director shall update the
17 plan not less frequently than annually to reflect
18 progress, adjustments in funding, and the adoption
19 of new technologies.

20 (l) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
21 tion affects the ownership of any data source.

22 **SEC. 103. FIRESHED REGISTRY.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretaries, acting
24 through the Executive Director, shall establish and main-
25 tain, on a publicly accessible website, a registry, to be

1 known as the “Fireshed Registry”, that provides inter-
2 active geospatial data relating to individual firesheds, in-
3 cluding information relating to—

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

7 (2) any hazardous fuels management activities
8 that have occurred within an individual fireshed dur-
9 ing the preceding 10 years;

10 (3) wildland fire exposure with respect to a
11 fireshed, delineated by—

12 (A) wildfire exposure and corresponding
13 risk to communities, including risk to life, crit-
14 ical infrastructure, and other structures;

15 (B) wildfire exposure and corresponding
16 risk to municipal watersheds, including Tribal
17 water supplies and systems; and

18 (C) risk of vegetation type conversion due
19 to wildfire;

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

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

1 (6) any hazardous fuels management activities
 2 planned for a fireshed, including fireshed manage-
 3 ment projects.

4 (b) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS.—
 5 The Executive Director shall make data from the Fireshed
 6 Registry available to local communities developing or up-
 7 dating community wildfire protection plans.

8 (c) MAINTENANCE.—As part of the website con-
 9 taining the Fireshed Registry, the Executive Director
 10 shall—

11 (1) publish fireshed assessments conducted
 12 under section 105; and

13 (2) maintain a searchable database to track—
 14 (A) the status of Federal environmental re-
 15 views, permits, and authorizations for fireshed
 16 management projects, including—

17 (i) a comprehensive permitting time-
 18 table;

19 (ii) the status of the compliance of
 20 each lead agency, cooperating agency, and
 21 participating agency with the permitting
 22 timetable with respect to fireshed manage-
 23 ment projects;

24 (iii) any required modifications of the
 25 permitting timetable under clause (i), in-

cluding an explanation regarding why the
permitting timetable was modified; and

(iv) information regarding any public
meetings, public hearings, and public com-
ment periods relating to a fireshed man-
agement project, as that information be-
comes available, which shall be presented
in—

(I) English; and

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

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

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

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

(ii) increasing the resilience of wildlife
habitats, including habitat for species list-

1 ed as threatened or endangered under the
 2 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
 3 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

4 (d) INCORPORATION OF EXISTING ASSESSMENTS
 5 AND DATA.—In carrying out this section, the Executive
 6 Director shall incorporate any assessments completed or
 7 data gathered through existing partnerships, to the extent
 8 practicable.

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

14 **SEC. 104. SHARED STEWARDSHIP.**

15 (a) JOINT AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary concerned
 16 shall seek to use an existing shared stewardship agree-
 17 ment, modify an existing shared stewardship agreement,
 18 or enter into a similar agreement with the Governor of
 19 each State and Indian Tribe that contains a fireshed man-
 20 agement area designated under section 101(a) to jointly—

21 (1) promote the reduction of wildfire exposure,
 22 based on the criteria described in clauses (i) through
 23 (iii) of section 101(a)(1)(B), in fireshed management
 24 areas across jurisdictional boundaries; and

1 (2) conduct fireshed assessments under section
2 105.

3 (b) ADJUSTMENT OF BOUNDARIES AND UPDATES TO
4 AGREEMENTS.—With respect to an agreement under sub-
5 section (a), the Secretary concerned, on request of the ap-
6 plicable Governor, may—

7 (1) adjust the boundaries of any applicable
8 fireshed management area; and

9 (2) update the agreement to address any new
10 wildfire threats.

11 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary and
12 the Secretary of the Interior may enter into cooperative
13 agreements with units of local government, special dis-
14 tricts, end water users, nongovernmental organizations,
15 institutions of higher education, and other entities, at the
16 discretion of the applicable Secretary to carry out the ac-
17 tivities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection
18 (a).

19 **SEC. 105. FIRESHED ASSESSMENTS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
21 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned,
22 in cooperation with the Governor with whom the Secretary
23 concerned enters into an agreement under section 104(a),
24 if applicable, shall conduct a fireshed assessment in ac-
25 cordance with this section with respect to each fireshed

1 management area designated in the applicable State or
2 area of Tribal land.

3 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each fireshed assessment
5 under subsection (a) shall—

6 (A) identify—

7 (i) using the best available science,
8 wildfire exposure risks within the applica-
9 ble fireshed management area, including
10 scenario planning and wildfire hazard map-
11 ping and models; and

12 (ii) each at-risk community within the
13 fireshed management area;

14 (B) identify the types of fireshed manage-
15 ment projects that could benefit the fireshed
16 management area, with an emphasis on reduc-
17 ing—

18 (i) wildfire exposure and cor-
19 responding risk to communities, including
20 risk to life, critical infrastructure, and
21 other structures;

22 (ii) wildfire exposure and cor-
23 responding risk to municipal watersheds,
24 including Tribal water supplies and sys-
25 tems;

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

3 (iv) wildfire risk for wildlife habitats,
4 including habitat for species listed as
5 threatened or endangered under the En-
6 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
7 1531 et seq.);

8 (v) wildfire risk to resources of an In-
9 dian Tribe, as defined by the Indian Tribe;
10 or

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

13 (C) include, with respect to the applicable
14 fireshed management area—

15 (i) a strategy for reducing the threat
16 of wildfire—

17 (I) to protect at-risk communities
18 in the wildland-urban interface on
19 Federal and non-Federal land;

20 (II) to improve the effectiveness
21 of wildfire firefighting, particularly
22 the effectiveness of fuels treatments
23 that would improve wildfire firefighter
24 safety during wildfires; and

- 1 (III) to reduce risk to wildlife
2 habitats, including habitat for species
3 listed as threatened or endangered
4 under the Endangered Species Act of
5 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);
- 6 (ii) a timeline for the implementation
7 of fireshed management projects;
- 8 (iii) long-term benchmark goals for
9 the completion of fireshed management
10 projects in the highest wildfire exposure
11 areas to ensure that those fireshed man-
12 agement projects contribute to the develop-
13 ment and maintenance of healthy and re-
14 silient landscapes;
- 15 (iv) a strategy to ensure that fireshed
16 management projects comply with applica-
17 ble forest plans and incorporate the best
18 available science; and
- 19 (v) a strategy for maximizing the re-
20 tention of late-successional forests, to the
21 extent that the trees promote stands that
22 are resilient to insects and disease, and re-
23 duce the risk or extent of, or increase resil-
24 ience to, wildfires.

1 (2) EXISTING PLANS.—To the maximum extent
 2 practicable, a fireshed assessment shall incorporate
 3 and build on information, planning, and strategies
 4 contained in relevant forest plans, State forest ac-
 5 tion plans, watershed management plans, community
 6 wildfire protection plans, and similar locally led
 7 landscape-scale planning documents.

8 (3) PARTICIPATION.—

9 (A) STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL GOVERN-
 10 MENTS.—In addition to the parties to an appli-
 11 cable agreement described in subsection (a), the
 12 Secretary concerned shall coordinate with
 13 States, Indian Tribes, units of local govern-
 14 ment, and other entities that are parties to an
 15 agreement under section 104(c) within a
 16 fireshed management area in conducting the
 17 fireshed assessment under paragraph (1).

18 (B) PUBLIC.—In carrying out a fireshed
 19 assessment under this section, the Secretary
 20 concerned shall provide an opportunity for pub-
 21 lic participation during the 45-day period begin-
 22 ning on the date of initiation of the assessment,
 23 including—

24 (i) publication of information regard-
 25 ing the development of the assessment—

1 (I) on a website maintained by
2 the Secretary concerned; and

3 (II) at convenient locations with-
4 in the applicable fireshed management
5 area; and

6 (ii) at least 1 public meeting.

7 (c) UPDATES AND AVAILABILITY.—Each fireshed as-
8 sessment under subsection (a) shall be—

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

12 (2) made publicly available on 1 or more
13 websites maintained by the Secretary concerned, in-
14 cluding the Fireshed Registry.

15 (d) INFORMATION IMPROVEMENT.—

16 (1) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—In car-
17 rying out a fireshed assessment under this section,
18 the Secretary concerned may enter into memoranda
19 of understanding with other Federal departments
20 and agencies (including the National Oceanic and
21 Atmospheric Administration), States, Indian Tribes,
22 private entities, or research or educational institu-
23 tions to improve, with respect to the assessment, the
24 use and integration of—

1 (A) advanced remote sensing and
 2 geospatial technologies;

3 (B) statistical modeling and analysis; or

4 (C) any other technology or combination of
 5 technologies and analyses that the Secretary
 6 concerned determines will benefit the quality of
 7 information in the assessment.

8 (2) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In using the
 9 best available science for a fireshed assessment
 10 under this section, the Secretary concerned and the
 11 applicable Governor shall incorporate, to the max-
 12 imum extent practicable—

13 (A) traditional ecological knowledge from
 14 Indian Tribes;

15 (B) data from State forest action plans
 16 and State wildfire risk assessments;

17 (C) data from the Fireshed Registry; and

18 (D) data from other Federal, State, Tribal,
 19 and local governments or agencies.

20 (e) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.—A fireshed assess-
 21 ment under this section shall not be subject to the require-
 22 ments of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
 23 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

24 **SEC. 106. EMERGENCY FIRESHED MANAGEMENT.**

25 (a) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
2 through a responsible official, shall carry out
3 fireshed management projects on land under the ju-
4 risdiction of the Secretary concerned in fireshed
5 management areas in accordance with this section,
6 the applicable forest plan, and the laws (including
7 regulations) applicable to the Secretary concerned.

8 (2) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The following shall
10 have the force and effect of law with respect to
11 any fireshed management project carried out in
12 a fireshed management area:

13 (i) Section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code
14 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on
15 April 9, 2025), with respect to land under
16 the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

17 (ii) Section 46.150 of title 43, Code of
18 Federal Regulations (as in effect on April
19 9, 2025), with respect to land under the
20 jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Inte-
21 rior.

22 (iii) Section 402.05 of title 50, Code
23 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on
24 April 9, 2025).

1 (iv) Section 800.12 of title 36, Code
2 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on
3 April 9, 2025), except that any reference
4 contained in that regulation to an “agency
5 official” shall be considered to be a ref-
6 erence to a responsible official.

7 (B) DETERMINATION OF EMERGENCY.—

8 (i) IN GENERAL.—A regulation re-
9 ferred to in subparagraph (A) shall not
10 apply pursuant to that subparagraph with
11 respect to a fireshed management project
12 unless, before carrying out the fireshed
13 management project, a responsible offi-
14 cial—

15 (I) determines, in accordance
16 with the regulation, that an emer-
17 gency or emergency circumstance ex-
18 ists;

19 (II) completes any documentation
20 or identification processes required
21 under such regulation; and

22 (III) provides public notice of the
23 determination of emergency and each
24 related fireshed management project
25 activity by publishing such determina-

1 tion on a website maintained by the
2 Secretary concerned.

3 (ii) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out
4 a fireshed management project under a
5 regulation referred to in subparagraph (A),
6 a responsible official shall ensure that such
7 fireshed management project is consistent
8 with the applicable forest plan and the
9 laws (including regulations) and policies
10 applicable to the Secretary concerned.

11 (C) FURTHER CLARIFICATION.—A regula-
12 tion referred to in subparagraph (A) shall not
13 apply to any fireshed management project un-
14 less such fireshed management project will
15 achieve a land management goal described in
16 section 604(c) of the Healthy Forests Restora-
17 tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(c)).

18 (D) UTILIZATION OF EXISTING STREAM-
19 LINED AUTHORITIES IN FIRESHED MANAGE-
20 MENT AREAS.—

21 (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2
22 years after the date of enactment of this
23 Act, with respect to each fireshed manage-
24 ment area that contains Federal land, the
25 Secretary concerned, acting through a re-

sponsible official, shall use not fewer than 1 of the following expedited authorities for environmental review to carry out firehshed management projects:

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

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

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

(IV) Section 40806(b) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592b(b)).

(ii) COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA.—In applying expedited authorities for environmental review to carry out firehshed management projects under clause (i), the Secretary concerned shall ensure—

(I) such project is carried out in accordance with the statute establishing the categorical exclusion applied by the Secretary concerned;

1 (II) compliance with the National
2 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
3 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

4 (III) such project is carried out
5 in accordance with the applicable for-
6 est plan or resource management plan
7 and the laws and policies applicable to
8 the Secretary concerned.

9 (iii) ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY AC-
10 TIONS.—The Secretary may declare an
11 emergency pursuant to section 40807 of
12 the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
13 Act (16 U.S.C. 6592c) for any fireshed
14 management project.

15 (iv) FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT RE-
16 QUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this sec-
17 tion, the Secretary concerned shall ensure
18 compliance with the amendments made to
19 the National Environmental Policy Act of
20 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) by the Fis-
21 cal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law
22 118–5; 137 Stat. 38).

23 (v) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—
24 To the maximum extent practicable, the
25 Secretary concerned shall use the authori-

ties provided under this section in combination with other authorities to carry out fireshed management projects, including—

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

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

(III) self-determination contracts and self-governance compact agreements entered into under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.); and

(IV) agreements entered into under the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–278; 118 Stat. 868).

(b) EXPANSION.—

(1) HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT
AMENDMENTS.—

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

4 (i) in paragraph (2), by striking
 5 “450b” and inserting “5304”; and

6 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
 7 lowing:

8 “(3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘local
 9 government’ means—

10 “(A) a county;

11 “(B) a municipality; and

12 “(C) a special district.

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

15 “(A) has significant budgetary autonomy
 16 or control;

17 “(B) was established by, or pursuant to,
 18 the laws of the State for the purpose of per-
 19 forming a limited and specific governmental or
 20 proprietary function primarily relating to forest
 21 or rangeland management; and

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

1 (B) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—Section
2 603(c) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
3 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591b(c)) is amended—

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

7 (ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking
8 “Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III” and in-
9 serting “Fire Regime I, Fire Regime II,
10 Fire Regime III, or Fire Regime IV”.

11 (C) WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROJECTS.—
12 Section 605(c) of the Healthy Forests Restora-
13 tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(c)) is
14 amended—

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

18 (ii) in paragraph (4), by striking
19 “code of Federal regulations (or successor
20 regulations)” and inserting “Code of Fed-
21 eral regulations (or a successor regula-
22 tion)”.

23 (D) GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND MULE
24 DEER HABITAT.—Section 606 of the Healthy

1 Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
2 6591e) is amended—

3 (i) in subsection (a)(1)(A)—

4 (I) by striking clause (ii);

5 (II) by redesignating clauses (iii)
6 through (vii) as clauses (ii) through
7 (vi), respectively; and

8 (III) in clause (iii) (as so redesign-
9 nated), in the matter preceding sub-
10 clause (I), by striking “in a sagebrush
11 steppe ecosystem”;

12 (ii) in subsection (c), by striking “con-
13 currently for both greater sage-grouse
14 and” and inserting “for greater sage-
15 grouse or”; and

16 (iii) in subsection (g)(1), by striking
17 “4,500 acres” and inserting “7,500 acres”.

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

1 **SEC. 107. SUNSET.**

2 The authority under this subtitle terminates on the
3 date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this
4 Act.

5 **Subtitle B—Expanding Collaborative Tools to Reduce Wildfire**
6 **Risk and Improve Forest Health**

8 **SEC. 111. MODIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF CERTAIN REV-**
9 **ENUE AND PAYMENTS UNDER GOOD NEIGH-**
10 **BOR AGREEMENTS.**

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

14 (1) in subsection (a)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “ei-
16 ther the Secretary or a Governor or county”
17 and inserting “the Secretary, a Governor, an
18 Indian tribe, a special district, or a county”;

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

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

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

1 “(11) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term ‘special
2 district’ means a political subdivision of a State
3 that—

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

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

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

13 (2) in subsection (b)—

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

17 (B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

18 (i) in clause (i)—

19 (I) in the matter preceding sub-
20 clause (I), by inserting “special dis-
21 trict,” after “Indian Tribe,” each
22 place it appears;

23 (II) in subclause (I)—

24 (aa) by striking “on”; and

1 (bb) by striking “; and” and
 2 inserting a semicolon;

3 (III) in subclause (II)—

4 (aa) in the matter preceding
 5 item (aa), by striking “clause
 6 (i)” and inserting “subclause
 7 (I)”; and

8 (bb) in item (bb), by strik-
 9 ing “the Good Neighbor Author-
 10 ity for Recreation Act.” and in-
 11 serting “section 351 of the EX-
 12 PLORE Act (16 U.S.C. 8571);”;
 13 and

14 (IV) by adding at the end the fol-
 15 lowing:

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

18 “(aa) to carry out author-
 19 ized restoration services under
 20 other good neighbor agreements;
 21 and

22 “(bb) for the administration
 23 of a good neighbor authority pro-
 24 gram by a Governor, Indian

1 tribe, special district, or county.”;

2 and

3 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “2028”

4 and inserting “2030”;

5 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “or coun-

6 ty” and inserting “, an Indian tribe, a special

7 district, or a county”; and

8 (D) by striking paragraph (4).

9 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 443 of division E of

11 Public Law 118–42 (138 Stat. 297) is amended, in

12 the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking

13 “Agriculture Act of 2014” and inserting “Agricul-

14 tural Act of 2014”.

15 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made

16 by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of en-

17 actment of Public Law 118–42 (138 Stat. 25).

18 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by

19 subsection (a) shall apply to any project initiated pursuant

20 to a good neighbor agreement (as defined in section

21 8206(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C.

22 2113a(a)))—

23 (1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if

24 the project was initiated after the date of enactment

1 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public
2 Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or

3 (2) on or after the date of enactment of this
4 Act.

5 **SEC. 112. FIXING STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CON-**
6 **TRACTING.**

7 Section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
8 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) is amended—

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

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

14 (3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the
15 following:

16 “(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARD-
17 SHIP CONTRACTS.—

18 “(A) DEFINITION OF LONG-TERM CON-
19 TRACT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘long-term
20 contract’ means an agreement or contract
21 under subsection (b) that—

22 “(i) has a term of longer than 5
23 years; and

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

“(B) SPECIAL RULE.—A long-term contract entered into under subsection (b) by the Chief or the Director with an entity shall provide that, in the case of cancellation or termination of the long-term contract by the Chief or the Director, the Chief or the Director, as applicable, shall provide to the entity an amount equal to 10 percent of the long-term contract amount as cancellation or termination costs.”.

SEC. 113. FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT STRIKE TEAMS.

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

(1) any reviews, including analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code (formerly known as the “National Historic Preservation Act”), and consultations under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), with the intent to accelerate and streamline interagency consultation processes;

1 (2) the implementation of any necessary site
2 preparation work in advance of, or as part of, a
3 fireshed management project;

4 (3) the implementation of fireshed management
5 projects; and

6 (4) any combination of purposes described in
7 paragraphs (1) through (3).

8 (b) MEMBERS.—

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

13 (A) employees of the department under the
14 jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned;

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

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

23 (2) REQUIREMENT.—In appointing individuals
24 under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall
25 appoint not fewer than 1 employee of the Federal

1 agency with jurisdiction over the applicable Federal
2 land.

3 (c) REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY.—The Secretary con-
4 cerned shall—

5 (1) determine the sufficiency of the documents
6 prepared by an intra-agency strike team under this
7 section; and

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

10 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section ter-
11 minates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enact-
12 ment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 114. LOCALLY LED RESTORATION.**

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

17 **SEC. 115. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PART-**
18 **nership PROGRAM.**

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

21 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

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

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

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

5 “(D) to recover from wildfire; or

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

8 (2) in subsection (d)(1)—

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

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

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

19 “(2) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—For each of fiscal
 20 years 2022 and 2023, and not less frequently than
 21 once every 2 fiscal years thereafter, the Chiefs shall
 22 submit a report describing projects for which fund-
 23 ing is provided under the Program, including the
 24 status and outcomes of those projects, to—

25 “(A) in the Senate—

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

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

5 “(iii) the Committee on Appropria-
6 tions; and

7 “(B) in the House of Representatives—

8 “(i) the Committee on Agriculture;

9 “(ii) the Committee on Natural Re-
10 sources; and

11 “(iii) the Committee on Appropria-
12 tions.”; and

13 (4) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “and
14 2023” and inserting “through 2031”.

15 **SEC. 116. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORA-**
16 **TION PROGRAM.**

17 Section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Manage-
18 ment Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (b)—

20 (A) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), by striking
21 “500 note” and inserting “7125”; and

22 (B) in paragraph (3)—

23 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
24 graph (A), by striking “plans to—” and
25 inserting “plans—”;

1 (ii) in each of subparagraphs (A)
2 through (H), by inserting “to” after the
3 subparagraph designation; and

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

6 (2) in subsection (c)(3)(A)—

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

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

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

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

16 (3) in subsection (d)—

17 (A) in paragraph (2)—

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

20 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
21 the period at the end and inserting a semi-
22 colon; and

23 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

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

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

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

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

16 “(I) proposals that seek to enhance water-
17 shed health and drinking water sources.”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (3)—

19 (i) by striking subparagraph (A) and
20 inserting the following:

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

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

1 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
2 (C) as subparagraph (B);

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

6 (5) in subsection (f)—

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

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

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

13 (a) STRATEGY.—

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

23 (2) INCLUSIONS.—The strategy under para-
24 graph (1) shall include—

1 (A) the completion of any reviews required
2 under the National Environmental Policy Act of
3 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to allow per-
4 mitted grazing on vacant grazing allotments
5 during instances of drought, wildfire, or other
6 natural disasters that disrupt grazing on allot-
7 ments already permitted;

8 (B) the use of targeted grazing to reduce
9 hazardous fuels;

10 (C) an increased use of temporary permits
11 to promote targeted fuels reduction and reduc-
12 tion of invasive annual grasses;

13 (D) an increased use of livestock grazing—

14 (i) to eradicate invasive annual
15 grasses; and

16 (ii) as a post-fire restoration and re-
17 covery strategy, as appropriate;

18 (E) an integrated use of advanced tech-
19 nologies to dynamically adjust livestock place-
20 ment;

21 (F) an increased use of any authorities ap-
22 plicable to livestock grazing, including modifica-
23 tions to grazing permits or leases to allow
24 variances;

1 (G) the utilization of grazing on Federal
 2 land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary
 3 concerned in a manner that—

4 (i) avoids conflicts with other uses of
 5 that Federal land; and

6 (ii) is consistent with any applicable
 7 land management plan; and

8 (H) the use of any other means determined
 9 to be appropriate by the Secretary concerned.

10 (b) EFFECT ON EXISTING GRAZING PROGRAMS.—

11 Nothing in this section affects—

12 (1) any livestock grazing program carried out
 13 by the Secretary concerned as of the date of enact-
 14 ment of this Act; or

15 (2) any statutory authority for any program de-
 16 scribed in paragraph (1).

17 **SEC. 118. WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

18 Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
 19 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
 22 through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), re-
 23 spectively;

24 (B) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as
 25 so redesignated) the following:

1 “(1) ADJACENT LAND.—The term ‘adjacent
2 land’ means non-Federal land, including State, local,
3 and private land, that is adjacent to, and within the
4 same watershed as, National Forest System land on
5 which a watershed protection and restoration project
6 is carried out under this section.”; and

7 (C) in paragraph (2) (as so redesign-
8 nated)—

9 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
10 (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (K) and
11 (L), respectively; and

12 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
13 (F) the following:

14 “(G) an acequia association;

15 “(H) a local, regional, or other public enti-
16 ty that manages stormwater or wastewater re-
17 sources or other related water infrastructure;

18 “(I) a land-grant mercedes; and

19 “(J) a local, regional, or other private enti-
20 ty that has water delivery authority;”;

21 (2) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) by inserting “and adjacent land” be-
23 fore the period at the end;

24 (B) by striking “The Secretary” and in-
25 serting the following:

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

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

3 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A watershed protection
4 and restoration project under the Program shall be
5 designed—

6 “(A) to protect and restore watershed
7 health, water supply and quality, a municipal or
8 agricultural water supply system, and water-re-
9 lated infrastructure;

10 “(B) to protect and restore forest health
11 from insect infestation and disease or wildfire;
12 or

13 “(C) to advance any combination of the
14 purposes described in subparagraphs (A) and
15 (B).

16 “(3) PRIORITIES.—In selecting watershed pro-
17 tection and restoration projects under the Program,
18 the Secretary shall give priority to projects that
19 would—

20 “(A) provide risk management benefits as-
21 sociated with drought, wildfire, post-wildfire
22 conditions, extreme weather events, flooding, re-
23 siliency to climate change, and watershed and
24 fire resilience, including minimizing risks to wa-
25 tershed health, water supply and quality, and

1 water-related infrastructure, including munic-
2 ipal and agricultural water supply systems;

3 “(B) support aquatic restoration and con-
4 servation efforts that complement existing or
5 planned forest restoration or wildfire risk re-
6 duction efforts;

7 “(C) provide quantifiable benefits to water
8 supply or quality and include the use of nature-
9 based solutions, such as restoring wetland and
10 riparian ecosystems;

11 “(D) include—

12 “(i) partners with demonstrated ca-
13 pacity to, and success in, designing and
14 implementing ecological restoration
15 projects, wildfire risk-reduction efforts, or
16 post-wildfire restoration projects; or

17 “(ii) in the case of communities that
18 have historically lacked access to adequate
19 resources, partners with a strong likelihood
20 of success in designing and implementing a
21 watershed protection and restoration
22 project; and

23 “(E) include—

24 “(i) a contribution of funds or in-kind
25 support from non-Federal partners in an

amount greater than the amount required
under subsection (g)(2); or

“(ii) such other characteristics as the
Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(4) CONDITIONS FOR PROJECTS ON ADJACENT
LAND.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—No project or activity
may be carried out under this section on adja-
cent land, unless the owner of the adjacent land
provides express support for, and is a willing
and engaged partner in, carrying out that
project or activity.

“(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section
authorizes any change in—

“(i) the ownership of adjacent land on
which a project or activity is carried out
under this section; or

“(ii) the management of adjacent land
on which a project or activity is carried out
under this section, except during the car-
rying out of that project or activity.”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “agree-
ments with” and all that follows through the
period at the end and inserting the following:

“agreements with end water users to protect and restore the condition of National Forest watersheds and adjacent land that provide water to—

“(A) end water users; or

“(B) end water users to protect and restore the condition of National Forest watersheds and adjacent land that provide water for the benefit of another end water user.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking

“or” at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph

(D) as subparagraph (E); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph

(C) the following:

“(D) in the case of an agreement with a State, a county, or an Indian tribe for a project carried out on National Forest System land, a good neighbor agreement entered into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) COOPERATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PARTNERS.—The Secretary shall cooperate with non-Fed-

1 eral partners in carrying out assessments, planning,
 2 project design, and project implementation under
 3 this section.”;

4 (4) in subsection (d)—

5 (A) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
 6 ing the following:

7 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A water source manage-
 8 ment plan shall be—

9 “(A) designed to protect and restore eco-
 10 logical integrity (as defined in section 219.19 of
 11 title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in ef-
 12 fect on the date of enactment of this subpara-
 13 graph));

14 “(B) based on the best available scientific
 15 information; and

16 “(C) conducted in a manner consistent
 17 with the forest plan applicable to the National
 18 Forest System land on which the watershed
 19 protection and restoration project is carried
 20 out.”; and

21 (B) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(4) REDUCING REDUNDANCY.—An existing
 23 watershed plan, such as a watershed protection and
 24 restoration action plan developed under section
 25 304(a)(3), or other applicable watershed planning

documents approved by the Secretary may be used as the basis for a water source management plan under this subsection.”;

(5) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “purpose of” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “purpose of advancing any of the purposes described in subsection (b)(2).”; and

(6) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “at least equal to” and inserting “not less than 20 percent of”;

(ii) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement under subparagraph (A) at the discretion of the Secretary.”;

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “fiscal years 2025 through 2031”;

- 1 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
 2 (C) as subparagraph (D); and
 3 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
 4 (B) the following:

5 “(C) SET-ASIDE FOR PARTNER PARTICIPA-
 6 TION IN PLANNING AND CAPACITY.—Of the
 7 amounts made available under subparagraphs
 8 (A) and (B) to carry out this section for each
 9 fiscal year, the Secretary shall use not less than
 10 10 percent for non-Federal partner technical
 11 assistance participation and capacity-building
 12 efforts in developing or implementing a water
 13 source management plan under subsection
 14 (d).”; and

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

16 “(5) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary
 17 may include the value of forest restoration and wa-
 18 tershed improvement work implemented on adjacent
 19 land in the project area in determining in-kind con-
 20 tributions to a project from non-Federal partners
 21 under paragraph (4)(A).”.

22 **SEC. 119. WATERSHED CONDITION FRAMEWORK TECH-**
 23 **NICAL CORRECTIONS.**

24 Section 304(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration
 25 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6543(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (3)(A), by inserting “protec-
2 tion and” before “restoration”;

3 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the
4 end;

5 (3) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at
6 the end and inserting “; and”; and

7 (4) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(7) to ensure that management activities and
9 authorizations do not result in long-term degrada-
10 tion of watershed health or lower the classification
11 under paragraph (1) of any watershed in a National
12 Forest.”.

13 **SEC. 120. TRIBAL FOREST PROTECTION MANAGEMENT AC-**
14 **TIVITIES AND PROJECTS.**

15 Section 8703 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
16 2018 (25 U.S.C. 3115b) is amended—

17 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**MAN-**
18 **AGEMENT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**” and in-
19 serting “**PROTECTION MANAGEMENT ACTIVI-**
20 **TIES AND PROJECTS**”;

21 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
22 section (c);

23 (3) in subsection (a)—

24 (A) by striking “demonstration”;

25 (B) by striking “federally recognized”;

1 (C) by striking “programs of” and insert-
 2 ing “activities and projects under”;

3 (D) by striking “5304 et seq.” and insert-
 4 ing “5301 et seq.”; and

5 (E) by striking the subsection designation
 6 and heading and all that follows through “and
 7 the Secretary” and inserting the following:

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’
 10 means an Indian Tribe included on the list published
 11 by the Secretary of the Interior under section 104
 12 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of
 13 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

14 “(2) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Tribal
 15 organization’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
 16 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
 17 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

18 “(b) ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS.—The Secretary
 19 and the Secretary of the Interior”;

20 (4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

21 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
 22 by striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “sub-
 23 section (b)”;

24 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “5304 et
 25 seq.” and inserting “5301 et seq.”; and

1 (5) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(d) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-
3 retary and the Secretary of the Interior shall—

4 “(1) not later than 180 days after the date of
5 enactment of this subsection, make available, in an
6 easily accessible format and location, on the website
7 of the Department of Agriculture and the Depart-
8 ment of the Interior, respectively, a list of the types
9 of activities and projects that Indian Tribes and
10 Tribal organizations may enter into contracts to per-
11 form under subsection (b); and

12 “(2) update the list under paragraph (1) as
13 necessary.”.

14 **Subtitle C—Litigation Reform**

15 **SEC. 121. COMMONSENSE LITIGATION REFORM.**

16 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) AGENCY DOCUMENT.—The term “agency
18 document”, with respect to a fireshed management
19 project, means a record of decision, decision memo-
20 randum, environmental document, or programmatic
21 environmental document.

22 (2) COVERED AGENCY ACTION.—The term
23 “covered agency action” means—

24 (A) the establishment of a fireshed man-
25 agement project by an agency;

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

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

5 (D) any other agency action as part of a
6 fireshed management project.

7 (3) NEPA TERMS.—The terms “categorical ex-
8 clusion”, “environmental document”, and “pro-
9 grammatic environmental document” have the mean-
10 ings given those terms in section 111 of the National
11 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
12 4336e).

13 (b) LIMITATIONS ON JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

14 (1) LIMITATIONS ON INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—

15 (A) TEMPORARY DELAY OF COVERED
16 AGENCY ACTION.—Notwithstanding any other
17 provision of law, in the case of a claim arising
18 under Federal law seeking judicial review of a
19 covered agency action, a court shall not issue a
20 preliminary injunction against such covered
21 agency action unless the court determines
22 that—

23 (i) subject to subparagraph (C), such
24 preliminary injunction is in the public in-
25 terest;

1 (ii) the balance of equities favors the
2 plaintiff;

3 (iii) the plaintiff is likely to succeed
4 on the merits; and

5 (iv) the plaintiff is likely to suffer ir-
6 reparable injury in the absence of prelimi-
7 nary relief.

8 (B) PERMANENT LIMIT ON AGENCY AC-
9 TION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of
10 law, in the case of a claim arising under Fed-
11 eral law seeking judicial review of a covered
12 agency action, a court shall not issue a perma-
13 nent injunction against such covered agency ac-
14 tion, or an order to otherwise permanently limit
15 such covered agency action, unless a court de-
16 termines that—

17 (i) subject to subparagraph (C), such
18 permanent injunction or order is in the
19 public interest;

20 (ii) the balance of equities favors the
21 plaintiff;

22 (iii) the plaintiff has suffered or will
23 suffer irreparable injury; and

24 (iv) no adequate remedy is available
25 at law.

1 (C) PUBLIC INTEREST DETERMINATION.—

2 (i) IN GENERAL.—In determining
3 under subparagraphs (A) and (B) whether
4 a preliminary or permanent injunction
5 against, or other order with respect to, a
6 covered agency action is in the public in-
7 terest, the considerations of the court shall
8 include—

9 (I) the purpose for which an
10 agency is undertaking the fireshed
11 management project relating to such
12 covered agency action;

13 (II) the likelihood that the
14 fireshed management project will
15 achieve the stated purpose of the
16 fireshed management project; and

17 (III) the short- and long-term ef-
18 fects of proceeding with the covered
19 agency action, as compared to delay-
20 ing or limiting such covered agency
21 action, including the potential for sig-
22 nificant increases in wildfire risk or
23 severity and significant threats to the
24 health of the ecosystem.

1 (ii) WEIGHT OF PUBLIC INTEREST
 2 FACTOR.—In determining whether to issue
 3 any injunction or order under subpara-
 4 graph (A) or (B), a court shall give signifi-
 5 cant, but not necessarily dispositive, weight
 6 to its consideration of whether such order
 7 is in the public interest.

8 (2) REMAND.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
 10 other provision of law, in the case of a claim
 11 arising under Federal law seeking judicial re-
 12 view of a covered agency action, if the court re-
 13 mands the matter to the agency, the court shall
 14 remand with instructions to carry out, during
 15 the 180-day period beginning on the date of
 16 such remand, such additional actions as may be
 17 necessary to redress any cognizable harm giving
 18 rise to such claim.

19 (B) VACATUR.—

20 (i) IN GENERAL.—In remanding a
 21 matter to an agency under subparagraph
 22 (A), the court shall remand with vacatur
 23 only if—

1 (I) the seriousness of any defi-
2 ciencies in the covered agency action
3 weigh in favor of vacatur; and

4 (II) the court determines that
5 any disruptive consequences of
6 vacatur, including the short- and long-
7 term effects of vacating the covered
8 agency action or any part of such cov-
9 ered agency action, do not outweigh
10 the justification for vacatur.

11 (ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making the
12 determination described in clause (i)(II),
13 the court shall consider whether vacatur
14 would cause—

15 (I) any significant increases in
16 wildfire risk or severity, and

17 (II) any significant threats to the
18 health of the ecosystem.

19 (C) EFFECT OF REMAND ON AGENCY.—In
20 the case of a covered agency action subject to
21 remand without vacatur, or with partial
22 vacatur, pursuant to this paragraph, the agency
23 may—

24 (i) continue to carry out such covered
25 agency action, or such parts of the covered

1 agency action as are not vacated, to the ex-
2 tent that doing so does not interfere with
3 any additional actions required pursuant to
4 subparagraph (A); and

5 (ii) use any format, as appropriate, to
6 correct an agency document (including a
7 supplemental environmental document,
8 memorandum, or errata sheet), provided
9 that such format is appropriate to the na-
10 ture of the deficiency.

11 (3) PRESERVATION OF AUTHORITY.—Nothing
12 in this section alters, limits, or displaces the author-
13 ity of a court to review a covered agency action
14 under section 706(2) of title 5, United States Code.

15 (c) LIMITATIONS ON CLAIMS.—Notwithstanding any
16 other provision of law, a claim arising under Federal law
17 seeking judicial review of a covered agency action shall be
18 barred unless—

19 (1) with respect to an agency document or the
20 application of a categorical exclusion noticed in the
21 Federal Register, such claim is filed not later than
22 150 days after the date of publication of a notice in
23 the Federal Register of agency intent to carry out
24 the fireshed management project relating to such

1 covered agency document or application, unless a
 2 shorter period is specified in such Federal law; or

3 (2) in the case of an agency document or the
 4 application of a categorical exclusion not described
 5 in paragraph (1), if such agency document or appli-
 6 cation is otherwise published or noticed, such claim
 7 is filed not later than 150 days after the date that
 8 is the earlier of—

9 (A) the date on which such agency docu-
 10 ment or application is published; and

11 (B) the date on which such agency docu-
 12 ment or application is noticed.

13 **SEC. 122. CONSULTATION ON FOREST PLANS.**

14 (a) FOREST SERVICE PLANS.—Section 6(d)(2) of the
 15 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act
 16 of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(d)(2)) is amended to read as
 17 follows:

18 “(2) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION RE-
 19 QUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Not-
 20 withstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-
 21 retary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation
 22 under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act
 23 of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of
 24 title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor

1 regulation), on a land management plan approved,
 2 amended, or revised under this section when—

3 “(A) a new species is listed or critical habi-
 4 tat is designated under the Endangered Species
 5 Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

6 “(B) new information reveals effects of the
 7 land management plan that may affect a spe-
 8 cies listed or critical habitat designated under
 9 that Act in a manner or to an extent not pre-
 10 viously considered.”.

11 (b) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Sec-
 12 tion 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act
 13 of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended by adding at the
 14 end the following:

15 “(g) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED
 16 UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding
 17 any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be re-
 18 quired to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of
 19 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
 20 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal
 21 Regulations (or a successor regulation), on a land use plan
 22 approved, amended, or revised under this section when—

23 “(1) a new species is listed or critical habitat
 24 is designated under the Endangered Species Act of
 25 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

“(2) new information reveals effects of the land use plan that may affect a species listed or critical habitat designated under that Act in a manner or to an extent not previously considered.”.

Subtitle D—Prescribed Fire

SEC. 131. PRESCRIBED FIRE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PRACTICES.

(a) DEFINITION OF PRESCRIBED FIRE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term “prescribed fire” means a fire deliberately ignited to burn wildland fuels in a natural or modified state—

(A) under specified environmental conditions that are intended to allow the fire—

(i) to be confined to a predetermined area; and

(ii) to produce the fireline intensity and rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives; and

(B) in accordance with applicable law (including regulations).

(2) EXCLUSION.—In this section, the term “prescribed fire” does not include a fire that is ignited for the primary purpose of pile burning.

(b) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned
2 may carry out eligible activities described in para-
3 graph (2) for hazardous fuels management with re-
4 spect to land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary
5 concerned.

6 (2) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES.—The activi-
7 ties referred to in paragraph (1) are—

8 (A) with respect to prescribed fires on
9 Federal land, or on non-Federal land if the Sec-
10 retary concerned determines that such activities
11 would benefit resources on Federal land—

12 (i) entering into procurement con-
13 tracts or cooperative agreements for pre-
14 scribed fire activities;

15 (ii) issuing grants from an existing
16 grant program to a State, Tribal govern-
17 ment, local government, prescribed fire
18 council, prescribed burn association, or
19 nonprofit organization for the implementa-
20 tion of prescribed fires, including—

21 (I) carrying out necessary envi-
22 ronmental reviews;

23 (II) carrying out any site prepa-
24 ration necessary for implementing
25 prescribed fires; and

1 (III) conducting any required
2 pre-ignition cultural and environ-
3 mental surveys; and

4 (iii) conducting outreach to the public,
5 Indian Tribes and beneficiaries, and adja-
6 cent landowners;

7 (B) implementing prescribed fires on non-
8 Federal land, if the Secretary concerned deter-
9 mines that the prescribed fire would benefit
10 Federal land, including—

11 (i) carrying out necessary environ-
12 mental reviews;

13 (ii) carrying out any site preparation
14 necessary for implementing prescribed
15 fires; and

16 (iii) conducting any required pre-igni-
17 tion cultural and environmental surveys;

18 (C) providing training for prescribed fire
19 and basic smoke management practices to Fed-
20 eral employees and cooperators;

21 (D) conducting post-prescribed fire activi-
22 ties, such as monitoring for hazard trees or re-
23 ignitions and invasive species management; and

24 (E) providing technical or financial assist-
25 ance to a State, Tribal government, local gov-

ernment, prescribed fire council, prescribed burn association, or nonprofit organization for the purpose of providing training for prescribed fire or basic smoke management practices, consistent with any standards developed by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group or State-prescribed fire standards.

(3) PRIORITIZATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary concerned shall coordinate with the other Secretary concerned, State and local government agencies, Indian Tribes, and applicable nongovernmental organizations to establish prioritization criteria for carrying out the activities described in paragraph (2).

(B) REQUIREMENT.—In establishing criteria under subparagraph (A), the Secretary concerned shall give priority to a project that is—

(i) implemented across a large contiguous area;

(ii) cross-boundary in nature;

(iii) located in an area that is—

(I) within or adjacent to the wildland-urban interface and identi-

1 fied as a priority area in a statewide
 2 forest action plan, fireshed assess-
 3 ment, or community wildfire protec-
 4 tion plan; or

5 (II) identified as important to
 6 the protection of a Tribal trust re-
 7 source or the reserved or treaty rights
 8 of an Indian Tribe;

9 (iv) on land that is at high or very
 10 high risk of experiencing a wildfire that
 11 would be difficult to suppress;

12 (v) in an area that is designated as
 13 critical habitat and in need of ecological
 14 restoration or enhancement that can be
 15 achieved with the aid of prescribed fire; or

16 (vi) supportive of potential operational
 17 delineations or strategic response zones.

18 (c) POLICIES AND PRACTICES.—The Secretary con-
 19 cerned, in coordination with State, local, and Tribal gov-
 20 ernments, shall develop a prescribed fire operational strat-
 21 egy for each region of the National Forest System or the
 22 Department of the Interior, as applicable, that describes—

23 (1) the fire deficit, by region; and

24 (2) staffing and funding needs to address the
 25 fire deficit described in paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 132. HUMAN RESOURCES.**

2 (a) COMPETENCIES FOR FIREFIGHTERS.—The Sec-
3 retaries, in coordination with the Fire Executive Council,
4 shall task the National Wildfire Coordinating Group with
5 the duty to adjust training requirements to obtain a cer-
6 tification to serve in a supervisory role for a prescribed
7 fire and any other positions determined to be necessary
8 by the Secretaries—

9 (1) in order to reduce the time required to ob-
10 tain such a certification; and

11 (2) such that significant experience, gained ex-
12 clusively during a prescribed fire, is required to ob-
13 tain such a certification.

14 (b) ENHANCING INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN FED-
15 ERAL AND NON-FEDERAL PRACTITIONERS.—

16 (1) QUALIFICATION DATABASES AND DISPATCH
17 SYSTEMS.—The Secretaries shall establish, to the
18 extent practicable, a collaborative process to create
19 mechanisms for non-Federal fire practitioners to be
20 included in prescribed fire and wildfire resource or-
21 dering and reimbursement processes.

22 (2) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS.—The Secre-
23 taries may—

24 (A) develop partnership agreements for
25 prescribed fire with all relevant State, Federal,
26 Tribal, university, and nongovernmental entities

1 that choose to be included in resource ordering
2 and reimbursement processes under paragraph
3 (1);

4 (B) create agreements and structures nec-
5 essary to include non-Federal and other non-
6 traditional partners in direct work with Federal
7 agencies to address prescribed fires; and

8 (C) treat any prescribed fire practitioner
9 meeting the National Wildfire Coordinating
10 Group standards as eligible to be included in
11 statewide participating agreements.

12 **SEC. 133. LIABILITY OF PRESCRIBED FIRE MANAGERS.**

13 (a) TRAINING COURSE.—The Secretaries, in coordi-
14 nation with the Attorney General of the United States,
15 shall develop a voluntary training course for employees in-
16 volved in any activity carried out on Federal land that is
17 directly related to a prescribed fire in the course of exe-
18 cuting a Federal action.

19 (b) REQUIREMENT.—The training course developed
20 under subsection (a) shall include a description of—

21 (1) liability protections afforded to the employ-
22 ees described in that subsection when acting within
23 the scope of their employment;

24 (2) the limits on any liability protections under
25 paragraph (1); and

1 (3) any reimbursement available for qualified
 2 employees for professional liability insurance under
 3 section 636 of division A of Public Law 104–208 (5
 4 U.S.C. prec. 5941 note).

5 **SEC. 134. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.**

6 (a) SMOKE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.—

7 (1) POLICY.—The Secretaries shall ensure that
 8 policies, training, and programs of the Secretaries
 9 are consistent with this subsection—

10 (A) to facilitate greater use of prescribed
 11 fire in a safe and responsible manner, with ap-
 12 propriate monitoring to prevent prescribed fires
 13 from exceeding containment; and

14 (B) to address public health and safety, in-
 15 cluding impacts from smoke from wildfires and
 16 prescribed fires.

17 (2) COORDINATION AMONG FEDERAL, TRIBAL,
 18 AND STATE AIR QUALITY AGENCIES AND FEDERAL,
 19 TRIBAL, AND STATE LAND MANAGEMENT AGEN-
 20 CIES.—To facilitate the use of prescribed fire on
 21 Federal, State, Tribal, and private land, the Execu-
 22 tive Director, in cooperation with the Environmental
 23 Protection Agency, Federal and State land manage-
 24 ment agencies, shall coordinate with State, Tribal,

1 and local air quality agencies that regulate smoke
2 under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.)—

3 (A) to the maximum extent practicable, to
4 provide State, Tribal, and local air quality
5 agencies with guidance, data, imagery, or mod-
6 eling to support the development of exceptional
7 event demonstrations in accordance with sec-
8 tions 50.14 and 51.930 of title 40, Code of
9 Federal Regulations (or successor regulations);

10 (B) to develop archives and automated
11 tools to provide State, Tribal, and local air
12 quality agencies with the data, imagery, and
13 modeling under subparagraph (A);

14 (C) to provide technical assistance, best
15 practices, or templates to States, Indian Tribes,
16 and local governments for the use of the State,
17 Indian Tribe, or local government in approving
18 the use of prescribed fire under a State, Tribal,
19 or local government smoke management pro-
20 gram;

21 (D)(i) to promote basic smoke manage-
22 ment practices and other best practices to pro-
23 tect the public from wildfire smoke;

24 (ii) to disseminate information about basic
25 smoke management practices;

1 (iii) to educate landowners that use pre-
2 scribed fire about the importance of—

3 (I) using basic smoke management
4 practices; and

5 (II) including basic smoke manage-
6 ment practices as a component of a pre-
7 scribed fire plan; and

8 (iv) to share with the public information,
9 in coordination with other public health agen-
10 cies, about measures that individuals can take
11 to protect themselves from wildfire smoke; and

12 (E) to develop guidance and tools to
13 streamline the demonstration of a clear causal
14 relationship between prescribed fire smoke and
15 a related exceedance of a national ambient air
16 quality standard.

17 (3) PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH.—To address
18 the public health and safety risk of the expanded use
19 of prescribed fire under this subtitle, the Secretaries,
20 in coordination with the Administrator of the Envi-
21 ronmental Protection Agency and the Director of the
22 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall
23 conduct research to improve or develop—

24 (A) wildfire smoke prediction models;

1 (B) smoke impact display tools for the
2 public and decisionmakers;

3 (C) appropriate, cost-effective, and con-
4 sistent strategies to mitigate the impacts of
5 smoke from prescribed fire on nearby commu-
6 nities;

7 (D) consistent nationally and scientifically
8 supported messages regarding personal protec-
9 tion equipment for the public; and

10 (E) prescribed fire activity tracking and
11 emission inventory systems for planning and
12 post-treatment accountability.

13 (b) DEVELOPMENT OF LANDSCAPE-SCALE FEDERAL
14 PRESCRIBED FIRE PLANS.—

15 (1) INCLUSION OF LANDSCAPE-SCALE PRE-
16 SCRIBED FIRE PLANS.—The Secretary concerned,
17 with respect to units of the National Forest System
18 and Bureau of Land Management districts with ex-
19 isting prescribed fire programs—

20 (A) not later than 1 year after the date of
21 enactment of this Act, shall determine which of
22 those units or districts have landscape-scale
23 prescribed fire plans;

24 (B) not later than 2 years after the date
25 of enactment of this Act, shall—

1 (i) determine whether each plan de-
 2 scribed in subparagraph (A) requires revi-
 3 sion; and

4 (ii) establish a schedule for the revi-
 5 sion of each plan described in subpara-
 6 graph (A) that requires revision; and

7 (C) may develop landscape-scale prescribed
 8 fire plans for any units or districts that do not
 9 have landscape-scale prescribed fire plans, as
 10 determined appropriate by the Secretary con-
 11 cerned.

12 (2) ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.—In car-
 13 rying out paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned
 14 shall—

15 (A) comply with—

16 (i) the National Environmental Policy
 17 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

18 (ii) the Endangered Species Act of
 19 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

20 (iii) division A of subtitle III of title
 21 54, United States Code; and

22 (iv) any other applicable laws; and

23 (B) consider the site-specific environmental
 24 consequences of the landscape-scale prescribed
 25 fire decisions under this subsection.

1 (3) COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT.—In car-
 2 rying out paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned
 3 shall collaborate with diverse actors from academia,
 4 the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management
 5 research and development offices, nongovernmental
 6 organizations, cultural fire practitioners, and other
 7 entities, as determined appropriate by the Secretary
 8 concerned.

9 (4) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the
 10 date of enactment of this Act, and annually there-
 11 after, the Secretary concerned shall submit to Con-
 12 gress a report describing the progress of the Sec-
 13 retary concerned in carrying out this subsection.

14 **SEC. 135. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS**
 15 **FOR PRESCRIBED FIRE.**

16 (a) AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS.—

17 (1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this
 18 subsection, the term “eligible entity” means a State,
 19 an Indian Tribe, a unit of local government, a fire
 20 district, a nongovernmental organization, and a pri-
 21 vate entity.

22 (2) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary and the
 23 Secretary of the Interior may each enter into a coop-
 24 erative agreement or contract with an eligible entity,

1 for a period of not longer than 10 years, that au-
 2 thorizes the eligible entity—

3 (A) to coordinate, plan, or conduct a pre-
 4 scribed fire on Federal land; or

5 (B) to conduct a prescribed fire training
 6 event.

7 (3) SUBCONTRACTS.—A State, Indian Tribe,
 8 county, or eligible entity that enters into a coopera-
 9 tive agreement or contract under paragraph (1) may
 10 enter into a subcontract, in accordance with applica-
 11 ble contracting procedures of the State, Indian
 12 Tribe, county, or eligible entity—

13 (A) to conduct a prescribed fire on Federal
 14 land; or

15 (B) to conduct a prescribed fire training
 16 event pursuant to that cooperative agreement or
 17 contract.

18 (4) APPLICABLE LAW.—A prescribed fire con-
 19 ducted pursuant to this subsection shall be carried
 20 out on a project-by-project basis under existing au-
 21 thorities of the applicable Federal agency responsible
 22 for the management of the applicable Federal land.

23 (5) PRESERVATION OF DECISION AUTHORITY.—
 24 An eligible entity may not carry out a project under
 25 this subsection pursuant to a cooperative agreement

1 or contract without the prior written approval of
 2 each Secretary that entered into the cooperative
 3 agreement or contract.

4 (b) TRIBAL FOREST PROTECTION ACT OF 2004
 5 AMENDMENTS.—The Tribal Forest Protection Act of
 6 2004 (Public Law 108–278; 118 Stat. 868) is amended
 7 by adding at the end the following:

8 **“SEC. 4. TRIBAL PRESCRIBED BURN DEMONSTRATION**
 9 **PROJECT.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into a
 11 contract or agreement with an Indian Tribe under this Act
 12 that provides for prescribed burns on Federal land pursu-
 13 ant to this section.

14 “(b) SCOPE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of
 15 law, a contract or agreement entered into under this sec-
 16 tion may—

17 “(1) use a burn plan that, on approval by the
 18 Secretary, allows multiple prescribed burns to be
 19 conducted in accordance with the burn plan to elimi-
 20 nate the need for individual burn plans for each pre-
 21 scribed burn and enable forest managers to have the
 22 flexibility to conduct prescribed burns when condi-
 23 tions allow; and

24 “(2) include terms that—

1 “(A) authorize the Secretary to delegate
 2 their authority to an Indian Tribe to plan, co-
 3 ordinate, and execute prescribed burns on the
 4 behalf of the Secretary within the scope of the
 5 burn plan including applying the National Wild-
 6 fire Coordinating Group standards for pre-
 7 scribed fire planning and implementation, to
 8 the extent authorized by Federal law;

9 “(B) any applicable Federal standard that
 10 requires a certain number of personnel to be
 11 on-hand during prescribed burns may be satis-
 12 fied by regional Federal, State, or Tribal re-
 13 sources and personnel; and

14 “(C) where appropriate, the Secretary shall
 15 work with other Federal agencies and Tribal,
 16 State, and local governments to coordinate and
 17 communicate the shared objectives of the pre-
 18 scribed burn and ensure activities comply with
 19 applicable law and regulations.”.

20 (c) COOPERATIVE FUNDS AND DEPOSITS ACT
 21 AMENDMENTS.—Public Law 94–148 (commonly known as
 22 the “Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act”) is amended—
 23 (1) in the first sentence of the first section (16
 24 U.S.C. 565a–1), by inserting “prescribed fire and

1 prescribed fire training events,” after “including fire
2 protection,”; and

3 (2) in section 2 (16 U.S.C. 565a–2), by insert-
4 ing “, section 4 of the Tribal Forest Protection Act
5 of 2004 (Public Law 108–278; 118 Stat. 868) or
6 section 135(a) of the Fix Our Forests Act” after
7 “authorized by section 1”.

8 **SEC. 136. FACILITATING RESPONSIBLE USE OF PRE-**
9 **SCRIBED FIRE.**

10 The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest
11 Service, shall—

12 (1) use all available resources to ensure pre-
13 scribed burns conducted by the Forest Service are
14 extinguished; and

15 (2) update the prescribed burn policies of the
16 Forest Service to reflect the findings and rec-
17 ommendations included in the report of the Forest
18 Service entitled “National Prescribed Fire Program
19 Review” and dated September 2022.

1 **TITLE II—PROTECTING COMMU-**
2 **NITIES IN WILDLAND-URBAN**
3 **INTERFACE**

4 **Subtitle A—Community Wildfire**
5 **Risk Reduction**

6 **SEC. 201. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall
10 jointly establish an interagency program, to be known as
11 the “Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program” (re-
12 ferred to in this section as the “Program”), which shall
13 consist of at least 1 representative from each of the fol-
14 lowing:

15 (1) The Office of Wildland Fire of the Depart-
16 ment of the Interior.

17 (2) The National Park Service.

18 (3) The Bureau of Land Management.

19 (4) The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
20 ice.

21 (5) The Bureau of Indian Affairs.

22 (6) The Forest Service.

23 (7) The Federal Emergency Management Agen-
24 cy.

25 (8) The United States Fire Administration.

1 (9) The National Institute of Standards and
2 Technology.

3 (10) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric
4 Administration.

5 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Program is to
6 support interagency coordination in reducing the risk of,
7 and the damages resulting from, wildland fires in commu-
8 nities (including Tribal communities) in the wildland-
9 urban interface through—

10 (1) advancing research and science in wildland
11 fire resilience, land management, and risk reduction
12 in the built environment, including support for non-
13 Federal research partnerships;

14 (2) supporting the development of fire-resistant
15 building methods, codes, and standards for commu-
16 nity wildland fire risk reduction, including by pro-
17 moting ignition-resistant construction, defensible
18 space, and other measures demonstrated to effec-
19 tively reduce wildland fire risks, as informed by the
20 best available science;

21 (3) supporting adoption by Indian Tribes and
22 local governmental entities of fire-resistant building
23 methods, codes, and standards;

24 (4) supporting efforts by Indian Tribes and
25 local governmental entities to address the effects of

1 wildland fire on those communities, including prop-
2 erty damages, air quality, and water quality;

3 (5) encouraging public-private partnerships to
4 conduct hazardous fuels management activities in
5 the wildland-urban interface, including creating or
6 improving defensible space around structures;

7 (6) providing technical and financial assistance
8 targeted towards communities (including Tribal
9 communities) through streamlined and unified tech-
10 nical assistance and grant management mechanisms,
11 including the portal and uniform grant application
12 established under subsection (c)—

13 (A) to encourage critical risk-reduction
14 measures on private property with high
15 wildland fire risk exposure in those commu-
16 nities; and

17 (B) to mitigate costs for, and improve ca-
18 pacity among, those communities;

19 (7) reducing risk in the built environment by
20 encouraging increased mitigation measures, such as
21 the use of ignition-resistant construction and retro-
22 fitting materials;

23 (8) coordinating budgets among the agencies
24 described in subsection (a) to identify gaps and re-
25 duce overlap;

1 (9) supporting the integration of wildland fire
2 risk reduction measure and technical assistance into
3 existing Federal programs, where practicable; and

4 (10) advancing the development of early wild-
5 fire detection and warning systems for rapid re-
6 sponse and community alerts.

7 (c) PORTAL AND UNIFORM GRANT APPLICATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the Program, the
9 Secretaries and the Administrator of the Federal
10 Emergency Management Agency shall establish a
11 portal through which a person may submit a single,
12 uniform application for any of the following:

13 (A) A community wildfire defense grant
14 under section 40803(f) of the Infrastructure In-
15 vestment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(f)).

16 (B) An emergency management perform-
17 ance grant under section 662 of the Post-
18 Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of
19 2006 (6 U.S.C. 762).

20 (C) A grant under section 33 of the Fed-
21 eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
22 (15 U.S.C. 2229).

23 (D) A grant under section 34 of the Fed-
24 eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
25 (15 U.S.C. 2229a).

1 (E) Financial or technical assistance or a
2 grant under section 203, 205, 404, 406, or 420
3 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
4 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133,
5 5135, 5170c, 5172, 5187).

6 (2) SIMPLIFICATION OF APPLICATION.—In es-
7 tablishing the portal and application under para-
8 graph (1), the Secretaries and the Administrator
9 shall seek to reduce the complexity and length of the
10 application process for the forms of assistance de-
11 scribed in paragraph (1).

12 (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretaries
13 shall provide technical assistance to communities or
14 persons seeking to apply for financial assistance
15 through the portal using the application established
16 under paragraph (1).

17 (d) DUTIES.—In carrying out this section, the rep-
18 resentatives described in subsection (a) shall—

19 (1) meet not less frequently than once per year;

20 (2) ensure coordination, as appropriate, with
21 other Federal agencies not identified in that sub-
22 section; and

23 (3) seek to gather feedback, as appropriate,
24 from States, Indian Tribes, local governments, aca-
25 demic or research institutions, private entities, and

1 such other entities as the Secretaries determine to
2 be appropriate, to improve the function and oper-
3 ation of the Program.

4 (e) COORDINATION.—The Secretaries shall seek to
5 ensure that States and Indian Tribes are invited and rep-
6 resented in meetings and other activities under this sec-
7 tion.

8 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
9 of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall jointly sub-
10 mit to the relevant committees of Congress a report that—

11 (1) describes and itemizes the total amount of
12 funding relating to community wildfire risk reduc-
13 tion that was obligated during the 2 preceding fiscal
14 years by the agencies described in subsection (a);

15 (2) describes the activities carried out under the
16 Program since the date of enactment of this Act;

17 (3) describes any feedback incorporated from
18 non-Federal stakeholders to improve the function
19 and operation of the Program; and

20 (4) includes an evaluation of the Program in
21 achieving the purposes described in subsection (b).

22 (g) SUNSET.—The Program terminates on the date
23 that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 202. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE RESEARCH PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries, acting jointly,
4 shall expand the Joint Fire Science Program to include
5 a performance-driven research and development program,
6 to be known as the “Community Wildfire Defense Re-
7 search Program” (referred to in this section as the “Pro-
8 gram”), for the purpose of testing and advancing innova-
9 tive designs to establish or improve the wildfire resistance
10 of structures and communities.

11 (b) PROGRAM PRIORITIES.—In carrying out the Pro-
12 gram, the Secretaries shall evaluate opportunities to estab-
13 lish wildfire-resistant structures and communities
14 through—

15 (1) different affordable building materials, in-
16 cluding mass timber;

17 (2) home hardening, including policies to
18 incentivize and incorporate defensible space;

19 (3) subdivision design and other land-use plan-
20 ning and design;

21 (4) landscape architecture; and

22 (5) other wildfire-resistant designs, as deter-
23 mined by the Secretary.

24 (c) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE INNOVATION
25 PRIZE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Pro-
2 gram, the Secretaries shall carry out a competition
3 through which a person may submit to the Secre-
4 taries innovative designs for the establishment or
5 improvement of an ignition-resistant structure or
6 fire-adapted community.

7 (2) PRIZE.—Subject to the availability of ap-
8 propriations made in advance for that purpose, the
9 Secretaries may award a prize under the competition
10 described in paragraph (1), based on criteria estab-
11 lished by the Secretaries and in accordance with
12 paragraph (3).

13 (3) SCALE.—In awarding a prize under para-
14 graph (2), the Secretaries shall prioritize for an
15 award designs with the greatest potential to scale to
16 existing infrastructure.

17 (d) COLLABORATION AND NONDUPLICATION.—In
18 carrying out the Program, the Secretaries shall ensure col-
19 laboration and nonduplication of activities with the Build-
20 ing Technologies Office of the Department of Energy.

21 (e) SUNSET.—The Program terminates on the date
22 that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 203. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE ACCOUNT-**
2 **ABILITY.**

3 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
4 of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 2 years
5 thereafter, the Secretaries, acting through the United
6 States Fire Administration, shall submit to the relevant
7 committees of Congress an assessment of the Community
8 Wildfire Risk Reduction Program established under sec-
9 tion 201(a) that—

10 (1) assesses the management, coordination, im-
11 plementation, and effectiveness of program activities;

12 (2) suggests improvements for improving the
13 coordination and engagement of the program with
14 States, Indian Tribes, units of local government, and
15 at-risk communities;

16 (3) assesses trends and developments in science
17 and engineering relating to wildfire risk reduction in
18 the built environment, land use planning, and vege-
19 tation management that could be used to improve
20 the effectiveness or efficiency of the program;

21 (4) provides recommendations to improve the
22 ability of the program to provide financial or tech-
23 nical assistance to States, Indian Tribes, units of
24 local government, and at-risk communities;

25 (5) identifies opportunities to modify existing
26 requirements for Federal assistance or programs

1 that support community wildfire risk reduction to
 2 improve the delivery, effectiveness, or availability of
 3 those assistance or programs; and

4 (6) includes policy and program recommenda-
 5 tions to improve that program, as determined by the
 6 United States Fire Administration.

7 **SEC. 204. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE GRANT PRO-**
 8 **GRAM IMPROVEMENTS.**

9 Section 40803(f) of the Infrastructure Investment
 10 and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(f)) is amended—

11 (1) by striking paragraph (1)(B), and inserting
 12 the following:

13 “(B) to carry out projects including—

14 “(i) landscape and hazardous fuels re-
 15 duction treatments;

16 “(ii) the retrofit, modification, or
 17 maintenance of a structure to improve re-
 18 sistance to fire;

19 “(iii) creating defensible space around
 20 structures to improve resistance to fire;

21 “(iv) hardening infrastructure, includ-
 22 ing evacuation routes, to improve resist-
 23 ance to fire;

1 “(v) any other project described in a
 2 community wildfire protection plan that is
 3 not more than 10 years old; and

4 “(vi) deployment of wildfire tech-
 5 nologies determined to be successful under
 6 section 303 of the Fix Our Forests Act.”;

7 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

10 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the
 11 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

13 “(D) located in a fireshed management
 14 area (as defined in section 2 of the Fix Our
 15 Forests Act).”; and

16 (3) in paragraph (3)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking
 18 “continental”; and

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

20 “(D) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EX-
 21 PENSES.—Not more than 7 percent of funds
 22 obligated under this section may be used for ad-
 23 ministrative expenses incurred by the Secretary
 24 of Agriculture or an at-risk community.”.

1 **SEC. 205. UPDATED DEFINITION OF AT-RISK COMMUNITY.**

2 Section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
3 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511) is amended by striking para-
4 graph (1) and inserting the following:

5 “(1) AT-RISK COMMUNITY.—The term ‘at-risk
6 community’ means an area that is composed of—

7 “(A) an interface community (as defined in
8 the notice entitled ‘Wildland Urban Interface
9 Communities Within the Vicinity of Federal
10 Lands That Are at High Risk From Wildfire’
11 (66 Fed. Reg. 753 (January 4, 2001)) issued
12 by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Sec-
13 retary of the Interior in accordance with title
14 IV of the Department of the Interior and Re-
15 lated Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (114
16 Stat. 1009));

17 “(B) a group of homes and other struc-
18 tures with basic infrastructure and services
19 (such as utilities and collectively maintained
20 transportation routes) at risk from wildfire, as
21 recognized in a fireshed, State, Tribal, local, re-
22 gional, territorial, or national wildfire risk as-
23 sessment; or

24 “(C) a group of homes and other struc-
25 tures with basic infrastructure and services
26 (such as utilities and collectively maintained

1 transportation routes) located inside, or within
 2 5 miles of, a Wildfire Crisis Strategy landscape,
 3 as determined by the Secretary of Agri-
 4 culture.”.

5 **Subtitle B—Vegetation Manage-**
 6 **ment, Reforestation, and Local**
 7 **Fire Suppression**

8 **SEC. 211. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, FACILITY INSPEC-**
 9 **TION, AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**
 10 **RELATING TO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND**
 11 **DISTRIBUTION FACILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**

12 (a) HAZARD TREES WITHIN 150 FEET OF ELECTRIC
 13 POWER LINE.—Section 512(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Land
 14 Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.
 15 1772(a)(1)(B)) is amended—

16 (1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by strik-
 17 ing “likely to—” and inserting “likely—”;

18 (2) in clause (i), by inserting “to” after the
 19 clause designation; and

20 (3) in clause (ii), by striking “come within 10”
 21 and inserting “to come within 150”.

22 (b) CONSULTATION WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS.—
 23 Section 512(c)(3)(E) of the Federal Land Policy and
 24 Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(3)(E)) is
 25 amended—

1 (1) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

2 (2) in clause (ii), by striking the period and in-

3 serting “; and”; and

4 (3) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(iii) consulting with a private land-

6 owner with respect to any hazard trees

7 identified for removal from land owned by

8 the private landowner.”.

9 (c) REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—Section
10 512(c)(4)(A) of the Federal Land Policy and Management
11 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(4)(A)) is amended by
12 striking clause (iv) and inserting the following:

13 “(iv) ensures that—

14 “(I) a plan submitted without a

15 modification under clause (iii) shall be

16 automatically approved by the date

17 that is 120 days after the date of sub-

18 mission; and

19 “(II) for a plan submitted with a

20 modification under clause (iii), if the

21 plan is not approved by the date that

22 is 120 days after the date of submis-

23 sion, the Secretary concerned shall de-

24 velop and submit to the owner and op-

25 erator a letter describing—

1 “(aa) a detailed timeline (to
 2 conclude by the date that is 165
 3 days after the date of submission
 4 of the plan) for completing re-
 5 view of the plan;

6 “(bb) any identified defi-
 7 ciencies in the plan and specific
 8 opportunities for the owner or
 9 operator to address each defi-
 10 ciency; and

11 “(cc) any other relevant in-
 12 formation, as determined by the
 13 Secretary concerned.”.

14 (d) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section 512 of the
 15 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43
 16 U.S.C. 1772) is amended—

17 (1) in the section heading, by striking
 18 “**MANAGMENT**” and inserting “**MANAGEMENT**”;
 19 and

20 (2) in subsection (c)(4)(A)(ii), by striking
 21 “and” at the end.

22 (e) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW.—Not
 23 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this
 24 Act, the Secretaries shall submit to the relevant commit-
 25 tees of Congress a report describing, with respect to vege-

1 tation management plans submitted under section 512 of
2 the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
3 (43 U.S.C. 1772)—

4 (1) the extent to which those vegetation man-
5 agement plans under are reviewed and approved
6 within the 120-day period required under subsection
7 (c)(4)(A)(iv) of that section;

8 (2) for any vegetation management plan not re-
9 viewed and approved by the applicable deadline de-
10 scribed in paragraph (1), the reason for any delay
11 in review or approval; and

12 (3) for any vegetation management plan sub-
13 mitted for review and approval for which the Sec-
14 retary concerned requested a modification, the
15 timeline for reviewing the modification on resubmis-
16 sion.

17 **SEC. 212. FIRE-SAFE ELECTRICAL CORRIDORS.**

18 Section 512 of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-
19 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772) is amended—

20 (1) by redesignating subsections (j) and (k) as
21 subsections (k) and (l), respectively; and

22 (2) by inserting after subsection (i) the fol-
23 lowing:

1 “(j) PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH OWNERS AND
2 OPERATORS OF ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION
3 TION FACILITIES.—

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

14 “(A) the applicable plan;

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

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

19 “(2) USE OF PROCEEDS.—A special use permit
20 or easement that includes permission for cutting and
21 removal described in paragraph (1) shall include a
22 requirement that, if the owner or operator of the
23 electric transmission or distribution facility sells any
24 portion of the material removed under the permit or
25 easement, the owner or operator shall provide to the

1 Secretary concerned any proceeds received from the
 2 sale, less any transportation costs incurred in the
 3 sale.

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

8 **SEC. 213. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR HIGH-PRIORITY**
 9 **HAZARD TREES.**

10 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

20 (B) is determined by the Secretary to be
 21 highly likely to fail and, on failure, would be
 22 highly likely to cause injury to people or dam-
 23 age to Federal property; and

24 (C) is located—

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

4 (ii) along a National Forest System
5 trail; or

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

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

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “high-pri-
11 ority hazard tree activity” means a forest man-
12 agement activity that mitigates the risks associ-
13 ated with high-priority hazard trees, including
14 pruning, felling, and disposal of a high-priority
15 hazard tree.

16 (B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “high-pri-
17 ority hazard tree activity” does not include any
18 activity—

19 (i) conducted in a wilderness area or
20 wilderness study area;

21 (ii) for the construction of a perma-
22 nent road or permanent trail;

23 (iii) conducted on Federal land on
24 which, by Act of Congress or Presidential

1 proclamation, the removal of vegetation is
2 restricted or prohibited;

3 (iv) conducted in an area in which ac-
4 tivities described in subparagraph (A)
5 would be inconsistent with the applicable
6 land and resource management plan; or

7 (v) conducted in an inventoried
8 roadless area.

9 (b) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
11 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
12 shall develop a categorical exclusion (as defined in
13 111 of the National Environmental Policy Act of
14 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e)) for high-priority hazard
15 tree activities.

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

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

22 (B) apply the extraordinary circumstances
23 procedures under section 220.6 of title 36, Code
24 of Federal Regulations (or successor regula-

1 tions), in determining whether to use the cat-
2 egorical exclusion.

3 (3) PROJECT SIZE LIMITATION.—A project car-
4 ried out using the categorical exclusion developed
5 under paragraph (1) may not exceed 6,000 acres.

6 **SEC. 214. SEEDS OF SUCCESS STRATEGY.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall
9 jointly develop and implement a strategy, to be known as
10 the “Seeds of Success strategy”, to enhance the domestic
11 supply chain of seeds.

12 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy developed under sub-
13 section (a) shall include a plan for each of the following:

14 (1) Facilitating sustained interagency coordina-
15 tion in, and a comprehensive approach to, native
16 plant materials development and restoration.

17 (2) Promoting the re-seeding of native or fire-
18 resistant vegetation post-wildfire, particularly in the
19 wildland-urban interface.

20 (3) Creating and consolidating information re-
21 lating to native or fire-resistant vegetation and shar-
22 ing that information with Indian Tribes and State
23 and local governments.

24 (4) Building regional programs and partner-
25 ships to promote the development of materials made

1 from plants native to the United States and restore
2 those plants to their respective, native habitats with-
3 in the United States, giving priority to the building
4 of those programs and partnerships in regions of the
5 Bureau of Land Management where the partner-
6 ships and programs do not exist on the date of en-
7 actment of this Act.

8 (5) Expanding workforce and infrastructure ca-
9 pacity to locally collect, process, and store seed as
10 necessary to implement revegetation and reforest-
11 ation projects on priority land (as defined in section
12 215(b)(1)).

13 (6) Expanding the warehouse system of the Bu-
14 reau of Land Management, particularly the cold
15 storage capacity of the system.

16 (7) Shortening the timeline for the approval of
17 permits to collect seeds on public land managed by
18 the Bureau of Land Management.

19 (8) Coordinating with the other Federal agen-
20 cies, States, Indian Tribes, and private entities, as
21 appropriate, for the purpose of seed collection.

22 (c) REPORT.—The Secretaries shall submit to the rel-
23 evant committees of Congress the strategy developed
24 under subsection (a).

1 (d) COORDINATION.—In implementing the strategy
 2 developed under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Inte-
 3 rior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land
 4 Management, shall coordinate with the heads of other ap-
 5 plicable Federal agencies, including the Department of
 6 Defense, for the purpose of collecting seeds from land
 7 under the jurisdiction under those Federal agencies.

8 **SEC. 215. PROGRAM TO SUPPORT PRIORITY REFOREST-**
 9 **ATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS.**

10 (a) REFORESTATION REPORTS SUBMITTED TO ADDI-
 11 TIONAL COMMITTEES.—Section 70303 of the Infrastruc-
 12 ture Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 1601 note; Pub-
 13 lic Law 117–58) is amended, in the matter preceding
 14 paragraph (1), by striking inserting “, the Committee on
 15 Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Com-
 16 mittee on Natural Resources of the House of Representa-
 17 tives,” after “Senate”.

18 (b) INTERIOR REFORESTATION PROGRAM.—

19 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

20 (A) COVERED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
 21 EDUCATION.—The term “covered institution of
 22 higher education” means a land-grant college or
 23 university, including—

24 (i) an 1862 Institution (as defined in
 25 section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Ex-

1 tension, and Education Reform Act of
2 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601));

3 (ii) an 1890 Institution (as defined in
4 that section);

5 (iii) an institution that is eligible to
6 receive funding under Public Law 87–788
7 (commonly known as the “McIntire-Sten-
8 nis Act of 1962”); and

9 (iv) a 1994 Institution (as defined in
10 section 532 of the Equity in Educational
11 Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
12 301 note; Public Law 103–382)).

13 (B) NATURAL REGENERATION; REFOREST-
14 ATION; UNPLANNED EVENT.—The terms “nat-
15 ural regeneration”, “reforestation”, and “un-
16 planned event” have the meanings given those
17 terms in section 3(e)(4)(A) of the Forest and
18 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act
19 of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(e)(4)(A)).

20 (C) PRIORITY LAND.—The term “priority
21 land” means historically forested land under
22 the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned that,
23 due to an unplanned event—

1 (i) requires reforestation to meet the
2 objectives described in an applicable land
3 use plan; and

4 (ii) is unlikely to experience natural
5 regeneration.

6 (2) PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later
7 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,
8 the Secretary of the Interior shall establish a pro-
9 gram to implement reforestation projects on priority
10 land identified under paragraph (4)(A), in accord-
11 ance with this section.

12 (3) SUPPORT.—In carrying out the program es-
13 tablished under paragraph (2), the Secretary may
14 enter into—

15 (A) cooperative agreements in accordance
16 with processes established by the Secretary; and

17 (B) contracts, including contracts entered
18 into pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination
19 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301
20 et seq.).

21 (4) ANNUAL IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY
22 PROJECTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of
23 enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the
24 Secretary of the Interior shall—

1 (A) identify priority land within the United
2 States;

3 (B) establish a list of reforestation projects
4 on priority land for the upcoming year, which
5 may include activities to ensure adequate and
6 appropriate seed and seedling availability to
7 further the objectives of other priority projects;
8 and

9 (C) estimate the costs necessary to imple-
10 ment the list established under subparagraph
11 (B).

12 (5) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the pro-
13 gram under this subsection, the Secretary shall con-
14 sult or coordinate with, as appropriate—

15 (A) applicable State and local govern-
16 ments;

17 (B) applicable Indian Tribes;

18 (C) covered institutions of higher edu-
19 cation;

20 (D) Federal agencies that administer Fed-
21 eral land that adjoins, or is adjacent to, land
22 that is the subject of a project identified under
23 paragraph (4)(B); and

24 (E) other stakeholders, at the discretion of
25 the Secretary.

1 (6) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
3 thereafter for each of the following 6 years, the Sec-
4 retary of the Interior shall submit to the relevant
5 committees of Congress, the Committee on Appro-
6 priations of the Senate, and the Committee on Ap-
7 propriations of the House of Representatives a re-
8 port that includes the following, with respect to the
9 period covered by the report:

10 (A) An accounting of all priority land.

11 (B) A list of projects identified under
12 paragraph (4)(B).

13 (C) An accounting of any progress made
14 on projects identified in any previous report
15 under this paragraph.

16 (D) An accounting of each contract and
17 cooperative agreement established under the
18 program under this subsection.

19 (E) The amounts necessary to be appro-
20 priated, in addition to amounts available from
21 other sources, to implement reforestation
22 projects on all priority land by not later than
23 10 years after the date of submission of the re-
24 port.

1 (7) NONDUPLICATION.—In carrying out this
 2 section, the Secretary of the Interior shall collabo-
 3 rate with the Secretary and the Secretary of Defense
 4 to ensure the nonduplication of activities carried out
 5 under section 214.

6 **SEC. 216. REFORESTATION, NURSERIES, AND GENETIC RE-**
 7 **SOURCES SUPPORT.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible
 10 recipient” means—

11 (A) a State forestry agency;

12 (B) an Indian Tribe; and

13 (C) a private nursery that has experience,
 14 as determined by the Secretary, in growing
 15 high-quality native trees of appropriate genetic
 16 sources in bareroot or container stocktypes spe-
 17 cific for reforestation, restoration, or conserva-
 18 tion, including native plants and seeds that are
 19 of cultural significance to Indian Tribes.

20 (2) NURSERY.—The term “nursery” means a
 21 tree or native plant nursery.

22 (3) SEED ORCHARD.—The term “seed orchard”
 23 means a tree or native plant seed orchard.

24 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means—

25 (A) each of the several States;

1 (B) the District of Columbia;
2 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
3 and
4 (D) any territory or possession of the
5 United States.

6 (b) PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATION, AND OTHER
7 ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF NURSERIES AND SEED OR-
8 CHARDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the
9 Forest Service, shall—

10 (1) partner with Federal and State agencies,
11 Indian Tribes, institutions of higher education, and
12 private nurseries to provide training, technical as-
13 sistance, and research to nursery and tree establish-
14 ment programs that support natural regeneration,
15 reforestation, agroforestry, and afforestation;

16 (2) promote information-sharing to improve
17 technical knowledge and practices and understand
18 demands, climate change impacts, and other issues
19 as necessary to address all facets of the reforestation
20 supply chain;

21 (3) provide technical and financial assistance to
22 international nursery and tree establishment pro-
23 grams through the Forest Service International Pro-
24 grams, the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, and
25 the International Institute of Tropical Forestry;

1 (4) collaborate with other relevant Federal de-
2 partments and agencies, including the Foreign Agri-
3 cultural Service, the United States Agency for Inter-
4 national Development, and the United States Fish
5 and Wildlife Service, and international organiza-
6 tions, including the Food and Agriculture Organiza-
7 tion of the United Nations, to provide technical and
8 financial assistance relating to nurseries and refor-
9 estation;

10 (5) coordinate the efforts of the Department of
11 Agriculture—

12 (A) to address the challenges associated
13 with the reforestation supply chain; and

14 (B) to leverage economic development as-
15 sistance for work with private nurseries; and

16 (6) expand reforestation supply chains through
17 science and research, seed collection and storage,
18 and nursery infrastructure and operations.

19 (c) NURSERY AND SEED ORCHARD GRANTS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
21 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
22 shall establish or expand an existing program to pro-
23 vide grants to eligible recipients to support nurseries
24 and seed orchards.

1 (2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—An eligible recipient
2 that receives a grant under paragraph (1) shall
3 carry out a project that comprises 1 or more of the
4 following activities:

5 (A) The development, expansion, enhance-
6 ment, or improvement of nursery production ca-
7 pacity or other infrastructure—

8 (i) to improve seed collection and stor-
9 age;

10 (ii) to increase seedling production,
11 storage, and distribution; or

12 (iii) to enhance seedling survival and
13 properly manage tree genetic resources.

14 (B) The establishment or expansion of a
15 nursery or seed orchard, including by acquiring
16 equipment for a nursery or seed orchard.

17 (C) The development or implementation of
18 quality control measures at nurseries or seed
19 orchards.

20 (D) The promotion of workforce develop-
21 ment within any facet of the reforestation pipe-
22 line.

23 (E) Such other activities as the Secretary
24 determines to be appropriate.

1 **SEC. 217. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPAYMENT.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD OPERATING
3 PROCEDURES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of
4 enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall—

- 5 (1) establish standard operating procedures re-
6 lating to payment timelines for fire suppression cost-
7 share agreements established under section 2 of the
8 Act of May 27, 1955 (42 U.S.C. 1856a) (commonly
9 known as the “Reciprocal Fire Protection Act”); and
10 (2) with respect to each fire suppression cost-
11 share agreement in operation on that date—

- 12 (A) review the agreement; and
13 (B) modify the agreement as necessary to
14 comply with the standard operating procedures
15 established under paragraph (1).

16 (b) ALIGNMENT OF AGREEMENTS.—The standard
17 operating procedures under subsection (a)(1) shall include
18 a requirement that each fire suppression cost-share agree-
19 ment shall be aligned with each cooperative fire protection
20 agreement applicable to the entity subject to the fire sup-
21 pression cost-share agreement.

22 (c) PAYMENTS.—With respect to payments made
23 pursuant to a fire suppression cost-share agreement, the
24 standard operating procedures under subsection (a)(1)
25 shall require that the Federal paying entity shall reim-
26 burse a local fire department or a State wildland fire-

1 fighter agency if that entity submits to the Federal paying
 2 entity an invoice in accordance with applicable cost settle-
 3 ment procedures.

4 (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
 5 gress that the Secretaries should carry out reciprocal fire
 6 suppression cost-share agreement repayments to local fire
 7 suppression organizations and State wildland firefighting
 8 agencies as soon as practicable, but not later than 1 year,
 9 after the date on which the applicable fire suppression oc-
 10 curs.

11 **TITLE III—TRANSPARENCY,**
 12 **TECHNOLOGY, AND PARTNER-**
 13 **SHIPS**
 14 **Subtitle A—Transparency and**
 15 **Technology**

16 **SEC. 301. BIOCHAR INNOVATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES**
 17 **FOR CONSERVATION, HEALTH, AND AD-**
 18 **VANCEMENTS IN RESEARCH.**

19 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) BIOCHAR.—The term “biochar” means car-
 21 bonized biomass produced by converting feedstock
 22 through reductive thermal processing for a nonfuel
 23 use.

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

1 (A) a unit of State, Tribal, or local govern-
2 ment;

3 (B) a special district;

4 (C) an eligible institution;

5 (D) a public, private, or cooperative entity
6 or organization;

7 (E) a National Laboratory (as defined in
8 section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
9 U.S.C. 15801)); and

10 (F) a partnership or consortium of 2 or
11 more entities described in subparagraphs (A)
12 through (E).

13 (3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-
14 ble institution” means a land-grant college or uni-
15 versity, including—

16 (A) an 1862 Institution (as defined in sec-
17 tion 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
18 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
19 7601));

20 (B) an 1890 Institution (as defined in that
21 section);

22 (C) an institution that is eligible to receive
23 funding under Public Law 87–788 (commonly
24 known as the “McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962”);
25 and

1 (D) a 1994 Institution (as defined in sec-
 2 tion 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-
 3 Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note;
 4 Public Law 103–382)).

5 (4) FEEDSTOCK.—The term “feedstock” means
 6 excess biomass in the form of plant matter or mate-
 7 rials that serves as the raw material for the produc-
 8 tion of biochar.

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

11 (A) the Secretary, acting through the Chief
 12 of the Forest Service;

13 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting
 14 through the Director of the Bureau of Land
 15 Management; and

16 (C) the Secretary of Energy, acting
 17 through the Director of the Office of Science.

18 (b) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

19 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the avail-
 21 ability of appropriations made in advance for
 22 that purpose, not later than 2 years after the
 23 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries
 24 shall establish a program under which the Sec-
 25 retaries shall enter into partnerships with eligi-

1 ble entities to carry out demonstration projects
2 to support the development and commercializa-
3 tion of biochar in accordance with this sub-
4 section.

5 (B) LOCATION.—In carrying out the pro-
6 gram established under subparagraph (A), the
7 Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent prac-
8 ticable, enter into partnerships with eligible en-
9 tities in a manner that ensures that—

10 (i) at least 1 demonstration project is
11 carried out in each region of the Forest
12 Service; and

13 (ii) at least 1 demonstration project is
14 carried out in each region of the Bureau of
15 Land Management.

16 (2) PROPOSALS.—To be eligible to enter into a
17 partnership under paragraph (1)(A), an eligible enti-
18 ty shall submit to the Secretaries a proposal at such
19 time, in such manner, and containing such informa-
20 tion as the Secretaries may require.

21 (3) PRIORITY.—In selecting proposals under
22 paragraph (2), the Secretaries shall give priority to
23 entering into partnerships with eligible entities that
24 submit proposals to carry out biochar demonstration
25 projects that—

1 (A) have the most potential to improve for-
 2 est health and resiliency;

3 (B) have the most potential to create new
 4 jobs and contribute to local economies, particu-
 5 larly in rural areas;

6 (C) have the most potential to dem-
 7 onstrate—

8 (i) new and innovative uses of biochar;

9 (ii) market viability for cost-effective
 10 biochar-based products;

11 (iii) the restorative benefits of biochar
 12 with respect to forest health and resiliency,
 13 including forest soils and watersheds; or

14 (iv) any combination of the purposes
 15 described in clauses (i) through (iii);

16 (D) are located in areas that have a high
 17 need for biochar production, as determined by
 18 the Secretaries, due to—

19 (i) nearby land identified as having
 20 high, very high, or extreme risk of wildfire;

21 (ii) availability of sufficient quantities
 22 of feedstocks; or

23 (iii) a high level of demand for
 24 biochar or other commercial byproducts of
 25 biochar; or

1 (E) satisfy any combination of the pur-
2 poses described in subparagraphs (A) through
3 (D).

4 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the pro-
5 gram established under paragraph (1)(A), the Secre-
6 taries may enter into partnerships and provide fund-
7 ing to the partnerships to carry out demonstration
8 projects—

9 (A) to acquire and test various feedstocks
10 and the efficacy of those feedstocks;

11 (B) to develop and optimize commercially
12 and technologically viable biochar production
13 units, including mobile and permanent units;

14 (C) to demonstrate—

15 (i) the production of biochar from for-
16 est residue; and

17 (ii) the use of biochar to restore forest
18 health and resiliency;

19 (D) to build, expand, or establish biochar
20 facilities;

21 (E) to conduct research relating to new
22 and innovative uses of biochar;

23 (F) to demonstrate cost-effective market
24 opportunities for biochar and biochar-based
25 products;

1 (G) to carry out any other activities the
 2 Secretaries determine to be appropriate; or

3 (H) to achieve any combination of the pur-
 4 poses described in subparagraphs (A) through
 5 (G).

6 (5) FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS.—To the max-
 7 imum extent practicable, an eligible entity that car-
 8 ries out a biochar demonstration project under this
 9 subsection shall derive not less than 50 percent of
 10 the feedstock used under the project from forest
 11 thinning and management activities, including mill
 12 residues, conducted on National Forest System land
 13 or public land.

14 (6) REVIEW.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall
 16 conduct regionally specific research, including
 17 economic analyses and lifecycle assessments, re-
 18 lating to any biochar produced from a dem-
 19 onstration project carried out under the pro-
 20 gram established under paragraph (1)(A), in-
 21 cluding—

22 (i) the effects of that biochar on—

23 (I) forest health and resiliency;

1 (II) carbon capture and seques-
2 tration, including increasing soil car-
3 bon in the short-term and long-term;

4 (III) productivity, reduced input
5 costs, and water retention in agricul-
6 tural practices;

7 (IV) the health of soil and grass-
8 lands used for grazing activities, in-
9 cluding grazing activities on National
10 Forest System land and public land;
11 and

12 (V) environmental remediation
13 activities, including abandoned mine
14 land remediation;

15 (ii) the effectiveness of biochar as a
16 coproduct of biofuels or in biochemicals;
17 and

18 (iii) the effectiveness of other poten-
19 tial uses of biochar to determine if any
20 such use is technologically and commer-
21 cially viable.

22 (B) COORDINATION.—The Secretaries, to
23 the maximum extent practicable, shall provide
24 data, analyses, and other relevant information

1 collected under subparagraph (A) to recipients
2 of grants under subsection (c).

3 (7) LIMITATION ON FUNDING FOR ESTAB-
4 LISHING BIOCHAR FACILITIES.—The amount pro-
5 vided by the Secretaries under this subsection to an
6 eligible entity for establishing a biochar facility may
7 not exceed 35 percent of the total capital cost of es-
8 tablishing that facility.

9 (c) BIOCHAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT
10 PROGRAM.—

11 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the In-
12 terior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy,
13 shall establish, or expand an existing, applied
14 biochar research and development grant program to
15 provide to eligible institutions grants, on a competi-
16 tive basis, to carry out the activities described in
17 paragraph (3).

18 (2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
19 grant under this subsection, an eligible institution
20 shall submit to the Secretary of the Interior a pro-
21 posal at such time, in such manner, and containing
22 such information as the Secretary of the Interior
23 may require.

24 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution
25 that receives a grant under this subsection shall use

1 the grant funds to conduct applied research relating
2 to—

3 (A) the effect of biochar on forest health
4 and resiliency, taking into account variations in
5 biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

6 (B) the effect of biochar on soil health and
7 water retention, taking into account variations
8 in biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

9 (C) the long-term carbon sequestration po-
10 tential of biochar;

11 (D) best management practices with re-
12 spect to biochar and biochar-based products
13 that maximize—

14 (i) carbon sequestration benefits; and

15 (ii) the commercial viability and appli-
16 cation of those products in forestry, agri-
17 culture, environmental remediation, water
18 quality improvement, and any other similar
19 uses, as determined by the Secretary of the
20 Interior;

21 (E) the regional uses of biochar to increase
22 productivity and profitability, including—

23 (i) uses in agriculture and environ-
24 mental remediation; and

1 (ii) use as a coproduct in fuel produc-
2 tion;

3 (F) new and innovative uses for biochar
4 byproducts; and

5 (G) opportunities to expand markets for
6 biochar and create related jobs, particularly in
7 rural areas.

8 (d) REPORTS.—

9 (1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2
10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the
11 Secretaries shall submit to Congress a report that—

12 (A) includes policy and program rec-
13 ommendations to improve the widespread use of
14 biochar;

15 (B) identifies any area of research needed
16 to advance biochar commercialization; and

17 (C) identifies barriers to advancing biochar
18 commercialization, including permitting and
19 siting considerations.

20 (2) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF
21 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—Beginning with the second
22 fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment
23 of this Act, and annually thereafter until the date
24 described in subsection (e), the Secretaries shall in-
25 clude in the materials submitted to Congress in sup-

port of the President’s budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a report describing, for the fiscal year covered by the report, the status of—

(A) each demonstration project carried out under subsection (b); and

(B) each research and development grant provided under subsection (c).

(e) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section terminates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 302. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION REPORTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land” means any land under the jurisdiction of—

(A) the Secretary; or

(B) the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIVITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “hazardous fuels reduction activity” means any vegetation management activity to reduce the risk of wild-fire, including mechanical treatments, grazing, and prescribed burning.

1 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “hazardous
2 fuels reduction activity” does not include the
3 provision or execution of a contract to carry out
4 an activity described in subparagraph (A).

5 (b) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF PRESI-
6 DENT’S BUDGET.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fis-
8 cal year that begins after the date of enactment of
9 this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary con-
10 cerned shall include in the materials submitted to
11 Congress in support of the President’s budget pursu-
12 ant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code,
13 a report describing the number of acres of Federal
14 land on which the Secretary concerned carried out
15 hazardous fuels reduction activities during the pre-
16 ceding fiscal year, as determined using—

17 (A) the methodology of the Secretary con-
18 cerned in effect on the day before the date of
19 enactment of this Act; and

20 (B) the methodology described in para-
21 graph (2).

22 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of a report
23 required under paragraph (1), the Secretary con-
24 cerned shall—

1 (A) in determining the number of acres of
2 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned
3 carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities
4 during the period covered by the report—

5 (i) record acres of Federal land on
6 which hazardous fuels reduction activities
7 were completed during that period; and

8 (ii) record each acre described in
9 clause (i) once in the report, regardless of
10 whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction
11 activities were carried out on that acre
12 during the applicable period; and

13 (B) with respect to the acres of Federal
14 land recorded in the report, include information
15 relating to—

16 (i) which acres are located in the
17 wildland-urban interface;

18 (ii) the level of wildfire risk (high,
19 moderate, or low) of the acres on the first
20 and last day of the period covered by the
21 report;

22 (iii) the types of hazardous fuels re-
23 duction activities completed with respect to
24 the acres, including a description of wheth-

er those hazardous fuels reduction activities were conducted—

(I) in a wildfire managed for resource benefits; or

(II) through a planned hazardous fuels reduction project;

(iv) the cost per-acre of the hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out during the period covered by the report;

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

(vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction activities with respect to reducing the risk of wildfire.

(3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned shall make each report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior, as applicable.

(c) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

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

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

3 (A) regular, standardized data reviews of
4 the accuracy and timely input of data used to
5 track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

6 (B) verification methods that validate
7 whether those data accurately correlate to the
8 hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out
9 by the Secretary concerned;

10 (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term
11 effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction
12 activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

13 (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities
14 that occur partially within the wildland-urban
15 interface, methods to distinguish which acres
16 are located within the wildland-urban interface
17 and which acres are located outside the
18 wildland-urban interface.

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

23 (A) the standardized procedures; and

24 (B) any programmatic or policy rec-
25 ommendations to Congress to address limita-

1 tions in tracking data relating to hazardous
2 fuels reduction activities under this subsection.

3 (d) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
5 of the United States shall—

6 (1) conduct a study regarding the implementa-
7 tion of this section, including any limitations with
8 respect to—

9 (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-
10 tivities under subsection (b); or

11 (B) tracking data relating to hazardous
12 fuels reduction activities under subsection (c);
13 and

14 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes
15 the results of the study under paragraph (1).

16 (e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—No additional funds are au-
18 thorized to carry out this section.

19 (2) SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—The activi-
20 ties authorized by this section are subject to the
21 availability of appropriations made in advance for
22 those purposes.

1 **SEC. 303. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DE-**
2 **PLOYMENT AND DEMONSTRATION PARTNER-**
3 **SHIP.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

7 (A) each Federal land management agency
8 (as defined in section 802 of the Federal Lands
9 Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C.
10 6801));

11 (B) the Department of Defense;

12 (C) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

13 (D) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
14 Administration;

15 (E) the Federal Emergency Management
16 Agency;

17 (F) the National Aeronautics and Space
18 Administration;

19 (G) the United States Fire Administration;

20 (H) a State, Tribal, county, or municipal
21 fire department or district operating through
22 the United States Fire Administration or pur-
23 suant to an agreement with a Federal agency;
24 and

25 (I) any other Federal agency involved in
26 wildfire response.

1 (2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
2 tity” means—

3 (A) a private entity;

4 (B) a nonprofit organization; and

5 (C) an institution of higher education (as
6 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
7 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

8 (3) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “Pilot Pro-
9 gram” means the deployment and demonstration
10 pilot program established under subsection (b).

11 (4) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
12 means the Secretary and the Secretary of the Inte-
13 rior, acting jointly.

14 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after
15 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in co-
16 ordination with the heads of the covered agencies, shall
17 establish a deployment and demonstration pilot program
18 for new and innovative wildfire prevention, detection, com-
19 munication, and mitigation technologies.

20 (c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program,
21 the Secretaries shall—

22 (1) incorporate the Pilot Program into the Na-
23 tional Wildfire Coordinating Group;

24 (2) in consultation with the heads of the cov-
25 ered agencies, identify and advance the demonstra-

1 tion and deployment of key technology priority areas
2 with respect to the deployment of wildfire preven-
3 tion, detection, communication, and mitigation tech-
4 nologies, including—

5 (A) hazardous fuels reduction activities or
6 treatments;

7 (B) dispatch communications;

8 (C) remote sensing, detection, and track-
9 ing;

10 (D) safety equipment;

11 (E) common operating pictures or oper-
12 ational dashboards; and

13 (F) interoperable commercial data; and

14 (3) connect each covered entity selected to par-
15 ticipate in the Pilot Program with the appropriate
16 covered agency to coordinate real-time and on-the-
17 ground testing of technology during wildfire mitiga-
18 tion activities and training.

19 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to participate in
20 the Pilot Program, a covered entity shall submit to the
21 Secretaries an application at such time, in such manner,
22 and containing such information as the Secretaries may
23 require, including a proposal to demonstrate technologies
24 specific to key technology priority areas identified under
25 subsection (c)(2).

1 (e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECH-
2 NOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in
3 the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to
4 covered entities that—

5 (1) have participated in the Fire Weather
6 Testbed of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
7 Administration; or

8 (2) propose in the application under subsection
9 (d) to develop and apply emerging technologies for
10 wildfire mitigation, including artificial intelligence,
11 quantum sensing, computing and quantum-hybrid
12 applications, satellite detection, augmented reality,
13 5G private networks, and device-to-device commu-
14 nications supporting nomadic mesh networks and de-
15 tection.

16 (f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination
17 with the heads of the covered agencies, shall make publicly
18 available the key technology priority areas identified under
19 subsection (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply under
20 subsection (d) to deploy and demonstrate technologies to
21 address those priority areas.

22 (g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later
23 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and
24 annually thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Program,
25 the Secretaries shall submit to the Committee on Com-

1 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the
2 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
3 House of Representatives, and the relevant committees of
4 Congress a report that includes the following with respect
5 to the Pilot Program:

6 (1) A list of participating covered entities.

7 (2) A brief description of the technologies de-
8 ployed and demonstrated by each such covered enti-
9 ty.

10 (3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring the
11 each such technology and applying the technology at
12 scale.

13 (4) Outreach efforts by covered agencies to cov-
14 ered entities developing wildfire technologies.

15 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-
16 ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and
17 application at-scale in the wildfire prevention, detec-
18 tion, communication, and mitigation efforts of Fed-
19 eral land management agencies (as defined in sec-
20 tion 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhance-
21 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 6801)).

22 (6) A description of the relationship and coordi-
23 nation between the Pilot Program and the activities
24 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
25 tration, including the Fire Weather Testbed.

1 (h) SUNSET.—The Pilot Program terminates on the
2 date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this
3 Act.

4 **SEC. 304. GAO STUDY ON FOREST SERVICE POLICIES.**

5 Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment
6 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
7 shall—

8 (1) conduct a study evaluating—

9 (A) the effectiveness of Forest Service
10 wildland firefighting operations;

11 (B) transparency and accountability meas-
12 ures in the budget and accounting process of
13 the Forest Service; and

14 (C) the suitability and feasibility of estab-
15 lishing a new Federal agency with responsibility
16 for responding to, and suppressing, wildfires on
17 Federal land; and

18 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes
19 the results of the study under paragraph (1).

20 **SEC. 305. KEEPING FOREST PLANS CURRENT AND MON-**
21 **ITORED.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

23 (1) to the maximum extent practicable and sub-
24 ject to the availability of appropriations—

1 (A) ensure that each forest plan for a unit
2 of the National Forest System is in compliance
3 with the applicable requirements of section
4 6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland Renew-
5 able Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
6 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5)(A)); and

7 (B) prioritize revising any forest plan not
8 in compliance with that section;

9 (2) not be considered to be in violation of sec-
10 tion 6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland Renew-
11 able Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.
12 1604(f)(5)(A)) solely because more than 15 years
13 have passed without revision of the plan for a unit
14 of the National Forest System;

15 (3) not later than 120 days after the date of
16 enactment of this Act, submit to the relevant com-
17 mittees of Congress a notice describing the date on
18 which each forest plan referred to in paragraph
19 (1)(A) was most recently revised, amended, or modi-
20 fied;

21 (4) seek to publish a new, complete version of
22 any forest plan that the Secretary has been directed
23 by court order to amend, revise, or modify by not
24 later than 60 days after the date of the amendment,
25 revision, or modification, subject to the availability

1 of appropriations made in advance for that purpose;
2 and

3 (5) maintain a central, publicly accessible
4 website with links to—

5 (A) the most recently available forest plan
6 adopted, amended, or modified by a court order
7 as a single document; and

8 (B) the most recently published forest plan
9 monitoring report for the unit.

10 (b) GOOD FAITH UPDATES.—If the Secretary fails
11 to act expeditiously and in good faith using available fund-
12 ing to revise, amend, or modify a plan for a unit of the
13 National Forest System as required by an applicable law
14 or court order—

15 (1) subsection (a) shall be void with respect to
16 the plan; and

17 (2) a court of competent jurisdiction may order
18 completion of the plan on an accelerated basis.

19 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
20 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to
21 the relevant committees of Congress a report summarizing
22 the implementation of this section.

23 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section ter-
24 minates on September 30, 2031.

1 **SEC. 306. CONTAINER AERIAL FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM.**

2 (a) EVALUATION.—Not later than 90 days after the
3 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Sec-
4 retary of the Interior, in consultation with the National
5 Interagency Aviation Committee and the Interagency
6 Airtanker Board, shall jointly conduct an evaluation of the
7 container aerial firefighting system to assess the use of
8 that system to mitigate and suppress wildfires.

9 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date
10 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Secretary
11 of the Interior, in consultation with the National Inter-
12 agency Aviation Committee and the Interagency Airtanker
13 Board, shall jointly submit to the relevant committees of
14 Congress a report that describes the results of the evalua-
15 tion under subsection (a).

16 **SEC. 307. STUDY ON PINE BEETLE INFESTATION.**

17 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
18 of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the
19 Forest Service, shall—

20 (1) carry out a study relating to the causes and
21 effects of, and solutions for, the infestation of pine
22 beetles in the Northeastern region of the United
23 States; and

24 (2) submit to the relevant committees of Con-
25 gress a report that describes the results of the study
26 under paragraph (1).

1 **Subtitle B—White Oak Resilience**

2 **SEC. 311. WHITE OAK RESTORATION INITIATIVE COALI-**
3 **TION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a coalition,
5 to be known as the “White Oak Restoration Initiative Coa-
6 lition” (referred to in this section as the “Coalition”)—

7 (1) as a voluntary collaborative group of Fed-
8 eral, State, Tribal, and local governments and pri-
9 vate and nongovernmental organizations the purpose
10 of which is to carry out the duties described in sub-
11 section (b); and

12 (2) in accordance with the charter entitled
13 “White Oak Initiative Coalition Charter” adopted by
14 the White Oak Initiative Board of Directors on
15 March 21, 2023 (or a successor charter).

16 (b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in
17 the charter referred to in subsection (a)(2), the duties of
18 the Coalition are—

19 (1) to coordinate Federal, State, Tribal, local,
20 private, and nongovernmental activities for the res-
21 toration of white oak trees in the United States; and

22 (2) to make program and policy recommenda-
23 tions, consistent with applicable forest management
24 plans, with respect to—

1 (A) changes necessary to address Federal
2 and State policies that impede activities to im-
3 prove the health, resiliency, and natural regen-
4 eration of white oak trees;

5 (B) adopting or modifying Federal and
6 State policies to increase the pace and scale of
7 white oak regeneration and the resiliency of
8 white oak trees;

9 (C) options to enhance communication, co-
10 ordination, and collaboration among forest land
11 owners, particularly with respect to cross-
12 boundary projects, to improve the health, resil-
13 iency, and natural regeneration of white oak
14 trees;

15 (D) research gaps that should be ad-
16 dressed to improve the best available science on
17 white oaks;

18 (E) outreach to forest landowners the land
19 of which possesses white oak trees or white oak
20 regeneration potential, as determined by the
21 Coalition; and

22 (F) options and policies necessary to im-
23 prove the quality and quantity of white oak
24 trees in tree nurseries.

1 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE, STAFFING, AND TECHNICAL
2 SUPPORT.—The Secretary and the Secretary of the Inte-
3 rior shall make available to the Coalition such personnel
4 for administrative support, technical services, and the de-
5 velopment and dissemination of educational materials as
6 those Secretaries determine to be necessary to carry out
7 this section.

8 (d) PRIVATE FUNDING.—Subject to the availability
9 of appropriations made in advance for that purpose, the
10 Secretary may make funds available to the Coalition to
11 carry out this section from the account established pursu-
12 ant to section 1241(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985
13 (16 U.S.C. 3841(f)).

14 **SEC. 312. FOREST SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
16 Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out
17 5 pilot projects in units of the National Forest System
18 to restore white oak trees in those units through white
19 oak restoration and natural regeneration practices that
20 are consistent with applicable forest management plans.

21 (b) REQUIREMENT.—Of the pilot projects carried out
22 under subsection (a), not fewer than 3 shall be carried
23 out on units of the National Forest System that are re-
24 served or withdrawn from the public domain.

1 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
 2 may enter into cooperative agreements to carry out the
 3 pilot projects under this section.

4 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section ter-
 5 minates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enact-
 6 ment of this Act.

7 **SEC. 313. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WHITE OAK RE-**
 8 **VIEW AND RESTORATION.**

9 (a) ASSESSMENT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-
 11 rior shall carry out an assessment of land under the
 12 administrative jurisdiction of the Department of the
 13 Interior, including fish and wildlife refuges and
 14 abandoned mine land, to evaluate—

15 (A) whether white oak trees are present on
 16 the land; and

17 (B) the potential to restore white oak for-
 18 ests on the land.

19 (2) USE OF INFORMATION.—In carrying out the
 20 assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary of
 21 the Interior may use information from sources other
 22 than the Department of the Interior, including the
 23 White Oak Initiative and the Forest Service.

24 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the
 25 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the

1 Interior shall submit to Congress, and make publicly
2 available on the website of the Department of the
3 Interior, a report describing the results of the as-
4 sessment carried out under this subsection.

5 (b) PILOT PROJECTS.—After the date of submission
6 of the report under subsection (a)(3), the Secretary of the
7 Interior shall establish and carry out 5 pilot projects in
8 different areas of land described in subsection (a)(1) to
9 restore and naturally regenerate white oak trees.

10 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of
11 the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements to
12 carry out the pilot projects under subsection (b).

13 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section ter-
14 minates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enact-
15 ment of this Act.

16 **SEC. 314. WHITE OAK REGENERATION AND UPLAND OAK**
17 **HABITAT.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
19 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
20 tablish a nonregulatory program, to be known as the
21 “White Oak and Upland Oak Habitat Regeneration Pro-
22 gram” (referred to in this section as the “Program”).

23 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program shall
24 include—

1 (1) coordinating restoration and conservation
2 activities among Federal, State, local, and Tribal en-
3 tities and conservation partners to address white oak
4 restoration priorities;

5 (2) improving and regenerating white oak and
6 upland oak forests and the wildlife habitat such for-
7 ests provide;

8 (3) carrying out coordinated restoration and
9 conservation activities that lead to the increased
10 growth of species of white oak in native white oak
11 regions on Federal, State, Tribal, and private land;

12 (4) facilitating strategic planning to maximize
13 the resilience of white oak systems and habitats
14 under changing climate conditions;

15 (5) engaging the public through outreach, edu-
16 cation, and citizen involvement to increase capacity
17 and support for coordinated restoration and con-
18 servation activities for species of white oak; and

19 (6) increasing scientific capacity to support the
20 planning, monitoring, and research activities nec-
21 essary to carry out such coordinated restoration and
22 conservation activities.

23 (c) CONSULTATION.—In establishing the Program,
24 the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-
25 ice, shall consult with—

1 (1) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

2 (A) the Director of the United States Fish
3 and Wildlife Service; and

4 (B) the Chief of the Natural Resources
5 Conservation Service; and

6 (2) the Governor of each State in which res-
7 toration efforts will be carried out pursuant to the
8 Program.

9 (d) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Program, the Sec-
10 retary shall—

11 (1) draw on the best available science and man-
12 agement plans for species of white oak to identify,
13 prioritize, and implement restoration and conserva-
14 tion activities that will improve the growth of white
15 oak trees in the United States;

16 (2) collaborate and coordinate with the White
17 Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition established by
18 section 311(a) to prioritize white oak restoration ini-
19 tiatives;

20 (3) adopt a white oak restoration strategy
21 that—

22 (A) supports the implementation of a
23 shared set of science-based restoration and con-
24 servation activities developed in accordance with
25 paragraph (1);

1 (B) targets cost-effective projects with
2 measurable results; and

3 (C) maximizes restoration outcomes with
4 no net gain of Federal full-time equivalent em-
5 ployees; and

6 (4) establish voluntary grant and technical as-
7 sistance programs in accordance with subsection (e).

8 (e) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—

9 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

10 (A) FOUNDATION.—The term “Founda-
11 tion” means the National Fish and Wildlife
12 Foundation.

13 (B) GRANT PROGRAM.—The term “grant
14 program” means the voluntary grant and tech-
15 nical assistance program established under
16 paragraph (2).

17 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—To the extent that
18 funds are available to carry out this section, the Sec-
19 retary shall establish a voluntary grant and technical
20 assistance program to achieve the purposes of the
21 Program described in subsection (b).

22 (3) ADMINISTRATION.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
24 offer to enter into a cooperative agreement with

1 the Foundation to manage and administer the
2 grant program.

3 (B) FUNDING.—Subject to the availability
4 of appropriations made in advance for that pur-
5 pose, on entering into a cooperative agreement
6 with the Foundation under subparagraph (A),
7 the Secretary shall pay to the Foundation to
8 carry out this subsection for each fiscal year an
9 advance payment of the entire amount for the
10 applicable fiscal year—

- 11 (i) on October 1 of that fiscal year; or
- 12 (ii) as soon as practicable thereafter.

13 (4) APPLICATION OF NATIONAL FISH AND
14 WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.—
15 Amounts received by the Foundation to carry out
16 the grant program shall be subject to the National
17 Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16
18 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), excluding section 10(a) of that
19 Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)).

20 (f) SUNSET.—The authority under this section termi-
21 nates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enact-
22 ment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 315. TREE NURSERY SHORTAGES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
3 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting
4 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

5 (1) develop and implement a national strategy
6 to increase the capacity of Federal, State, Tribal,
7 and private tree nurseries to address the nationwide
8 shortage of tree seedlings; and

9 (2) coordinate the strategy under paragraph (1)
10 with—

11 (A) the national reforestation strategy of
12 the Forest Service; and

13 (B) each regional implementation plan for
14 National Forests.

15 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-
16 section (a) shall—

17 (1) be based on the best available science and
18 data; and

19 (2) identify and address—

20 (A) regional seedling shortages of bareroot
21 and container tree seedlings;

22 (B) regional reforestation opportunities
23 and the seedling supply necessary to fulfill
24 those opportunities;

25 (C) opportunities to enhance seedling di-
26 versity and close gaps in seed inventories; and

1 (D) barriers to expanding, enhancing, or
2 creating new infrastructure to increase nursery
3 capacity.

4 **SEC. 316. WHITE OAK RESEARCH.**

5 (a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—In this
6 section, the term “eligible institution” means an institu-
7 tion of higher education, including an 1862 Institution,
8 an 1890 Institution, and a 1994 Institution (as those
9 terms are defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Re-
10 search, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7
11 U.S.C. 7601)).

12 (b) RESEARCH.—The Secretary may enter into a
13 memorandum of understanding with an Indian Tribe or
14 an eligible institution to collaboratively conduct research
15 relating to—

16 (1) white oak genes with resistance or tolerance
17 to stress;

18 (2) white oak trees that exhibit vigor for the
19 purpose of increasing survival and growth;

20 (3) establishing a genetically diverse white oak
21 seed bank capable of responding to stressors;

22 (4) providing a sustainable supply of white oak
23 seedlings and genetic resources;

24 (5) improved methods for aligning seed sources
25 with the future climate at planting sites;

1 (6) reforestation of white oak trees through
2 natural and artificial regeneration;

3 (7) improved methods for retaining and increas-
4 ing white oak trees in forests;

5 (8) improved methods for reforesting aban-
6 doned mine land sites; and

7 (9) economic and social aspects of white oak
8 forest management across land ownerships.

9 (c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out research under
10 subsection (b), an Indian Tribe or eligible institution may
11 consult with such States, nonprofit organizations, and
12 other institutions of higher education and scientific enti-
13 ties as the Indian Tribe or eligible institution determines
14 to be appropriate.

15 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section ter-
16 minates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enact-
17 ment of this Act.

18 **SEC. 317. USDA FORMAL INITIATIVE.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
20 Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and
21 in coordination with the Chief of the Forest Service, shall
22 establish a formal initiative on white oak trees—

23 (1) to reestablish white oak forests where ap-
24 propriate;

1 (2) to improve the management of existing
2 white oak forests to foster natural regeneration of
3 white oak trees;

4 (3) to provide technical assistance to private
5 landowners to reestablish, improve the management
6 of, and naturally regenerate white oak trees;

7 (4) to improve and expand white oak nursery
8 stock; and

9 (5) to adapt and improve white oak seedlings.

10 (b) SUNSET.—The authority under this section ter-
11 minates on the date that is 7 years after the date of enact-
12 ment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 318. USE OF AUTHORITIES.**

14 To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary
15 and the Secretary of the Interior shall use the authorities
16 provided under this title in combination with other au-
17 thorities to carry out projects, including—

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

21 (2) stewardship contracting projects entered
22 into under section 604 of the Healthy Forests Res-
23 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) (as amend-
24 ed by this Act).

1 **TITLE IV—ENSURING CASUALTY**
2 **ASSISTANCE FOR FIREFIGHTERS**

3 **SEC. 401. WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT CASUALTY AS-**
4 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) NEXT-OF-KIN.—The term “next-of-kin”,
7 with respect to an individual, means a person in the
8 highest category of priority in relation to that indi-
9 vidual, as determined in accordance with the fol-
10 lowing (in descending order of priority):

11 (A) A legal spouse of the individual.

12 (B) A child (whether by current or prior
13 marriage) aged 18 years or older of the indi-
14 vidual, in descending order of precedence by
15 age.

16 (C) The father or mother of the individual,
17 unless custody has been vested by court order
18 in another individual, with an adoptive parent
19 taking precedence over a natural parent.

20 (D) A sibling (whether whole or half) aged
21 18 years or older of the individual, in descend-
22 ing order of precedence by age.

23 (E) A grandfather or grandmother of the
24 individual.

1 (F) Any other relative of the individual,
 2 with the order of precedence to be determined
 3 in accordance with the civil laws of descent of
 4 the State of domicile of the individual at time
 5 of death.

6 (2) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
 7 the Wildland Fire Management Casualty Assistance
 8 Program established under subsection (b).

9 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
 10 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
 11 Interior shall establish a program, to be known as the
 12 “Wildland Fire Management Casualty Assistance Pro-
 13 gram”, to provide assistance to the next-of-kin of—

14 (1) firefighters who, while in the line of duty—

15 (A) are killed;

16 (B) are critically injured; or

17 (C) suffer illness as a result of an exposure

18 or incident occurring during that line of duty;

19 and

20 (2) wildland fire support personnel who are

21 killed or critically injured in the line of duty.

22 (c) ELEMENTS.—The program shall address each of
 23 the following:

1 (1) The initial, and any subsequent, notification
2 to the next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire sup-
3 port personnel who—

4 (A) are killed in the line of duty; or

5 (B) require hospitalization or treatment at
6 a medical facility due to a line-of-duty injury or
7 illness.

8 (2) The reimbursement of next-of-kin for ex-
9 penses associated with travel to visit firefighters or
10 wildland fire support personnel who—

11 (A) are killed in the line of duty; or

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

15 (3) The qualifications, assignment, training, du-
16 ties, supervision, and accountability for the perform-
17 ance of casualty assistance responsibilities.

18 (4) The relief or transfer of casualty assistance
19 officers, including notification to survivors of critical
20 injury or illness in the line of duty of the reassign-
21 ment of those officers to other duties.

22 (5) Centralized short-term and long-term case
23 management procedures for casualty assistance, in-
24 cluding rapid access to expert case managers and
25 counselors by—

1 (A) survivors of firefighters or wildland
2 fire support personnel; and

3 (B) casualty assistance officers.

4 (6) The provision, through a computer-acces-
5 sible website and other means and at no cost to sur-
6 vivors or next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire
7 support personnel, of personalized, integrated infor-
8 mation relating to Federal benefits and Federal fi-
9 nancial assistance available to those survivors and
10 next-of-kin.

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

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

22 (9) Data collection, in consultation with the
23 United States Fire Administration and the National
24 Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, re-
25 garding the incidence and quality of casualty assist-

1 ance provided to survivors and next-of-kin of fire-
2 fighters or wildland fire support personnel.

3 (d) NO EFFECT ON OTHER LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH
4 BENEFITS.—The program shall not affect any existing au-
5 thority for line-of-duty death benefits for Federal fire-
6 fighters or wildland fire support personnel.

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