

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 8790  
OFFERED BY MR. TIFFANY OF WISCONSIN**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

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

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

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
5 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. Fireshed 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 the treatment of certain revenue and payments under  
good neighbor agreements.  
Sec. 112. Fixing stewardship end result contracting.  
Sec. 113. Intra-agency strike teams.  
Sec. 114. Locally-led restoration.

Subtitle C—Litigation Reform

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

TITLE II—PROTECTING COMMUNITIES IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN  
INTERFACE

- Sec. 201. Community wildfire risk reduction program.
- Sec. 202. Community wildfire defense research program.
- Sec. 203. Vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance relating to electric transmission and distribution facility rights-of-way.
- Sec. 204. Categorical exclusion for electric utility lines rights-of-way.
- Sec. 205. Seeds of success.

TITLE III—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 testbed partnership.
- Sec. 304. GAO study on Forest Service policies.
- Sec. 305. Forest Service Western headquarters study.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means  
4 the Director of the Fireshed Center appointed under  
5 section 102.

6 (2) **FIRESHED.**—The term “fireshed” means a  
7 landscape-scale area that faces similar wildfire  
8 threat where a response strategy could influence the  
9 wildfire outcome.

10 (3) **FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT.**—The  
11 term “fireshed management project” means a  
12 project under section 106.

13 (4) **FIRESHED REGISTRY.**—The term “Fireshed  
14 Registry” means the fireshed registry established  
15 under section 103.

1           (5) FOREST PLAN.—The term “forest plan”  
2 means—

3           (A) a land use plan prepared by the Bu-  
4 reau of Land Management for public lands pur-  
5 suant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy  
6 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.  
7 1712);

8           (B) a land and resource management plan  
9 prepared by the Forest Service for a unit of the  
10 National Forest System pursuant to section 6  
11 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-  
12 sources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.  
13 1604); or

14           (C) a forest management plan (as defined  
15 in section 304 of the National Indian Forests  
16 Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3104))  
17 with respect to Indian forest land or rangeland.

18           (6) GOVERNOR.—The term “Governor” means  
19 the Governor or any other appropriate executive offi-  
20 cial of an affected State or Indian Tribe or the Com-  
21 monwealth of Puerto Rico.

22           (7) HAZARDOUS FUELS MANAGEMENT ACTIVI-  
23 TIES.—The term “hazardous fuels management ac-  
24 tivities” means any vegetation management activities  
25 (or combination thereof) that reduce the risk of

1 wildfire, including mechanical thinning, mastication,  
2 prescribed burning, cultural burning (as determined  
3 by the applicable Indian Tribe), timber harvest, and  
4 grazing.

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

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

14 (A) is held in trust by, or with a restriction  
15 against alienation by, the United States for an  
16 Indian Tribe or a member of an Indian Tribe;  
17 and

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

22 (II) has a cover of grasses,  
23 brush, or any similar vegetation; or

24 (ii) formerly had a forest cover or veg-  
25 etative cover that is capable of restoration.

1           (10) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”  
2           has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the  
3           Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
4           Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

5           (11) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.—The  
6           term “National Forest System lands” has the mean-  
7           ing given the term in section 11(a) of the Forest  
8           and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act  
9           of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609).

10          (12) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”  
11          has the meaning given that term in section 103 of  
12          the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of  
13          1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702), except that the term in-  
14          cludes Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands and Or-  
15          regon and California Railroad Grant lands.

16          (13) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
17          TEES.—The term “relevant Congressional Commit-  
18          tees” means—

19                 (A) the Committees on Natural Resources  
20                 and Agriculture of the House of Representa-  
21                 tives; and

22                 (B) the Committees on Energy and Nat-  
23                 ural Resources and Agriculture, Nutrition, and  
24                 Forestry of the Senate.

1           (14) RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.—The term “re-  
2           sponsible official” means an employee of the Depart-  
3           ment of the Interior or Forest Service who has the  
4           authority to make and implement a decision on a  
5           proposed action.

6           (15) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”  
7           means each of—

8                   (A) the Secretary of the Interior; and

9                   (B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

10          (16) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
11          means the Secretary of Agriculture.

12          (17) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term  
13          “Secretary concerned” means—

14                   (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-  
15                   spect to National Forest System lands; and

16                   (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-  
17                   spect to public lands.

18          (18) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
19          the several States, the District of Columbia, and  
20          each territory of the United States

1       **TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE**  
2               **RESTORATION**  
3       **Subtitle A—Addressing Emergency**  
4               **Wildfire Risks in High Priority**  
5               **Fresheds**

6       **SEC. 101. DESIGNATION OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT**  
7               **AREAS.**

8               (a) DESIGNATION OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT  
9       AREAS.—

10               (1) INITIAL DESIGNATIONS.—For the period be-  
11       ginning on the date of enactment of this Act and  
12       ending on the date that is 5 years after the date of  
13       enactment of this Act, there are designated freshed  
14       management areas, which—

15               (A) shall be comprised of individual land-  
16       scape-scale fresheds identified as being a high  
17       risk freshed in the “Wildfire Crisis Strategy”  
18       published by the Forest Service in January  
19       2022;

20               (B) shall be comprised of individual land-  
21       scape-scale fresheds identified by the Secretary,  
22       in consultation with the Secretary of the Inte-  
23       rior, as being in the top 20 percent of the 7,688  
24       fresheds published by the Rocky Mountain Re-  
25       search Station of the Forest Service in 2019 for

1 wildfire exposure based on the following cri-  
2 teria—

3 (i) wildfire exposure and cor-  
4 responding risk to communities, including  
5 risk to structures and life;

6 (ii) wildfire exposure and cor-  
7 responding risk to municipal watersheds,  
8 including tribal water supplies and sys-  
9 tems; and

10 (iii) risk of forest conversion due to  
11 wildfire;

12 (C) shall not overlap with any other  
13 fireshed management areas;

14 (D) may contain Federal and non-Federal  
15 land, including Indian forest lands or range-  
16 lands; and

17 (E) where the Secretary concerned shall  
18 carry out fireshed management projects.

19 (2) FURTHER FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREA  
20 DESIGNATIONS.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—On the date that is 5  
22 years after the date of the enactment of this  
23 Act and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary,  
24 in consultation with the Secretary of the Inte-  
25 rior, shall submit to the relevant Congressional



1           Committees an updated map of firesheds based  
2           on the Fireshed Registry maintained under sec-  
3           tion 103.

4                   (B) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 60  
5           days after submitting an updated fireshed map  
6           under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall,  
7           based on such map, designate additional  
8           fireshed management areas that are identified  
9           as being in the top 20 percent of firesheds at  
10          risk for wildfire exposure based on the criteria  
11          specified in subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and  
12          (E) of paragraph (1).

13          (b) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.—The designation of  
14          fireshed management areas under this section shall not  
15          be subject to the requirements of the National Environ-  
16          mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

17   **SEC. 102. FIRESHED CENTER.**

18          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

19                  (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
20          through the Chief of the Forest Service and the Sec-  
21          retary of the Interior, acting through the Director of  
22          the U.S. Geological Survey, shall jointly establish a  
23          Fireshed Center (hereinafter referred to as the  
24          “Center”) comprised of at least one career rep-  
25          resentative from each of the following:

- 1 (A) The Forest Service.
- 2 (B) The Bureau of Land Management.
- 3 (C) The National Park Service.
- 4 (D) The Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- 5 (E) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 6 (F) The U.S. Geological Survey.
- 7 (G) The Department of Defense.
- 8 (H) The Department of Homeland Secu-
- 9 rity.
- 10 (I) The Department of Energy.
- 11 (J) The Federal Emergency Management
- 12 Agency.
- 13 (K) The National Science Foundation.
- 14 (L) The National Oceanic and Atmos-
- 15 pheric Administration.
- 16 (M) The National Aeronautics and Space
- 17 Administration.
- 18 (N) The National Institute of Standards
- 19 and Technology.
- 20 (2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary, acting through
- 21 the Chief of the Forest Service and the Secretary of
- 22 the Interior, acting through the Director of the U.S.
- 23 Geological Survey, shall jointly appoint a Director of
- 24 the Center, who—

1 (A) shall be an employee of the U.S. Geo-  
2 logical Survey or the Forest Service;

3 (B) shall serve an initial term of not more  
4 than 7 years; and

5 (C) may serve one additional term of not  
6 more than 7 years after the initial term de-  
7 scribed in subparagraph (B).

8 (3) **ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATION.**—The Sec-  
9 retary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-  
10 ice and the Secretary of the Interior, acting through  
11 the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, may  
12 jointly appoint additional representatives of Federal  
13 agencies to the Center, as the Secretaries determine  
14 necessary.

15 (b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Center are to—

16 (1) comprehensively assess and predict fire in  
17 the wildland and built environment interface through  
18 data aggregation and science-based decision support  
19 services;

20 (2) reduce fragmentation and duplication across  
21 Federal land management agencies with respect to  
22 predictive service and decision support functions re-  
23 lated to wildland fire;

1           (3) promote interorganizational coordination  
2 and sharing of data regarding wildland fire decision  
3 making;

4           (4) streamline procurement processes and cy-  
5 bersecurity systems related to addressing wildland  
6 fire;

7           (5) provide publicly accessible data, models,  
8 technologies, assessments, and fire weather forecasts  
9 to support short- and long-term planning regarding  
10 wildland fire and post-fire recovery; and

11           (6) maintain the Fireshed Registry established  
12 under section 103.

13       (c) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Center  
14 may enter into memorandums of understanding with State  
15 governments, Indian Tribes, local governments, academic  
16 or research institutions, and private entities to improve  
17 the information and operations of the Center.

18       (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-  
19 ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—

20           (1) USGS SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the In-  
21 terior shall make personnel of the U.S. Geological  
22 Survey available to the Center for such administra-  
23 tive support, technical services, and development and  
24 dissemination of data as the Secretary determines  
25 necessary to carry out this section.

1           (2) USFS SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall  
2           make personnel of the Forest Service available to  
3           the Center for such administrative support, technical  
4           services, and the development and dissemination of  
5           information related to fire management and the  
6           Fire Management Registry as the Secretary determines nec-  
7           essary to carry out this section.

8   **SEC. 103. FIRESHED REGISTRY.**

9           (a) FIRESHED REGISTRY.—The Secretary, acting  
10          through the Director of the Fire Management Center appointed  
11          under section 102, shall maintain a Fire Management Registry on  
12          a publicly accessible website that provides interactive  
13          geospatial data on individual firemanagements, including informa-  
14          tion on—

15               (1) wildfire exposure delineated by ownership,  
16               including rights-of-way for utilities and other public  
17               or private purposes;

18               (2) any hazardous fuels management activities  
19               that have occurred within an individual firemanagement in  
20               the past 10 years;

21               (3) wildfire exposure with respect to such  
22               firemanagement delineated by—

23                       (A) wildfire exposure and corresponding  
24                       risk to communities, including risk to structures  
25                       and life;

1 (B) wildfire exposure and corresponding  
2 risk to municipal watersheds, including tribal  
3 water supplies and systems; and

4 (C) risk of forest conversion due to wild-  
5 fire;

6 (4) the percentage of the fireshed that has  
7 burned in wildfires in the past 10 years, including,  
8 to the extent practicable, delineations of acres that  
9 have burned at a high severity;

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

12 (6) any hazardous fuels management activities  
13 planned for the fireshed, including fireshed manage-  
14 ment projects.

15 (b) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS.—  
16 The Director shall make data from the Fireshed Registry  
17 available to local communities developing or updating com-  
18 munity wildfire protection plans.

19 (c) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN.—As part of the  
20 website containing the Fireshed Registry, the Director  
21 shall—

22 (1) publish fireshed assessments created under  
23 section 105; and

24 (2) maintain a searchable database to track—

1 (A) the status of Federal environmental re-  
2 views, permits, and authorizations for fireshed  
3 management projects, including—

4 (i) a comprehensive permitting time-  
5 table;

6 (ii) the status of the compliance of  
7 each lead agency, cooperating agency, and  
8 participating agency with the permitting  
9 timetable with respect to such fireshed  
10 management projects;

11 (iii) any modifications of the permit-  
12 ting timetable required under clause (i), in-  
13 cluding an explanation as to why the per-  
14 mitting timetable was modified; and

15 (iv) information about project-related  
16 public meetings, public hearings, and pub-  
17 lic comment periods, which shall be pre-  
18 sented in English and the predominant  
19 language of the community or communities  
20 most affected by the project, as that infor-  
21 mation becomes available;

22 (B) the projected cost of such fireshed  
23 management projects; and

24 (C) in the case of completed fireshed man-  
25 agement projects, the effectiveness of such

1 projects in reducing the wildfire exposure within  
2 an applicable fireshed, including wildfire expo-  
3 sure described in subparagraphs (A) through  
4 (C) of subsection (a)(3).

5 (d) RELIANCE ON EXISTING ASSESSMENTS.—In car-  
6 rying out this section, the Director may rely on assess-  
7 ments completed or data gather through existing partner-  
8 ships, to the extent practicable.

9 **SEC. 104. SHARED STEWARDSHIP.**

10 (a) JOINT AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 90 days  
11 after receiving a written request from a Governor of a  
12 State or an Indian Tribe, the Secretary concerned shall  
13 enter into a shared stewardship agreement (or similar  
14 agreement) with such Governor or Indian Tribe to joint-  
15 ly—

16 (1) promote the reduction of wildfire exposure,  
17 based on the criteria in section 101(a)(1)(B), in  
18 fireshed management areas across jurisdictional  
19 boundaries; and

20 (2) conduct fireshed assessments under section  
21 105.

22 (b) ADDITIONAL FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREAS.—  
23 With respect to a shared stewardship agreement (or simi-  
24 lar agreement) with a Governor of a State or an Indian  
25 Tribe entered into under subsection (a), the Secretary con-



1 cerned, if requested by such Governor or Indian Tribe,  
2 may—

3 (1) designate additional fireshed management  
4 areas under such agreement; and

5 (2) update such agreement to address new wild-  
6 fire threats.

7 **SEC. 105. FIRESHED ASSESSMENTS.**

8 (a) FIRESHED ASSESSMENTS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
10 the date on which the Secretary concerned enters  
11 into an agreement with a Governor of a State or an  
12 Indian Tribe under section 104, the Secretary con-  
13 cerned and such Governor or Indian Tribe shall,  
14 with respect to the fireshed management areas des-  
15 ignated in such State, jointly conduct a fireshed as-  
16 sessment that—

17 (A) identifies—

18 (i) using the best available science,  
19 wildfire exposure risks within each such  
20 fireshed management area, including sce-  
21 nario planning and wildfire hazard map-  
22 ping and models; and

23 (ii) each at-risk community within  
24 each fireshed management area;

1 (B) identifies potential fireshed manage-  
2 ment projects to be carried out in such fireshed  
3 management areas, giving priority—

4 (i) primarily, to projects with the pur-  
5 pose of reducing—

6 (I) wildfire exposure and cor-  
7 responding risk to communities, in-  
8 cluding risk to structures and life;

9 (II) wildfire exposure and cor-  
10 responding risk to municipal water-  
11 sheds, including tribal water supplies  
12 and systems;

13 (III) risk of forest conversion due  
14 to wildfire; or

15 (IV) any combination of purposes  
16 described in subclauses (I) through  
17 (III); and

18 (ii) secondarily, to projects with the  
19 purpose of protecting—

20 (I) critical infrastructure, includ-  
21 ing utility infrastructure;

22 (II) wildlife habitats, including  
23 habitat for species listed under the  
24 Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C.  
25 1531 et seq.);

1 (III) the built environment, in-  
2 cluding residential and commercial  
3 buildings;

4 (IV) resources of an Indian  
5 Tribe, as defined by the Indian Tribe;  
6 or

7 (V) any combination of purposes  
8 described in subclauses (I) through  
9 (IV);

10 (C) includes—

11 (i) a strategy for reducing the threat  
12 of wildfire to at-risk communities in the  
13 wildland-urban interface on both Federal  
14 and non-Federal land;

15 (ii) a timeline for the implementation  
16 of fireshed management projects;

17 (iii) long-term benchmark goals for  
18 the completion of fireshed management  
19 projects in the highest wildfire exposure  
20 areas so that such projects contribute to  
21 the development and maintenance of  
22 healthy and resilient landscapes; and

23 (iv) policies to ensure fireshed man-  
24 agement projects comply with applicable

1 forest plans and incorporate the best avail-  
2 able science;

3 (D) shall be regularly updated based on  
4 the best available science, as determined by the  
5 Secretary concerned; and

6 (E) shall be publicly available on a website  
7 maintained by the Secretary concerned.

8 (2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION.—

9 Upon the written request of a local government, the  
10 Secretary concerned and the Governor of the State  
11 in which the local government is located may allow  
12 such local government to participate in producing  
13 the fireheshed assessment under paragraph (1) for  
14 such State.

15 (3) INFORMATION IMPROVEMENT.—

16 (A) MEMORANDUMS OF UNDER-  
17 STANDING.—In carrying out a fireheshed assess-  
18 ment under this subsection, the Secretary con-  
19 cerned may enter into memorandums of under-  
20 standing with other Federal agencies or depart-  
21 ments, States, Indian Tribes, private entities,  
22 or research or educational institutions to im-  
23 prove, with respect to such assessment, the use  
24 and integration of—

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

3 (ii) statistical modeling and analysis;

4 or

5 (iii) any other technology or combina-  
6 tion of technologies and analyses that the  
7 Secretary concerned determines will benefit  
8 the quality of information of such an as-  
9 sessment.

10 (B) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In using  
11 the best available science for the fireshed as-  
12 sements completed under subsection (a)(1),  
13 the Secretary concerned and Governor shall, to  
14 the maximum extent practicable, incorporate—

15 (i) traditional ecological knowledge  
16 from Indian Tribes;

17 (ii) data from State forest action  
18 plans and State wildfire risk assessments;

19 (iii) data from the Fireshed Registry  
20 maintained under section 103; and

21 (iv) data from other Federal, State,  
22 Tribal, and local governments or agencies.

23 (b) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.—Fireshed assess-  
24 ments conducted under this section shall not be subject

1 to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy  
2 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

3 **SEC. 106. EMERGENCY FIRESHED MANAGEMENT.**

4 (a) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned,  
6 acting through a responsible official, shall carry out  
7 fireshed management projects in fireshed manage-  
8 ment areas designated under section 101 in accord-  
9 ance with this section.

10 (2) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—The  
11 responsible official shall carry out the following for-  
12 est and vegetation management activities as fireshed  
13 management projects under this section:

14 (A) Conducting hazardous fuels manage-  
15 ment activities.

16 (B) Creating fuel breaks and fire breaks.

17 (C) Removing hazard trees, dead trees,  
18 dying trees, or trees at risk of dying, as deter-  
19 mined by the responsible official.

20 (D) Developing, approving, or conducting  
21 routine maintenance under a vegetation man-  
22 agement, facility inspection, and operation and  
23 maintenance plan submitted under section  
24 512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Man-  
25 agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(1)).

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

6 (F) Using chemical or re-seeding and  
7 planting treatments to address insects and dis-  
8 ease and control vegetation competition or  
9 invasive species.

10 (G) Any activities recommended by an ap-  
11 plicable fireshed assessment carried out under  
12 section 105.

13 (H) Any activities recommended by an ap-  
14 plicable community wildfire protection plan.

15 (I) Any combination of activities described  
16 in this paragraph.

17 (3) EMERGENCY FIRESHED MANAGEMENT.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—For any fireshed man-  
19 agement area designated under section 101, the  
20 following shall have the force and effect of law:

21 (i) Section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code  
22 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
23 date of enactment of this Act), with re-  
24 spect to lands under the jurisdiction of the  
25 Secretary.

1 (ii) Section 46.150 of title 43, Code of  
2 Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
3 date of enactment of this Act), with re-  
4 spect to lands under the jurisdiction of the  
5 Secretary of the Interior.

6 (iii) Section 402.05 of title 50, Code  
7 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
8 date of enactment of this Act).

9 (iv) Section 800.12 of title 36, Code  
10 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
11 date of enactment of this Act).

12 (B) UTILIZATION OF EXISTING STREAM-  
13 LINED AUTHORITIES IN FIRESHED MANAGE-  
14 MENT AREAS.—

15 (i) IN GENERAL.—Fireshed manage-  
16 ment projects carried out under this sec-  
17 tion shall be considered authorized projects  
18 under the following categorical exclusions:

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

22 (II) Section 605(a) of the  
23 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
24 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(a)).



1 (III) Section 606(b) of the  
2 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
3 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e(b)).

4 (IV) Section 40806(b) of the In-  
5 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act  
6 (16 U.S.C. 6592b(b)).

7 (V) Section 4(c)(4) of the Lake  
8 Tahoe Restoration Act (Public Law  
9 106–506; 114 Stat. 2353).

10 (VI) Subject to subsection (d) of  
11 section 40807 of the Infrastructure  
12 Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C.  
13 6592c) in the same manner as author-  
14 ized emergency actions (as defined in  
15 subsection (a) of such section) are  
16 subject to such subsection.

17 (ii) USE OF EXPEDITED AUTHORI-  
18 TIES.—In carrying out a fireshed manage-  
19 ment project, the Secretary shall apply a  
20 categorical exclusion under clause (i)—

21 (I) in a manner consistent with  
22 the statute establishing such categor-  
23 ical exclusion; and

24 (II) in any area—

1 (aa) designated as suitable  
2 for timber production within the  
3 applicable forest plan; or

4 (bb) where timber harvest  
5 activities are not prohibited.

6 (iii) FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT RE-  
7 QUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this sec-  
8 tion, the Secretary concerned shall ensure  
9 compliance with the amendments made to  
10 the National Environmental Policy Act (42  
11 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) by the Fiscal Respon-  
12 sibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5).

13 (iv) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—  
14 To the maximum extent practicable, the  
15 Secretary concerned shall use the authori-  
16 ties provided under this section in com-  
17 bination with other authorities to carry out  
18 fireshed management projects, including—

19 (I) good neighbor agreements en-  
20 tered into under section 8206 of the  
21 Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C.  
22 2113a) (as amended by this Act);

23 (II) stewardship contracting  
24 projects entered into under section  
25 604 of the Healthy Forests Restora-

1                   tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c)  
2                   (as amended by this Act);

3                   (III) self-determination contracts  
4                   and self-governance compact agree-  
5                   ments entered into under the Indian  
6                   Self-Determination and Education As-  
7                   sistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);  
8                   and

9                   (IV) agreements entered into  
10                  under the Tribal Forest Protection  
11                  Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a et  
12                  seq.).

13               (b) EXPANSION.—

14                   (1) HFRA AMENDMENTS.—The Healthy For-  
15                  ests Restoration Act of 2003 is amended—

16                   (A) in section 603(c)(1) (16 U.S.C.  
17                   6591b(c)(1)), by striking “3000 acres” and in-  
18                   serting “10,000 acres”;

19                   (B) in section 605(c)(1) (16 U.S.C.  
20                   6591d(c)(1)), by striking “3,000 acres” and in-  
21                   serting “10,000 acres”;

22                   (C) in section 606(g) (16 U.S.C.  
23                   6591e(g)), by striking “4,500 acres” and in-  
24                   serting “10,000 acres”; and

1 (D) in section 40806(d) of the Infrastruc-  
2 ture Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C.  
3 6592b(d)(1)), by striking “3,000 acres” and in-  
4 serting “10,000 acres”; and

5 (2) LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION ACT AMEND-  
6 MENTS.—Section 4(c)(4)(C) of the Lake Tahoe Res-  
7 toration Act (Public Law 106–506; 114 Stat. 2353)  
8 is amended—

9 (A) by striking “Lake Tahoe Basin Man-  
10 agement Unit”; and

11 (B) by inserting “applicable to the area”  
12 before the period at the end.

13 **SEC. 107. SUNSET.**

14 The authority under this subtitle shall terminate on  
15 the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of  
16 this Act.

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

20 **SEC. 111. MODIFICATION OF THE TREATMENT OF CERTAIN**  
21 **REVENUE AND PAYMENTS UNDER GOOD**  
22 **NEIGHBOR AGREEMENTS.**

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

1 (1) in subsection (a)(6), by striking “or Indian  
2 tribe”; and

3 (2) in subsection (b)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “,  
5 Indian tribe,” after “Governor”;

6 (B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

7 (i) by striking clause (i) and inserting  
8 the following:

9 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Funds received  
10 from the sale of timber or forest product  
11 by a Governor, an Indian tribe, or a county  
12 under a good neighbor agreement shall be  
13 retained and used by the Governor, Indian  
14 tribe, or county, as applicable—

15 “(I) to carry out authorized res-  
16 toration services under the good  
17 neighbor agreement; and

18 “(II) if there are funds remain-  
19 ing after carrying out subclause (I),  
20 to carry out authorized restoration  
21 services under other good neighbor  
22 agreements and for the administration  
23 of a good neighbor authority program  
24 by a Governor, Indian tribe, or coun-  
25 ty.”; and

1 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “2024”  
2 and inserting “2029”;

3 (C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, In-  
4 dian tribe,” after “Governor”; and

5 (D) by striking paragraph (4).

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 8206(a)  
7 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)) is  
8 amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “, Indian  
10 tribe,” after “Governor”; and

11 (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, Indian  
12 tribe,” after “Governor”.

13 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
14 this section apply to any project initiated pursuant to a  
15 good neighbor agreement (as defined in section 8206(a)  
16 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)))—

17 (1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if  
18 the project was initiated after the date of enactment  
19 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public  
20 Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or

21 (2) on or after the date of enactment of this  
22 Act.

1 **SEC. 112. FIXING STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CON-**  
2 **TRACTING.**

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

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

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

10 (3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the  
11 following:

12 “(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARD-  
13 SHIP CONTRACTS.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A long-term agree-  
15 ment or contract entered into with an entity  
16 under subsection (b) by the Chief or the Direc-  
17 tor shall provide that in the case of the can-  
18 cellation or termination by the Chief or the Di-  
19 rector of such long-term agreement or contract,  
20 the Chief or the Director, as applicable, shall  
21 provide 10 percent of the agreement or contract  
22 amount to such entity as cancellation or termi-  
23 nation costs.

24 “(B) DEFINITION OF LONG-TERM AGREE-  
25 MENT OR CONTRACT.—In this paragraph, the  
26 term ‘long-term agreement or contract’ means

1 an agreement or contract under subsection  
2 (b)—  
3 “(i) with a term of more than 5 years;  
4 and  
5 “(ii) entered into on or after the date  
6 of the enactment of this paragraph.”.

7 **SEC. 113. INTRA-AGENCY STRIKE TEAMS.**

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

11 (1) any reviews, including analysis under the  
12 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
13 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under the Na-  
14 tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C.  
15 470 et seq.), and consultations under the Endan-  
16 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.),  
17 with the intent to accelerate and streamline inter-  
18 agency consultation processes;

19 (2) the implementation of any necessary site  
20 preparation work in advance of or as part of a  
21 fireshed management project;

22 (3) the implementation of fireshed management  
23 projects under such section; and

24 (4) any combination of purposes under para-  
25 graphs (1) through (3).



1 (b) MEMBERS.—The Secretary concerned may ap-  
2 point not more than 10 individuals to serve on an intra-  
3 agency strike team comprised of—

4 (1) employees of the Department under the ju-  
5 risdiction of the Secretary concerned;

6 (2) employees of a different Federal agency,  
7 with the consent of that agency’s Secretary;

8 (3) private contractors from any nonprofit orga-  
9 nization, State government, Indian Tribe, local gov-  
10 ernment, quasi-governmental agency, academic insti-  
11 tution, or private organization; and

12 (4) volunteers from any nonprofit organization,  
13 State government, Indian Tribe, local government,  
14 quasi-governmental agency, academic institution, or  
15 private organization.

16 (c) SUNSET.—The authority provided under this sec-  
17 tion shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the  
18 date of enactment of this Act.

19 **SEC. 114. LOCALLY-LED RESTORATION.**

20 (a) THRESHOLD ADJUSTMENT.—Section 14(d) of the  
21 National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C.  
22 472a(d)) is amended by—

23 (1) striking “\$10,000” and inserting  
24 “\$55,000”; and

1           (2) by adding at the end the following: “Begin-  
2           ning on January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter,  
3           the amount in the first sentence of this subsection  
4           shall be adjusted by the Secretary for changes in the  
5           Consumer Price Index of All Urban Consumers pub-  
6           lished by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the De-  
7           partment of Labor.”.

8           (b) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—Begin-  
9           ning on the date that is 30 days after the date of enact-  
10          ment of this Act, the Secretary shall solicit bids under sec-  
11          tion 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976  
12          (16 U.S.C. 472a(d)) for fireshed management projects  
13          under section 106.

## 14           **Subtitle C—Litigation Reform**

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

16          (a) IN GENERAL.—A court shall not enjoin a fireshed  
17          management project if the court determines that the plain-  
18          tiff is unable to demonstrate that the claim of the plaintiff  
19          is likely to succeed on the merits.

20          (b) BALANCING SHORT- AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS  
21          OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN CONSID-  
22          ERING INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—As part of its weighing the  
23          equities while considering any request for an injunction  
24          that applies to any agency action as part of a fireshed  
25          management project, the court reviewing the agency ac-

1 tion shall balance the impact to the ecosystem likely af-  
2 fected by the fireshed management project of—

3 (1) the short- and long-term effects of under-  
4 taking the agency action; against

5 (2) the short- and long-term effects of not un-  
6 dertaking the action.

7 (c) LIMITATIONS FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND RE-  
8 MAND.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
10 provision of law, a court shall not vacate or other-  
11 wise limit, delay, stay, or enjoin a fireshed manage-  
12 ment project unless the court determines that—

13 (A) the fireshed management project will  
14 pose a risk of a proximate and substantial envi-  
15 ronmental harm; and

16 (B) there is no other equitable remedy  
17 available as a matter of law.

18 (2) REMAND.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any  
20 other provision of law, if a court determines  
21 that a fireshed management project will not  
22 pose a risk of a proximate and substantial envi-  
23 ronmental harm—

24 (i) the court may remand the fireshed  
25 management project to the applicable

1 agency with instruction to correct (includ-  
2 ing specific directions) the errors or defi-  
3 ciencies within 180 days; and

4 (ii) an activity under the fireshed  
5 management project may be carried out so  
6 long as such activity does not affect the er-  
7 rors or deficiencies described in clause (i).

8 (B) REVIEW.—Unless the court finds that  
9 the applicable agency entirely failed to prepare  
10 a required environmental assessment or envi-  
11 ronmental impact statement, on remand—

12 (i) the court shall not require such  
13 agency to prepare a new environmental as-  
14 sessment or environmental impact state-  
15 ment; and

16 (ii) such agency may use another for-  
17 mat, including a memorandum or errata  
18 sheet, to document any new analysis re-  
19 quired.

20 (d) LIMITATIONS ON CLAIMS.—Notwithstanding any  
21 other provision of law, a claim arising under Federal law  
22 seeking judicial review of a fireshed management project  
23 shall be barred unless—

24 (1) with respect to an agency document noticed  
25 in the Federal Register, such claim is filed not later

1 than 120 days after the date of publication of a no-  
2 tice in the Federal Register of agency intent to carry  
3 out the fireshed management project, unless a short-  
4 er period is specified in such Federal law;

5 (2) in the case of an agency document not de-  
6 scribed in paragraph (1), such claim is filed not  
7 later than 120 days after the date that is the earlier  
8 of—

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

11 (B) the date on which such agency docu-  
12 ment is noticed; and

13 (3) in the case of an authorization or action for  
14 which there was a public comment period, such  
15 claim—

16 (A) is filed by a party that—

17 (i) participated in the administrative  
18 proceedings regarding such fireshed man-  
19 agement project; and

20 (ii) submitted a comment during such  
21 public comment period and such comment  
22 was sufficiently detailed to put the applica-  
23 ble agency on notice of the issue upon  
24 which the party seeks judicial review; and

25 (B) is related to such comment.

1 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) AGENCY DOCUMENT.—The term “agency  
3 document” means, with respect to a finished man-  
4 agement project, a record of decision, categorical ex-  
5 clusion, environmental document, or programmatic  
6 environmental document.

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

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

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

5           **TITLE II—PROTECTING COMMU-**  
6           **NITIES IN THE WILDLAND-**  
7           **URBAN INTERFACE**

8           **SEC. 201. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PRO-**  
9           **GRAM.**

10           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after  
11           the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall  
12           jointly establish an interagency program to be known as  
13           the “Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program” that  
14           shall consist of at least one representative from each of  
15           the following:

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

18           (2) The National Park Service.

19           (3) The Bureau of Land Management.

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

22           (5) The Bureau of Indian Affairs.

23           (6) The Forest Service.

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



1 (8) The United States Fire Administration.

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

4 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program estab-  
5 lished under subsection (a) is to support interagency co-  
6 ordination in reducing the risk of, and the damages result-  
7 ing from, wildfires in communities (including tribal com-  
8 munities) in the wildland-urban interface through—

9 (1) advancing research and science in wildfire  
10 resilience and land management, including support  
11 for non-federal research partnerships;

12 (2) supporting adoption by Indian Tribes and  
13 local governmental entities of fire-resistant building  
14 methods, codes, and standards;

15 (3) supporting efforts by Indian Tribes or local  
16 governmental entities to address the effects of  
17 wildland fire on such communities, including prop-  
18 erty damages, air quality, and water quality;

19 (4) encouraging public-private partnerships to  
20 conduct hazardous fuels management activities in  
21 the wildland-urban interface;

22 (5) providing technical and financial assistance  
23 targeted towards communities, including tribal com-  
24 munities, through streamlined and unified technical  
25 assistance and grant management mechanisms, in-

1 including the portal and grant application established  
2 under subsection (c), to—

3 (A) encourage critical risk reduction meas-  
4 ures on private property with high wildfire risk  
5 exposure in such communities; and

6 (B) mitigate costs for and improve capac-  
7 ity among such communities.

8 (c) PORTAL AND UNIFORM GRANT APPLICATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program es-  
10 tablished under subsection (a), the Secretaries and  
11 the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-  
12 agement Agency shall establish a portal through  
13 which a person may submit a single, uniform appli-  
14 cation for any of the following:

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

18 (B) An emergency management perform-  
19 ance grant under section 662 of the Post-  
20 Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of  
21 2006 (6 U.S.C. 761).

22 (C) A grant under section 33 of the Fed-  
23 eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
24 (15 U.S.C. 2229).

1 (D) A grant under section 34 of the Fed-  
2 eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
3 (15 U.S.C. 2229a).

4 (E) Financial or technical assistance or a  
5 grant under sections 203, 205, 404, 406, or  
6 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
7 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
8 5133, 5135, 5170c, 5172, 5187).

9 (2) SIMPLIFICATION OF APPLICATION.—In es-  
10 tablishing the portal and application under para-  
11 graph (1), the Secretaries and the Administrator  
12 shall seek to reduce the complexity and length of the  
13 application process for the grants described in para-  
14 graph (1).

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

20 (d) SUNSET.—The program established under this  
21 section shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after  
22 the date of enactment of this Act.

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

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall, acting  
4 jointly, expand the Joint Fire Science Program to include  
5 performance-driven research and development program  
6 known as the “Community Wildfire Defense Research  
7 Program” for the purpose of testing and advancing inno-  
8 vative designs to create or improve the wildfire-resistance  
9 of structures and communities.

10 (b) PROGRAM PRIORITIES.—In carrying out the pro-  
11 gram established under subsection (a), the Secretaries  
12 shall evaluate opportunities to create wildfire-resistant  
13 structures and communities through—

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

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

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

20 (4) landscape architecture; and

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

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

25 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program  
26 established under subsection (a), the Secretaries

1 shall carry out a competition through which a person  
2 may submit to the Secretaries innovative designs for  
3 the creation or improvement of an ignition-resistant  
4 structure or fire-adapted communities.

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

11 (3) SCALE.—In awarding a prize under para-  
12 graph (2), the Secretaries shall prioritize for an  
13 award designs with the most potential to scale to ex-  
14 isting infrastructure.

15 (d) SUNSET.—The program established under sub-  
16 section (a) shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after  
17 the date of enactment of this Act.

18 **SEC. 203. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, FACILITY INSPEC-**  
19 **TION, AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**  
20 **RELATING TO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND**  
21 **DISTRIBUTION FACILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**

22 (a) HAZARD TREES WITHIN 150 FEET OF ELECTRIC  
23 POWER LINE.—Section 512(a)(1)(B)(ii) of the Federal  
24 Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.

1 1772(a)(1)(B)(ii) is amended by striking “10” and in-  
2 serting “150”.

3 (b) CONSULTATION WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS.—  
4 Section 512(e)(3)(E) of such Act (43 U.S.C.  
5 1772(c)(3)(E)) is amended—

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

7 (2) in clause (ii), by striking the period and in-  
8 serting “; and”; and

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

10 “(iii) consulting with a private land-  
11 owner with respect to any hazard trees  
12 identified for removal from land owned by  
13 the private landowner.”.

14 (c) REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—Section  
15 512(e)(4)(A)(iv) of such Act (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(4)(A))  
16 is amended to read as follows:

17 “(iv) ensures that—

18 “(I) a plan submitted without a  
19 modification under clause (iii) shall be  
20 automatically approved 120 days after  
21 review; and

22 “(II) with respect to a plan sub-  
23 mitted with a modification under  
24 clause (iii), if not approved within 120  
25 days after being submitted, the Sec-

1                   retary concerned shall develop and  
2                   submit a letter to the owner and oper-  
3                   ator describing—

4                               “(aa) a detailed timeline (to  
5                               conclude within 165 days after  
6                               the submission of the plan) for  
7                               completing review of the plan;

8                               “(bb) any identified defi-  
9                               ciencies with the plan and spe-  
10                              cific opportunities for the owner  
11                              and operator to address such de-  
12                              ficiencies; and

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

16 **SEC. 204. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR ELECTRIC UTIL-**  
17 **ITY LINES RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**

18           (a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ESTABLISHED.—For-  
19 est management activities described in subsection (b) are  
20 a category of activities hereby designated as being cat-  
21 egorically excluded from the preparation of an environ-  
22 mental assessment or an environmental impact statement  
23 under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy  
24 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

1 (b) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DESIGNATED  
2 FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—The forest management  
3 activities designated under subsection (a) for a categorical  
4 exclusion are—

5 (1) the development and approval of a vegeta-  
6 tion management, facility inspection, and operation  
7 and maintenance plan submitted under section  
8 512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-  
9 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(1)) by the  
10 Secretary concerned; and

11 (2) the implementation of routine activities con-  
12 ducted under the plan referred to in paragraph (1).

13 (c) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—  
14 On and after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
15 retary concerned may use the categorical exclusion estab-  
16 lished under subsection (a) in accordance with this section.

17 (d) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN AREAS FROM CATEGOR-  
18 ICAL EXCLUSION.—The categorical exclusion established  
19 under subsection (a) shall not apply to any forest manage-  
20 ment activity conducted—

21 (1) in a component of the National Wilderness  
22 Preservation System; or

23 (2) on National Forest System lands on which  
24 the removal of vegetation is restricted or prohibited  
25 by an Act of Congress.



1 (e) PERMANENT ROADS.—

2 (1) PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHMENT.—A for-  
3 est management activity designated under subsection  
4 (b) shall not include the establishment of a perma-  
5 nent road.

6 (2) EXISTING ROADS.—The Secretary con-  
7 cerned may carry out necessary maintenance and re-  
8 pair on an existing permanent road for the purposes  
9 of conducting a forest management activity des-  
10 igned under subsection (b).

11 (3) TEMPORARY ROADS.—The Secretary con-  
12 cerned shall decommission any temporary road con-  
13 structed for carrying out a forest management activ-  
14 ity designated under subsection (b) not later than  
15 the date that is 3 years after the date on which the  
16 forest management activity is completed.

17 (f) APPLICABLE LAWS.—Clauses (iii) and (iv) of sec-  
18 tion 106(a)(3) shall apply to forest management activities  
19 designated under subsection (b).

20 **SEC. 205. SEEDS OF SUCCESS.**

21 (a) STRATEGY ESTABLISHED.—Not later than 2  
22 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secre-  
23 taries and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly develop  
24 and implement a strategy, to be known as the “Seeds of

1 Success strategy”, to enhance the domestic supply chain  
2 of seeds.

3 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-  
4 section (a) shall include a plan for each of the following:

5 (1) Facilitating sustained interagency coordina-  
6 tion in, and a comprehensive approach to, native  
7 plant materials development and restoration.

8 (2) Promoting the re-seeding of native or fire-  
9 resistant vegetation post-wildfire, particularly in the  
10 wildland-urban interface.

11 (3) Creating and consolidating information on  
12 native or fire-resistant grasses and sharing such in-  
13 formation with State governments, Indian Tribes,  
14 and local governments.

15 (4) Building regional programs and partner-  
16 ships to promote the development of materials made  
17 from plants native to the United States and restore  
18 such plants to the native habitat of each such plant  
19 within the United States, giving priority to the  
20 building of such programs and partnerships in re-  
21 gions of the Bureau of Land Management where  
22 such partnerships and programs do not already exist  
23 as of the date of enactment of this Act.

24 (5) Expanding seed storage and seed-cleaning  
25 infrastructure.

1           (6) Expanding the Warehouse System of the  
2 Bureau of Land Management, particularly the cold  
3 storage capacity of the Warehouse System.

4           (7) Shortening the timeline for the approval of  
5 permits to collect seeds on public lands managed by  
6 the Bureau of Land Management.

7           (c) REPORT.—The Secretaries and the Secretary of  
8 Defense shall submit to the relevant Congressional Com-  
9 mittees the strategy developed under paragraph (1).

## 10 **TITLE III—TRANSPARENCY AND** 11 **TECHNOLOGY**

### 12 **SEC. 301. BIOCHAR INNOVATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES** 13 **FOR CONSERVATION, HEALTH, AND AD-** 14 **VANCEMENTS IN RESEARCH.**

15           (a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

16               (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

17                   (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years  
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the cov-  
19 ered Secretaries shall establish a program to  
20 enter into partnerships with eligible entities to  
21 carry out demonstration projects to support the  
22 development and commercialization of biochar  
23 in accordance with this subsection.

24                   (B) LOCATION OF DEMONSTRATION  
25 PROJECTS.—In carrying out the program estab-

1           lished under subparagraph (A), the covered  
2           Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent prac-  
3           ticable, enter into partnerships with eligible en-  
4           tities such that not fewer than one demonstra-  
5           tion project is carried out in each region of the  
6           Forest Service and each region of the Bureau  
7           of Land Management.

8           (2) PROPOSALS.—To be eligible to enter into a  
9           partnership to carry out a biochar demonstration  
10          project under paragraph (1)(A), an eligible entity  
11          shall submit to the covered Secretaries a proposal at  
12          such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
13          formation as the covered Secretaries may require.

14          (3) PRIORITY.—In selecting proposals under  
15          paragraph (2), the covered Secretaries shall give pri-  
16          ority to entering into partnerships with eligible enti-  
17          ties that submit proposals to carry out biochar dem-  
18          onstration projects that—

19                 (A) have the most carbon sequestration po-  
20                 tential;

21                 (B) have the most potential to create new  
22                 jobs and contribute to local economies, particu-  
23                 larly in rural areas;

24                 (C) have the most potential to dem-  
25                 onstrate—

1 (i) new and innovative uses of biochar;

2 (ii) market viability for cost effective

3 biochar-based products;

4 (iii) the ecosystem services created or  
5 supported by the use of biochar;

6 (iv) the restorative benefits of biochar  
7 with respect to forest health and resiliency,  
8 including forest soils and watersheds; or

9 (v) any combination of purposes speci-  
10 fied in clauses (i) through (iv); and

11 (D) are located in areas that have a high  
12 need for biochar production, as determined by  
13 the covered Secretaries, due to—

14 (i) nearby lands identified as having  
15 high or very high or extreme risk of wild-  
16 fire;

17 (ii) availability of sufficient quantities  
18 of feedstocks;

19 (iii) a high level of demand for  
20 biochar or other commercial byproducts of  
21 biochar; or

22 (iv) any combination of purposes spec-  
23 ified in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

24 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the pro-  
25 gram established under paragraph (1)(A), the cov-

1       ered Secretaries may enter into partnerships and  
2       provide funding to such partnerships to carry out  
3       demonstration projects to—

4               (A) acquire and test various feedstocks and  
5       their efficacy;

6               (B) develop and optimize commercially and  
7       technologically viable biochar production units,  
8       including mobile and permanent units;

9               (C) demonstrate—

10                   (i) the production of biochar from for-  
11       est residue; and

12                   (ii) the use of biochar to restore forest  
13       health and resiliency;

14               (D) build, expand, or establish biochar fa-  
15       cilities;

16               (E) conduct research on new and innova-  
17       tive uses of biochar;

18               (F) demonstrate cost-effective market op-  
19       portunities for biochar and biochar-based prod-  
20       ucts;

21               (G) carry out any other activities the cov-  
22       ered Secretaries determine appropriate; or

23               (H) any combination of the purposes speci-  
24       fied in subparagraphs (A) through (F).

1           (5) FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS.—To the max-  
2           imum extent practicable, an eligible entity that car-  
3           ries out a biochar demonstration project under this  
4           subsection shall, with respect to the feedstock used  
5           under such project, derive at least 50 percent of  
6           such feedstock from forest thinning and manage-  
7           ment activities, including mill residues, conducted on  
8           National Forest System lands or public lands.

9           (6) REVIEW OF BIOCHAR DEMONSTRATION.—

10           (A) IN GENERAL.—The covered Secretaries  
11           shall conduct regionally-specific research, in-  
12           cluding economic analyses and life-cycle assess-  
13           ments, on any biochar produced from a dem-  
14           onstration project carried out under the pro-  
15           gram established in paragraph (1)(A), includ-  
16           ing—

17                   (i) the effects of such biochar on—  
18                           (I) forest health and resiliency;  
19                           (II) carbon capture and seques-  
20                           tration, including increasing soil car-  
21                           bon in the short-term and long-term;  
22                           (III) productivity, reduced input  
23                           costs, and water retention in agricul-  
24                           tural practices;

1 (IV) the health of soil and grass-  
2 lands used for grazing activities, in-  
3 cluding grazing activities on National  
4 Forest System land and public land;

5 (V) environmental remediation  
6 activities, including abandoned mine  
7 land remediation; and

8 (VI) other ecosystem services cre-  
9 ated or supported by the use of  
10 biochar;

11 (ii) the effectiveness of biochar as a  
12 co-product of biofuels or in biochemicals;  
13 and

14 (iii) the effectiveness of other poten-  
15 tial uses of biochar to determine if any  
16 such use is technologically and commer-  
17 cially viable.

18 (B) COORDINATION.—The covered Secre-  
19 taries shall, to the maximum extent practicable,  
20 provide data, analyses, and other relevant infor-  
21 mation collected under subparagraph (A) with  
22 recipients of a grant under subsection (b).

23 (7) LIMITATION ON FUNDING FOR ESTAB-  
24 LISHING BIOCHAR FACILITIES.—If the covered Sec-  
25 retaries provide to an eligible entity that enters into



1 a partnership with the covered Secretaries under  
2 paragraph (1)(A) funding for establishing a biochar  
3 facility, such funding may not exceed 35 percent of  
4 the total capital cost of establishing such biochar fa-  
5 cility.

6 (b) BIOCHAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT  
7 PROGRAM.—

8 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the In-  
9 terior shall establish or expand an existing applied  
10 biochar research and development grant program to  
11 make competitive grants to eligible institutions to  
12 carry out the activities described in paragraph (3).

13 (2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
14 grant under this subsection, an eligible institution  
15 shall submit to the Secretary a proposal at such  
16 time, in such manner, and containing such informa-  
17 tion as the Secretary may require.

18 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution  
19 that receives a grant under this subsection shall use  
20 the grant funds to conduct applied research on—

21 (A) the effect of biochar on forest health  
22 and resiliency, accounting for variations in  
23 biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

1 (B) the effect of biochar on soil health and  
2 water retention, accounting for variations in  
3 biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

4 (C) the long-term carbon sequestration po-  
5 tential of biochar;

6 (D) the best management practices with  
7 respect to biochar and biochar based-products  
8 that maximize—

9 (i) carbon sequestration benefits; and

10 (ii) the commercial viability and appli-  
11 cation of such products in forestry, agri-  
12 culture, environmental remediation, water  
13 quality improvement, and any other similar  
14 uses, as determined by the Secretary;

15 (E) the regional uses of biochar to increase  
16 productivity and profitability, including—

17 (i) uses in agriculture and environ-  
18 mental remediation; and

19 (ii) use as a co-product in fuel produc-  
20 tion;

21 (F) new and innovative uses for biochar  
22 byproducts; and

23 (G) opportunities to expand markets for  
24 biochar and create related jobs, particularly in  
25 rural areas.

1 (c) REPORTS.—

2 (1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2  
3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
4 covered Secretaries shall submit to Congress a re-  
5 port that—

6 (A) includes policy and program rec-  
7 ommendations to improve the widespread use of  
8 biochar;

9 (B) identifies any area of research needed  
10 to advance biochar commercialization; and

11 (C) identifies barriers to further biochar  
12 commercialization, including permitting and  
13 siting considerations.

14 (2) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF  
15 THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—Beginning with the  
16 second fiscal year that begins after the date of en-  
17 actment of this Act and annually thereafter until the  
18 date described in subsection (d), the covered Secre-  
19 taries shall include in the materials submitted to  
20 Congress in support of the President's budget pursu-  
21 ant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code,  
22 a report describing, for the fiscal year covered by the  
23 report, the status of each demonstration project car-  
24 ried out under subsection (a) and each research and  
25 development grant carried out under subsection (b).

1 (d) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section  
2 shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date  
3 of enactment of this Act.

4 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) BIOCHAR.—The term “biochar” means car-  
6 bonized biomass produced by converting feedstock  
7 through reductive thermal processing for non-fuel  
8 uses.

9 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
10 ty” means—

11 (A) a State, local, or Tribal government;

12 (B) an eligible institution; or

13 (C) a private, non-private, or cooperative  
14 entity.

15 (3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-  
16 ble institution” means land-grant colleges and uni-  
17 versities, including institutions eligible for funding  
18 under the—

19 (A) Act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503,  
20 chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

21 (B) Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 417,  
22 chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including  
23 Tuskegee University;

24 (C) Public Law 87–788 (commonly known  
25 as the “McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962”); or

1 (D) Equity in Educational Land-Grant  
2 Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public  
3 Law 103–382).

4 (4) FEEDSTOCK.—The term “feedstock” means  
5 excess biomass in the form of plant matter or mate-  
6 rials that serves as the raw material for the produc-  
7 tion of biochar.

8 (5) COVERED SECRETARIES.—The term “cov-  
9 ered Secretaries” means—

10 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting  
11 through the Chief of the Forest Service;

12 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting  
13 through the Director of the Bureau of Land  
14 Management; and

15 (C) the Secretary of Energy, acting  
16 through the Director of the Office of Science.

17 **SEC. 302. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**  
18 **PORTS.**

19 (a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION  
20 REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE  
21 PRESIDENT’S BUDGET.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fis-  
23 cal year that begins after the date of enactment of  
24 this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-  
25 retary concerned shall include in the materials sub-

1       mitted to Congress in support of the President's  
2       budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United  
3       States Code, a report on the number of acres of  
4       Federal land on which the Secretary concerned car-  
5       ried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during  
6       the preceding fiscal year.

7               (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of the re-  
8       port required under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
9       concerned shall—

10                   (A) in determining the number of acres of  
11       Federal land on which the Secretary concerned  
12       carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities  
13       during the period covered by the report—

14                           (i) record acres of Federal land on  
15       which hazardous fuels reduction activities  
16       were completed during such period; and

17                           (ii) record each acre described in  
18       clause (i) once in the report, regardless of  
19       whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction  
20       activities were carried out on such acre  
21       during such period; and

22                   (B) with respect to the acres of Federal  
23       land recorded in the report, include information  
24       on—

1 (i) which such acres are located in the  
2 wildland-urban interface;

3 (ii) the level of wildfire risk (high,  
4 moderate, or low) on the first and last day  
5 of the period covered by the report;

6 (iii) the types of hazardous fuels ac-  
7 tivities completed for such acres, delin-  
8 eating between whether such activities  
9 were conducted—

10 (I) in a wildfire managed for re-  
11 source benefits; or

12 (II) through a planned project;

13 (iv) the cost per acre of hazardous  
14 fuels activities carried out during the pe-  
15 riod covered by the report;

16 (v) the region or system unit in which  
17 the acres are located; and

18 (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous  
19 fuels reduction activities on reducing the  
20 risk of wildfire.

21 (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned  
22 shall make each report submitted under paragraph  
23 (1) publicly available on the websites of the Depart-  
24 ment of Agriculture and the Department of the Inte-  
25 rior, as applicable.

1 (b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
3 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary con-  
4 cerned shall implement standardized procedures for  
5 tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduction  
6 activities carried out by the Secretary concerned.

7 (2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures  
8 required under paragraph (1) shall include—

9 (A) regular, standardized data reviews of  
10 the accuracy and timely input of data used to  
11 track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

12 (B) verification methods that validate  
13 whether such data accurately correlates to the  
14 hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out  
15 by the Secretary concerned;

16 (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term  
17 effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction  
18 activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

19 (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities  
20 that occur partially within the wildland-urban  
21 interface, methods to distinguish which acres  
22 are located within the wildland-urban interface  
23 and which acres are located outside the  
24 wildland-urban interface.



1           (3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 weeks after im-  
2           plementing the standardized procedures required  
3           under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall  
4           submit to Congress a report that describes—

5                   (A) such standardized procedures; and

6                   (B) program and policy recommendations  
7           to Congress to address any limitations in track-  
8           ing data related to hazardous fuels reduction  
9           activities under this subsection.

10          (c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the  
11          date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
12          of the United States shall—

13                (1) conduct a study on the implementation of  
14                this section, including any limitations with respect  
15                to—

16                   (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-  
17                tivities under subsection (a); or

18                   (B) tracking data related to hazardous  
19                fuels reduction activities under subsection (b);  
20                and

21                (2) submit to Congress a report that describes  
22                the results of the study under paragraph (1).

23          (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIV-  
2 ITY.—The term “hazardous fuels reduction activ-  
3 ity”—

4 (A) means any vegetation management ac-  
5 tivity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including  
6 mechanical treatments and prescribed burning;  
7 and

8 (B) does not include the awarding of con-  
9 tracts to conduct hazardous fuels reduction ac-  
10 tivities.

11 (2) FEDERAL LANDS.—The term “Federal  
12 lands” means lands under the jurisdiction of the  
13 Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agri-  
14 culture.

15 (e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No addi-  
16 tional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements  
17 of this section, and the activities authorized by this section  
18 are subject to the availability of appropriations made in  
19 advance for such purposes.

20 **SEC. 303. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DE-**  
21 **PLOYMENT AND TESTBED PARTNERSHIP.**

22 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

1 (A) each Federal land management agency  
2 (as such term is defined in the Federal Lands  
3 Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C.  
4 6801));

5 (B) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
6 Administration;

7 (C) the United States Fire Administration;

8 (D) the Federal Emergency Management  
9 Agency;

10 (E) the National Aeronautics and Space  
11 Administration;

12 (F) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

13 (G) the Department of Defense; and

14 (H) any other Federal agency involved in  
15 wildfire response.

16 (2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-  
17 tity” means—

18 (A) a private entity;

19 (B) a nonprofit organization; or

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

23 (b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the  
24 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordina-  
25 tion with the heads of the covered agencies, shall establish

1 a deployment and testbed pilot program (in this section  
2 referred to as “Pilot Program”) for new and innovative  
3 wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitiga-  
4 tion technologies.

5 (c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program,  
6 the Secretaries shall—

7 (1) incorporate the Pilot Program into existing  
8 interagency coordinating groups on wildfires;

9 (2) in consultation with the heads of covered  
10 agencies, identify and advance key technology pri-  
11 ority areas with respect to wildfire prevention, detec-  
12 tion, communication, and mitigation technologies, in-  
13 cluding—

14 (A) hazardous fuels reduction treatments  
15 or activities;

16 (B) dispatch communications;

17 (C) remote sensing, detection, and track-  
18 ing;

19 (D) safety equipment; and

20 (E) common operating pictures or oper-  
21 ational dashboards; and

22 (3) connect each covered entity selected to par-  
23 ticipate in the Pilot Program with the appropriate  
24 covered agency to coordinate real-time and on-the-

1 ground testing of technology during wildland fire  
2 mitigation activities and training.

3 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to be selected to  
4 participate in the Pilot Program, a covered entity shall  
5 submit to the Secretaries an application at such time, in  
6 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
7 retaries may require, including a proposal to test tech-  
8 nologies specific to the key technology priority areas iden-  
9 tified pursuant to subsection (c)(2).

10 (e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECH-  
11 NOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in  
12 the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to  
13 covered entities developing and applying emerging tech-  
14 nologies, including artificial intelligence, quantum sensing,  
15 computing and quantum-hybrid applications, augmented  
16 reality, and 5G private networks and device-to-device com-  
17 munications supporting nomadic mesh networks, for wild-  
18 fire mitigation.

19 (f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination  
20 with the heads of covered agencies, shall make public the  
21 key technology priority areas identified pursuant to sub-  
22 section (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply under  
23 subsection (d) to test and demonstrate their technologies  
24 to address such priority areas.

1 (g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later  
2 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and  
3 annually thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Program,  
4 the Secretaries shall submit to the relevant Congressional  
5 Committees, the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-  
6 nology of the House of Representatives, and the Com-  
7 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the  
8 Senate a report that includes, with respect to the Pilot  
9 Program, the following:

10 (1) A list of participating covered entities.

11 (2) A brief description of the technologies test-  
12 ed by each such covered entity.

13 (3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring each  
14 such technology and applying the technology at  
15 scale.

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

18 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-  
19 ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and  
20 application at-scale in Federal land management  
21 agencies' wildfire prevention, detection, communica-  
22 tion, and mitigation efforts.

23 (h) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section  
24 shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date  
25 of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 304. GAO STUDY ON FOREST SERVICE POLICIES.**

2 Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment  
3 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
4 shall—

5 (1) conduct a study evaluating—

6 (A) the effectiveness of Forest Service  
7 wildland firefighting operations;

8 (B) transparency and accountability meas-  
9 ures in the Forest Service's budget and ac-  
10 counting process; and

11 (C) the suitability and feasibility of estab-  
12 lishing a new Federal agency with the responsi-  
13 bility of responding and suppressing wildland  
14 fires on Federal lands; and

15 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes  
16 the results of the study required under paragraph  
17 (1).

18 **SEC. 305. FOREST SERVICE WESTERN HEADQUARTERS**  
19 **STUDY.**

20 Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment  
21 of this Act, the Chief of the Forest Service shall—

22 (1) conduct a study evaluating—

23 (A) potential locations for a Western head-  
24 quarters for the Forest Service, including po-  
25 tential locations in at least 3 different States lo-  
26 cated west of the Mississippi river; and

1                   (B) the potential benefits of creating a  
2                   Western headquarters for the Forest Service,  
3                   including expected—  
4                   (i) improvements to customer service;  
5                   (ii) improvements to employee recruit-  
6                   ment and retention; and  
7                   (iii) operational efficiencies and cost  
8                   savings; and  
9                   (2) submit to Congress a report that describes  
10                  the results of the study required under paragraph  
11                  (1).

