



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

To: Subcommittee on Federal Lands Republican Members
From: Subcommittee on Federal Lands; Aniela Butler, Brandon Miller, Jason Blore, and Colen Morrow – Aniela@mail.house.gov, Brandon.Miller@mail.house.gov, Jason.Blore@mail.house.gov, and Colen.Morrow@mail.house.gov; x6-7736
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023
Subject: Legislative Hearing on “*Examining Opportunities to Promote and Enhance Tribal Forest Management*”

The Subcommittee on Federal Lands will hold an oversight hearing on “*Examining Opportunities to Promote and Enhance Tribal Forest Management*” on **Tuesday, December 5 at 2:00 p.m.** in room 1324 Longworth House Office Building.

Member offices are requested to notify Colen Morrow (Colen.Morrow@mail.house.gov) by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 4, if their Member intends to participate in the hearing.

I. KEY MESSAGES

- Tribal forests are consistently healthier and more resilient than poorly managed, adjacent federal lands. Tribes, along with state and local leaders, are becoming increasingly important partners in cross-boundary efforts to improve federal forest health.
- Challenges persist for Tribal forest land, however, including continuing wildfire threats and forest health concerns, staffing shortcomings, insufficient coordination of forest management activities, and the lack of needed infrastructure.
- This hearing will explore potential solutions that can help further improve forest management on Tribal forests, as well federal forests more broadly. Congressional Republicans remain firmly committed to developing innovative proposals that encourage cross-boundary coordination on forest management projects that will lead to lasting changes to improve the health of all our nation’s forests.

II. WITNESSES

Panel I (Administration Officials):

- **Mr. John Crockett**, Associate Deputy Chief—State, Private, and Tribal Forestry, U.S. Forest Service, Washington, D.C.
- **Mr. Bodie Shaw**, Deputy Regional Director—Trust Services (Northwest Region), Bureau of Indian Affairs, Portland, OR

Panel II (Expert Witnesses):

- **The Hon. Robert Rice**, Council Member, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Mescalero, NM
- **Mr. Michael Skenadore**, President, Menominee Tribal Enterprise, Keshena, WI
- **Mr. Cody Desautel**, President, Intertribal Timber Council (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation), Nespelem, WA
- **Mr. Phil Rigdon**, Vice President, Intertribal Timber Council (Yakama Nation), Toppenish, WA
- **Ms. Dawn Blake**, Director, Yurok Tribal Forestry Department, Klamath, CA [Minority witness]

III. BACKGROUND

Tribal Forest Management

Overview

Tribes have a rich history in forest management, dating back centuries in North America. Tribes historically managed forests for a myriad of uses, including agricultural and economic development, spiritual and cultural values, medicinal uses, wildlife habitat diversity, air and water quality, and protecting sacred landscapes. Tribes managed forests, primarily through the use of fires to “improve visibility, facilitate travel, and control the habitat of the forest by getting rid of unwanted plants and encouraging the growth of more desirable ones like blackberries and strawberries.”¹ The results of that management helped shape the American landscape and provided Tribes with many important benefits and uses.²

Today, there are 574 federally recognized Indian Tribes with a population of approximately 2.8 million American Indian and Alaska Natives living in the United States.³ They collectively own approximately 56 million acres of “Indian land,” of which 46 million acres belong to Indian Tribes and over 10 million acres belong to individual Indians.⁴ Behind the federal land management agencies, Tribes are the fifth-largest landowner in the United States.⁵ There are several different types of Tribal land designations, including trust land, restrict fee land, fee lands/simple fee lands, allotted lands/allotments, Federal Indian reservation land, and Indian Country. The majority of Tribal land is trust land, meaning the federal government holds the legal title to the land for the benefit of federally recognized Indian tribes or individual Tribal members.⁶

¹ Forest History Society, American Prehistory:800 Years of Forest Management”, <https://foresthistory.org/education/trees-talk-curriculum/american-prehistory-8000-years-of-forest-management/american-prehistory-essay/>.

² History.com “Native Americans Used Fire to Protect and Cultivate Land”, Dave Roos, September 18, 2020, <https://www.history.com/news/native-american-wildfires>.

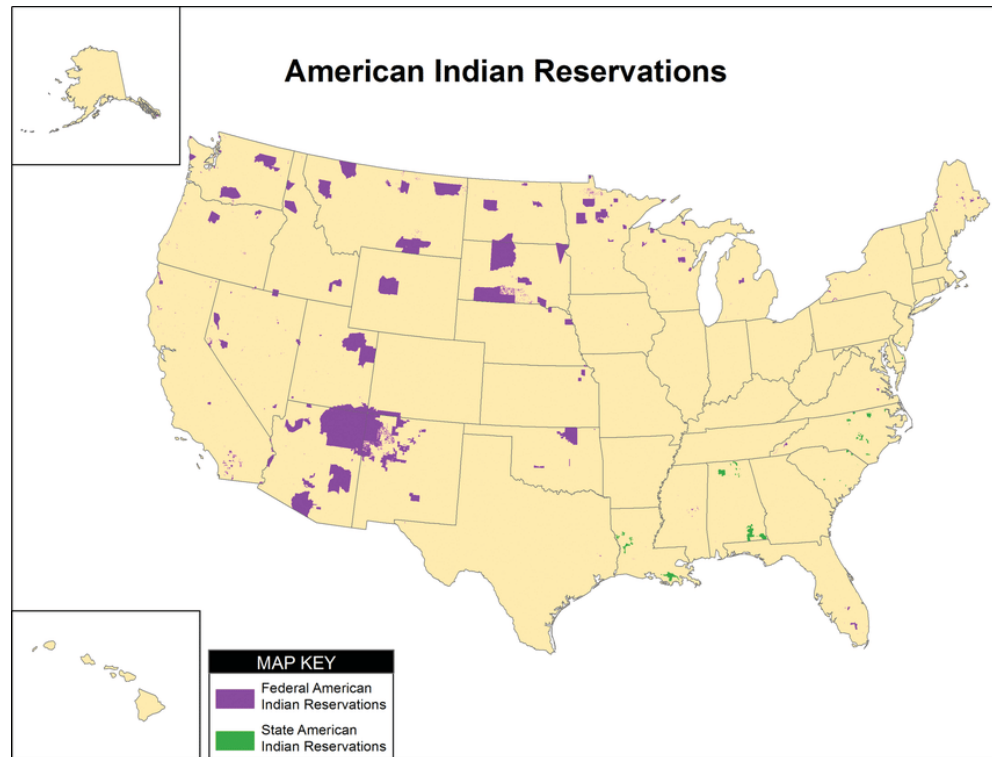
³ U.S. Census 2019 American Community Survey, https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=United%20States&g=0100000US&tid=ACSDP1Y2019.DP05&vintage=2017&layer=stat&cid=DP05_0001E.

⁴ FY 2021 BIA budget justification at IA-TNR-17, https://www.bia.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/as-ia/obpm/BIA_FY2021_Greenbook-508.pdf.

⁵ Congressional Research Service, “Federal Land Ownership: Overview and Data”, Carol Hardy Vincent and Laura A. Hanson, February 21, 2020, <https://www.crs.gov/Reports/R42346?source=search>.

⁶ Congressional Research Service, “Tribal Lands: An Overview”, Mariel J. Murray, October 14, 2021, <https://www.crs.gov/Reports/IF11944?source=search>.

Of these Tribal lands, 19.3 million acres are forested, including 10.2 million acres of commercial forests and woodlands.⁷ The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Office of Trust Services, Division of Forestry is tasked with fiduciary trust oversight of forest management on Indian forest lands.⁸ In addition to providing oversight, the BIA



Source: Warne and Wescott, 2019.

also offers technical expertise in forest management and wildfire management.⁹ In coordination with 310 Tribes, over 18 million acres are actively managed for a variety of purposes, including as a key source of revenue and job opportunities, as well as sustaining important cultural traditions.¹⁰ In 2019, active forest management on Indian forest lands yielded a harvest of 342 million board feet of timber, which provided nearly \$50 million in revenue for Tribes.¹¹

Tribal Versus Federal Forest Management

Tribes have been consistently more effective at managing their forests than federal agencies and have done so with less funding. The average size of a wildfire on Indian lands is three times smaller than those that occur on U.S. Forest Service (FS) lands, thanks to more effective wildfire suppression efforts and forest management practices.¹² In fact, one of the biggest wildfire and forest health threats facing Tribal forests are the thousands of miles of shared boundary with

⁷ Indian Forest Management Assessment Team for the Intertribal Timber Council, "Assessment of Indian Forests and Forest Management in the United States", 2023, https://www.itcnet.org/issues_projects/issues_2/forest_management/assessment.html.

⁸ Bureau of Indian Affairs, "Report on the status of Indian forest lands fiscal year 2019", May 2020, https://www.bia.gov/sites/default/files/dup/inline-files/fy_2019_dfwfm_status_report.pdf.

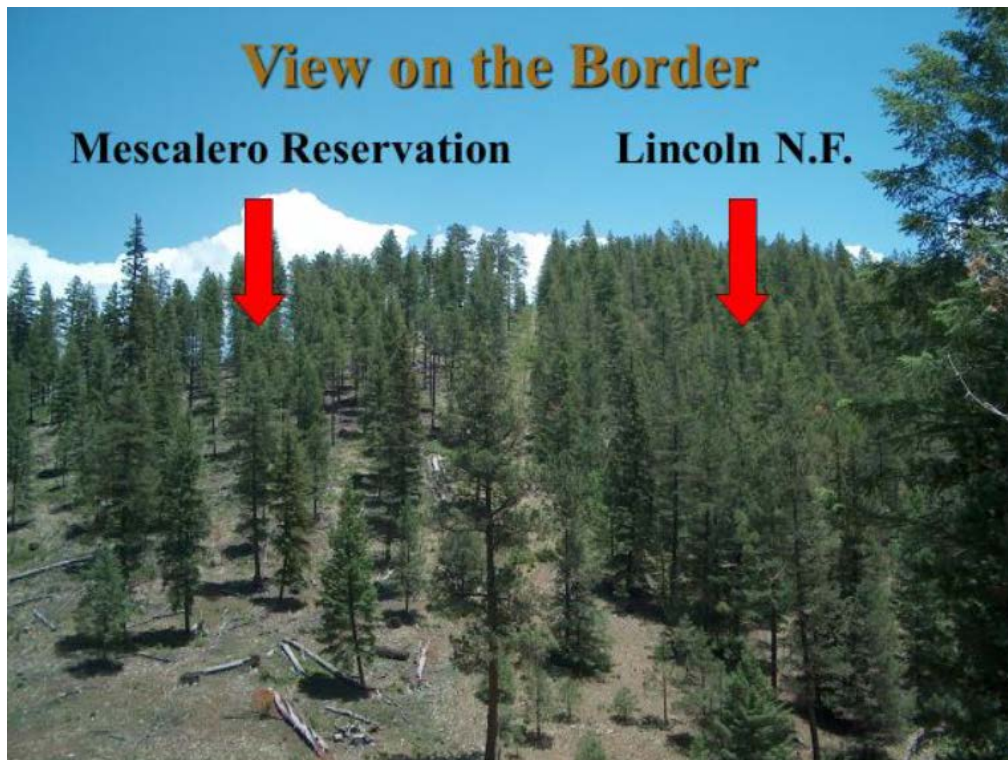
⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Indian Forest Management Assessment Team for the Intertribal Timber Council, "Assessment of Indian Forests and Forest Management in the United States", 2023, https://www.itcnet.org/issues_projects/issues_2/forest_management/assessment.html.

¹² Cody Desautel, President, Intertribal Timber Council, Testimony before the House Committee on Natural Resources, Oversight Hearing on "Examining the History of Federal Lands and the Development of Tribal Co-Management" March 8, 2022, <https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=410781>.

federal lands.¹³ Far too many of our federal lands have been poorly managed, and are now suffering from overgrowth, insects, and disease, and are filled with dead and dying trees. As many as 80 million acres, or 41 percent of the National Forest System, is at high risk.¹⁴



Healthy Tribal forest versus the overgrown Lincoln National Forest.

Source: Mescalero Apache Tribe Division of Resource Management and Protection, no date.

One Tribe that has been a leader in forest management is the Mescalero Apache. Their reservation, which is located in New Mexico, shares a border with the Lincoln National Forest.¹⁵ The Mescalero Apache prioritized thinning and prescribed fire to help mitigate the effects of wildfire. These treatments greatly

improved the health of the forest and have been effective at making wildfire more manageable. The Little Bear Fire was one of the largest wildfires in New Mexico state history, but the work the Mescalero Apache did “served as an excellent protection from catastrophic wildfire.”¹⁶

Due to neglect and mismanagement, there are tragically countless examples of catastrophic blazes that begin on federal lands, escape containment, and move onto Tribal forests, causing immense ecological and economic harm. In August, during an oversight hearing focused on the wildfire crisis that took place in Yosemite National Park, the committee heard one such example from Bill Tripp, a member of the Karuk Tribe in California. The historic lands of the Karuk Tribe, once properly stewarded by their ancestors, went virtually untended by federal land managers. In 2020, the Slater Fire in the Klamath National Forest in Northern California burned over 157,000 acres, tore through the historic land of the Karuk Tribe, and destroyed almost 200

¹³ Cody Desautel, President, Intertribal Timber Council, Testimony before the House Committee on Natural Resources, Legislative Hearing on “Hearing on H.R. 1450: “Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act” May 23, 2023, https://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/testimony_desautel_.pdf.

¹⁴ Hoover, Katie, “Federal Wildfire Management: Ten-Year Funding Trends and Issues (FY2011-FY2020),” October 28, 2020, <https://www.crs.gov/Reports/R46583?source=search>.

¹⁵ U.S. Forest Service, “We live with fire”, Amanda Fry, November 17, 2023, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/features/we-live-fire>

¹⁶ Northern Arizona University, “Southwest Mescalero Apache Tribe: Innovative approaches to climate change adaptation”, Michael Montoya and Cristina Gonzalez-Maddux, January 2013, https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/Tribes/sw_mescalero

homes.¹⁷ The following year, the Dixie Fire destroyed the Mountain Maidu’s Greenville Rancheria office and health facilities.¹⁸ Just two years later in July 2022, the McKinney Fire killed four civilians, destroyed a building storing Karuk Tribal archives, and resulted in a huge die-off of fish in the Klamath River, an important Tribal resource.¹⁹

Recent Action and Reports on Tribal Forest Management

2023 Assessment of Indian Forests and Forest Management in the United States

The National Indian Forest Resource Management Act (NIFRMA) requires an independent national assessment of Indian forests and forest management every 10 years.²⁰ For the fourth time, the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) was tasked with organizing a team to put together this federally mandated assessment. The ITC was first established in 1976 as a nonprofit, nation-wide consortium of Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and individuals committed to improving forest and resource management on lands important to Native American communities.²¹ The ITC works cooperatively with the BIA, private entities, and academia to examine issues and identify and develop strategies to provide economic, social, and ecological benefits while conserving forest ecosystem health.²² Earlier this fall, the Indian Forest Management Assessment Team IV (IFMAT IV) was released, which reports on Tribal forest management practices and trends and provides recommendations to Congress.

The report found that Tribes continue to prioritize sustainability and forest health, with a special focus on stewardship and non-timber forest products (NTFP).²³ While revenue generation remains important, protecting forests from threats like catastrophic wildfire and allowing for continued traditional uses of forests are more important values for most Tribes.²⁴ The report also highlighted inadequate funding and staffing for BIA as a complaint from Tribes that they believe is hampering forest management activities. The separation of traditional forestry and fuels management units was flagged as a problem limiting hazardous fuels treatments due to a lack of coordination. Infrastructure challenges and poor road conditions were also highlighted as concerns.²⁵ The overall health of Tribal forests remains a major concern with “excessive stand density, high fuel accumulations, and insect and disease” threatening the long-term sustainability of these forests.²⁶ According to the report:

¹⁷ U.S. Forest Service, “Slater/Devil Fires 2020”, November 24, 2020, https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/SlaterFire_FINAL%202.pdf. The Guardian, “Fire tore through Karuk tribe’s homeland. Many won’t be able to rebuild” Vival Ho, October 23, 2023, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/oct/23/karuk-tribe-california-slater-fire-insurance>.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ Los Angeles Times, “The tribe was barred from cultural burning for decades-then a fire hit their community”, Alex Wigglesworth, May 7th, <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-05-07/native-tribe-faces-displacement-after-california-wildfire#>.

²⁰ Indian Forest Management Assessment Team for the Intertribal Timber Council, “Assessment of Indian Forests and Forest Management in the United States”, 2023, https://www.itcnet.org/issues_projects/issues_2/forest_management/assessment.html.

²¹ Intertribal Timber Council, “About ITC”, https://www.itcnet.org/about_us/index.html.

²² *Id.*

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ *Id.*

The primary driver of this is identified as an overall decline in processing infrastructure, which has resulted from federal policies that began limiting timber harvests on National Forest lands more than three decades ago. This situation has dramatically lowered the Tribal forest product industry's employment and revenue benefits to Tribes.²⁷

IFMAT IV includes recommendations to help fix the problems identified. To address inefficiencies with hazardous fuels treatments, the report recommends instituting annual plans to integrate management activities for each reservation, which will allow for better coordination and execution of forest management activities.²⁸ The report also calls for an increase in the rate of thinning to improve forest fire resiliency and also advocates for the creation of a forest protection unit that includes fire, insect, and disease management programs.²⁹ The importance of identifying alternative revenue options, such as biomass, recreation, and other natural resources uses, is stressed by the report as well. IFMAT IV recognizes the need for more cross-boundary management tools, like the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) and Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), and encourages further efforts that will allow for more coordination on landscape-scale projects. However, the report laments “process and paperwork burdens as well as exposure to appeals and litigation that can slow or discourage joint activity.”³⁰

The Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission's September 2023 Report

The Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission (WFMMC) was established by Congress through the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.³¹ 50 commission members were selected to serve on the WFMMC representing federal agencies, state, local and Tribal governments. The WFMMC was given a year after formation to begin publishing reports that present a comprehensive set of policy priorities and recommendations aimed at addressing the wildfire crisis.³² Released in September 2023, the WFMMC's second and final report contains numerous recommendations that seek to leverage and strengthen the diverse ways in which Indian Tribes and Native American communities can help combat wildfires.³³

The report suggests several ways in which the federal and state governments could better incorporate Tribal practices into fire-related land management systems. The WFMMC first urges federal agencies to enter into meaningful and equitable co-stewardship and co-management agreements with Tribes to facilitate wildfire prevention, management, and recovery.³⁴ The report then suggests Congress amend the Weeks Act of 1911 to put Tribes on equal footing with states in receiving federal funding and authority for the management and restoration of wildfires.³⁵ Additionally, the report encourages federal law to acknowledge the value of Tribal cultural

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ Pub. L. No. 117-58, § 70203(a), <https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ58/PLAW-117publ58.pdf>.

³² “On Fire: The Report of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission,” U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission, September 2023, <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/wfmmc-final-report-09-2023.pdf>.

³³ *Id.*

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ *Id.* (16 U.S.C. § 515 et seq.)

burning and recognize its distinctiveness from prescribed fires.³⁶ This legal change would be supported by clarifying the extent to which the Federal Tort Claims Act protects Tribes from conducting prescribed fires on federal lands. The report also recommends requiring the BIA to acknowledge federally recognized Tribes may develop fire programs on Tribal trust lands.³⁷

The report also calls for the federal and state governments to provide increased funding, technical assistance, and other resources to Tribal public health authorities to improve Tribal capacity for wildfire preparedness, response, and recovery.³⁸ This asset mobilization would be enhanced by using co-management agreements, land transfers, and grant programs to help Tribes build fire-related workforce housing and disaster sheltering facilities.³⁹ The report also champions increased federal support for Tribal efforts to expand their wildfire mitigation, response, and restoration workforces.⁴⁰ Finally, the report broadly advises Congress to recognize, when authorizing and funding future wildfire programs, the significant role that indigenous stewardship continues to play in relation to wildfire management.⁴¹

Tools and Authorities to Promote Tribal Forest Management

Tribal governments (along with state and local governments) are important partners that can help reduce the burden of the federal estate by cooperating and coordinating on land and resource management. Wildfires and other calamities do not respect boundaries, meaning Tribes have a significant stake in how federal lands are managed. Finding ways to coordinate on landscape-scale forest management is vital to reversing the devastating wildfire and the current trajectory of forest health. To that end, there are a number of tools that have been created in recent years to help facilitate cross-boundary collaboration that could be expanded and improved upon to make both federal and Tribal forests more resilient to wildfire, drought, insects, and disease.

Tribal Forest Protection Act

In 2004, Congress passed the TFPA to give Tribes better ability to manage adjacent federal lands.⁴² The TFPA directs the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to give “special consideration” to tribally proposed stewardship contracting projects on adjacent federal lands that pose a threat to Tribal lands.⁴³ The 2018 Farm Bill extended this ability further by creating a demonstration project for the FS to enter into “638 Contracts.” These 638 contracts are named after Public Law 93-638, the “Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA).” ISDEAA focused on Tribal self-determination and self-governance and was intended to give Tribes an opportunity to manage federal services and benefits, rather than have them managed by the federal government.⁴⁴ Extending these “638 contracts” or “self-

³⁶ *Id.*

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² P.L. 108–278.

⁴³ U.S. Forest Service, “Tribal Forest Protection Act in Brief,”

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/workingtogether/tribalrelations?cid=stelprdb5351850>.

⁴⁴ Congressional Research Service, “Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs,” Tana Fitzpatrick, July 15, 2021, IF11877.

determination contracts” created “a solid foundation upon which to expand Tribal Forest Protect Act work.”⁴⁵

Good Neighbor Authority



The Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California is working with private partners and the FS to build a sawmill to help process salvage and excess fuels. **Source:** Tahoe Fund, 2022.

Congress again expanded Tribal self-determination and FS contracting authority in the 2018 Farm Bill by authorizing Tribes as eligible entities in GNA agreements.⁴⁶ Under GNA, states, counties, and Tribes can enter into agreements with the FS or Bureau of Land Management,

known as Good Neighbor Agreements, to conduct restoration projects such as tree treatments, fuels reduction, habitat improvement, and road restoration.⁴⁷ States are authorized to retain funds from timber sales to fund additional restoration activities on the land under the existing GNA agreement. Because of this, 490 GNA projects have been initiated in 34 states since 2014.⁴⁸ While state GNA agreements flourished, the participation of counties and Tribes has been limited thus far.⁴⁹ FS has only 17 GNA agreements with Tribes across the nation.⁵⁰ The primary reason for this lack of participation has been the lack of parity with states in retaining timber receipts for use on additional conservation and restoration work.⁵¹ This removes a significant incentive to partner on these projects. Addressing this disparity will lead to greater cross-boundary forest management projects.

⁴⁵ U.S. Forest Service, “USDA Forest Service 638 Authority”, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/638-FS-ITC-Joint-Statement-SEP2020.pdf>.

⁴⁶ P.L. 115–334.

⁴⁷ Congressional Research Service, The Good Neighbor Authority on Federal Lands, January 11, 2023, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11658>.

⁴⁸ National Association of State Foresters, “Good Neighbor Authority”, <https://www.stateforesters.org/state-defined-solutions/good-neighbor-authority/#:~:text=It%20is%20simply%20good%20government,more%20than%20490%20GNA%20projects>.

⁴⁹ Congressional Research Service, The Good Neighbor Authority, October 5, 2020, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11658/3>.

⁵⁰ https://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/list_of_tribes_engaged_in_fs_gna_projects.pdf.

⁵¹ *Id.*

Opportunities for Further Expansion of Tribal Forest Management

Looking to the future, there are areas that show promise for providing additional opportunities to facilitate more coordinated wildfire mitigation strategies. The loss of sawmill infrastructure has been disastrous to efforts to address the hazardous conditions on vast amounts of federal forests. Since 2000, over 1,500 sawmills, which is one-third of the total number of sawmills in operation, closed down.⁵² The loss of this critically important infrastructure and mill capacity greatly hampered efforts to ramp up forest management activities and process the hazardous fuels, exacerbating the wildfire crisis across the nation.

One Tribe is working to help address this problem in an innovative new pilot that could serve as a model across the nation. The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California is partnering with a private timber company and the FS to build a sawmill to process the salvage timber left in the wake of the devastating 2021 Caldor Wildfire, as well thinning projects needed to restore health to Tahoe Basin and Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest.⁵³ This partnership not only improves the health of forests in the Tahoe basin, but provides an important source of revenue for the Tribes and stable Tribal jobs. Part of the success of this pilot has been long-term guarantees from the FS for a continuous fiber supply; however, these agreements still lack ironclad certainty. This tribal partnership could potentially be emulated elsewhere to help address the dire need for more mill capacity near federal lands with high levels of hazardous fuels.

Another major barrier to increasing the scale of active forest management is a lack of markets for excess, low-value hazardous fuels that must be removed from overgrown federal forests. Biomass and biochar technologies offer two innovative utilizations for this excess material that could help ramp up forest management



Ribbon cutting for Menominee Tribal Enterprises' biomass facility. **Source:** DOE, 2016.

efforts. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Colville Tribes) in Washington and other tribes have been at the forefront of these efforts to advance innovative uses of biomass.⁵⁴ During the 115th Congress, the Colville Tribes helped develop a proposed biomass demonstration

⁵² Congressional Budget Office, "Wildfires", June 2022, <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58212>.

⁵³ Tahoe Daily Tribune, "New sawmill to start processing Caldor Fire salvage logs for Sierra-at-Tahoe", Staff Report, August 17, 2022, <https://www.tahoe-dailytribune.com/news/new-sawmill-to-start-processing-caldor-fire-salvage-logs-from-sierra-at-tahoe/>.

⁵⁴ Jack Ferguson, Member, Colville Business Council, Testimony before the House Committee on Natural Resources, Oversight Hearing on "Tribal Prosperity and Self-Determination through Energy Development" October 4, 2016, https://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/testimony_ferguson_.pdf.

project, that passed as part of the “Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2017.”⁵⁵ That project marked a great step forward in the effort to improve forest health and watersheds on Tribal lands and surrounding the federal lands through the responsible utilization of excess timber that can be used for biomass energy production.

Similarly, biochar has a rich history with indigenous tribes. Biochar’s usage dates back several centuries and can even be traced to indigenous people in South America over 2,000 years ago.⁵⁶ Biochar is produced by burning biomass or organic waste (a feedstock) at very high temperatures in the absence of oxygen through a process known as pyrolysis.⁵⁷ Biochar contains numerous benefits for improving forest health, agricultural productivity, and rural economies. This ancient practice continues to have adherents among tribes in the United States, including the Potter Valley Tribe in California. The Potter Valley Tribe has been committed to utilizing wood waste from forest treatments to create biochar and to sharing this knowledge with others.⁵⁸

Republican Solutions



Menominee Tribal Enterprises. Source: Frank Vaisvilas, 2020.

House Republicans are fully committed to aggressively confronting the wildfire and forest health crisis afflicting federal and Tribal forests alike. Innovative solutions are needed that will empower more Tribal and local collaboration, produce landscape-scale forest management across multiple-jurisdictions, and ultimately ensure the

long-term health and sustainability of all the forests in the U.S. There are several specific Republican proposals that have been put forward that seek to improve Tribal forest management and partnerships including: H.R. 1450 (Rep. Fulcher), “Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act”; H.R. 4504 (Rep. LaMalfa), “Tribal Biochar Promotion Act”; H.R. 2989 (Rep. McCarthy), “Save Our Sequoias Act”; H.R. 2639 (Rep. Westerman), “Trillion Trees Act”; and

⁵⁵ P.L. 115-325.

⁵⁶ U.S. Forest Service, “Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Biochar and the modern world,” November 28, 2022, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/delivering-mission/sustain/traditional-ecological-knowledge-biochar-and-modern-world>.

⁵⁷ U.S. Department of Agriculture, “Biochar”, <https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/northwest/topic/biochar>.

⁵⁸ Potter Valley Tribe, “Use of Portable Field Kilns to Process Biomass and Make Biochar”, April 23, 2021, <https://pottervalleytribe.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/PVT-BIOCHAR-WORKSHOP-4-23-21-FLYER.pdf>.

H.R. 4614 (Rep. Westerman), “Resilient Federal Forests Act.”⁵⁹ Moving forward this Congress, the committee is committed to advancing a comprehensive forestry package that includes strong Tribal forestry provisions.

⁵⁹ Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act, H.R. 1450, 118th, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1450>, Tribal Biochar Promotion Act, H.R. 4504, 117th, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4504>, Save Our Sequoias (SOS) Act, H.R. 2989, 118th, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2989>, Trillion Trees Act, H.R. 2639, 117th, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2639>, Resilient Federal Forests Act, H.R. 4614, 117th, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4614>.