



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

The Fix Our Forests Act

Messaging materials for the bipartisan Fix Our Forests Act, which restores forest health, increases resiliency to catastrophic wildfires, and protects communities by expediting environmental analyses, reducing frivolous lawsuits, and increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration projects.

FIX OUR FORESTS ACT

This comprehensive, bipartisan legislation restores forest health, increases resiliency to catastrophic wildfires, and protects communities by expediting environmental analyses, reducing frivolous lawsuits, and increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration projects. Sponsored by House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR) and Congressman Scott Peters (D-CA), it will provide agencies with critical tools to implement the most vital forest management projects immediately.

OVER 117 MILLION ACRES OF OUR NATION'S FORESTS ARE OVERGROWN, FIRE-PRONE AND NEED ACTIVE MANAGEMENT. THE FIX OUR FORESTS ACT WILL:

- **Simplify and expedite environmental reviews** to reduce costs and planning times for critical forest management projects while maintaining rigorous environmental standards.
- Make **communities more resilient** to wildfire by coordinating existing grant programs and furthering new research.
- **Promote federal, state, tribal, and local collaboration** by creating a new Fireshed Center and codifying the Shared Stewardship initiative.
- **Stop frivolous litigation and endless agency consultations** that delay needed forest management activities.
- **Give agencies new emergency tools** to restore watersheds, protect communities in the wildland-urban interface and prevent forest conversion.
- Utilize **state-of-the-art science** to prioritize the treatment of forests at the highest risk of wildfire.
- Incentivize forest management projects of up to 10,000 acres to **increase the pace and scale** of addressing wildfire, drought, insects and disease.
- **Revitalize rural economies** by strengthening tools such as Good Neighbor Authority and Stewardship Contracting.
- Adopt **new and innovative technologies** to address forest health threats and suppress wildfires quickly and more efficiently.
- Harden utility rights-of-way against wildfire by **encouraging more active management** and the removal of dangerous hazard trees.
- **Support wildland firefighters and their families** through the creation of a new Casualty Assistance Program.

ADDRESSING THE WILDFIRE CRISIS



44 MILLION HOMES AT
RISK IN THE WILDLAND-
URBAN INTERFACE



8.9 MILLION ACRES
BURNED LAST YEAR
NATIONWIDE



82 PERCENT INCREASE IN
FIRE SUPPRESSION COSTS
OVER THE PAST DECADE

Talking Points

- Five ways the Fix Our Forests Act helps prevent wildfires like the ones currently burning in Southern California:
 - Prioritizes hazardous fuels reduction activities in high-risk fireheds where catastrophic wildfires pose an imminent threat to life and property
 - Protects communities in the wildland-urban interface by actively managing our forests and fostering greater collaboration between Federal, State, Tribal, and private land managers
 - Creates an interagency Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program and streamlines federal wildfire defense grants to communities
 - Deploys new technology, such as AI and 5G, to respond to wildfires quicker and more efficiently and support wildland firefighters
 - Encourages re-seeding of native and fire-resistant vegetation and the clearing of hazard trees in utility rights-of-way
- The devastation happening in Southern California has made it clear that we need to take urgent action now to manage our fire-prone landscapes. The Fix Our Forests Act is a comprehensive solution that has overwhelming bipartisan support and will protect communities from catastrophic wildfires.
- The wildfires in Southern California don't have to be the new norm. The bipartisan Fix Our Forests Act will protect vulnerable communities and make our forests healthier and more resilient.

Graphics and Branding

Click [here](#) to view a gallery of sample social media graphics introducing the bipartisan Fix Our Forests Act.

Social Media

In addition to these [graphics](#), see below for several draft tweets to use to promote the legislative rollout.

Draft post 1: We can prevent catastrophic wildfires with good forestry. It's time for Congress to act and #FixOurForests.

Draft post 2: 5 ways the Fix Our Forests Act can help prevent devastating wildfires (like the ones raging now):

- ✔ prioritizes hazardous fuels reduction activities in high-risk fire sheds
- ✔ protects communities in the wildland-urban interface
- ✔ creates an interagency Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program AND streamlines federal wildfire defense grants
- ✔ deploys new technology
- ✔ encourages re-seeding of native and fire-resistant vegetation and the clearing of hazard trees

Draft post 3: After decades of mismanagement, our once healthy forests have turned to tinderboxes, simply waiting for someone to strike the match. Chairman Westerman said it best: it's time for Congress to act and Fix Our Forests.

House Natural Resources Committee social media:

Twitter | @NatResources

Facebook | @NaturalResourcesCommittee

Instagram | @NatResources

Contact

Any questions? Reach out to Bailey.Mailloux@mail.house.gov (comms) or Aniela@mail.house.gov (policy)