

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4208

To reduce the risk posed by wildfires to communities and the most at-risk federally owned forests.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 1, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself and Mr. AMODEI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To reduce the risk posed by wildfires to communities and the most at-risk federally owned forests.

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

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

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Wildland Fires Act of 2017”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Purpose.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Additional accountability.

- Sec. 5. Incentive for cost savings.
- Sec. 6. Definition of at-risk community.
- Sec. 7. Community planning assistance for at-risk communities.
- Sec. 8. Accelerated restoration program for ponderosa pine forests.
- Sec. 9. Increasing certainty for the local workforce and infrastructure necessary for restoration.
- Sec. 10. National Forest Foundation.
- Sec. 11. Termination of authority.

## 1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2       The purpose of this Act is to build on the successes  
 3 of the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Na-  
 4 tional Cohesive Fire Strategy established pursuant to sec-  
 5 tion 503 of the FLAME Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748b)  
 6 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of  
 7 this Act), as necessary to protect communities from  
 8 wildfires on Federal land by—

- 9           (1) increasing transparency and accountability  
 10       for the costs of managing wildfires;
- 11           (2) requiring the Secretary concerned to treat  
 12       the most at-risk forests to protect at-risk commu-  
 13       nities and reestablish natural fire regimes; and
- 14           (3) providing additional funding to communities  
 15       to enable them to reduce the risks to the commu-  
 16       nities from wildfires.

## 17 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

18       In this Act:

- 19           (1) **AT-RISK COMMUNITY.**—The term “at-risk  
 20       community” has the meaning given the term in sec-

1       tion 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
2       2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

3           (2) CERTIFIED COLLABORATIVE.—The term  
4       “certified collaborative” means a group of interested  
5       persons certified as a collaborative by the National  
6       Forest Foundation under subsection (a) of section  
7       409 of the National Forest Foundation Act (16  
8       U.S.C. 583j–7) (as amended by section 11(a)).

9           (3) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION  
10      PLAN.—

11           (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “community  
12       wildfire protection plan” has the meaning given  
13       the term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests  
14       Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

15           (B) INCLUSION.—The term “community  
16       wildfire protection plan” includes a land re-  
17       source management plan.

18           (4) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”  
19      means the following:

20           (A) National Forest System land reserved  
21       from the public domain.

22           (B) The following land administered by the  
23       Secretary of the Interior:

1 (i) Public lands (as defined in section  
2 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Man-  
3 agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)).

4 (ii) A unit of the National Park Sys-  
5 tem.

6 (iii) A unit of the National Wildlife  
7 Refuge System.

8 (iv) Land held in trust for an Indian  
9 tribe.

10 (5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”  
11 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the  
12 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
13 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

14 (6) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”  
15 means the Secretary of the Interior and the Sec-  
16 retary of Agriculture.

17 (7) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-  
18 retary concerned” means—

19 (A) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-  
20 spect to activities under the Department of the  
21 Interior; and

22 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-  
23 spect to activities under the Department of Ag-  
24 riculture.

25 (8) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “wildland-  
2 urban interface” has the meaning given the  
3 term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Res-  
4 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

5 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “wildland-  
6 urban interface” does not include—

7 (i) any forest reserve not created from  
8 the public domain; or

9 (ii) any national grassland or land uti-  
10 lization project administered under title III  
11 of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act  
12 (7 U.S.C. 1010 et seq.).

13 **SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY.**

14 (a) ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING REQUIRE-  
15 MENTS.—For each fiscal year, the Secretaries shall con-  
16 duct a cost review of each wildfire that covers an area  
17 greater than 100,000 acres.

18 (b) COMPONENTS.—The cost review under subsection  
19 (a) shall document costs and risk-based factors that influ-  
20 enced management decisions for each wildfire, including—

21 (1) a comparison of the total suppression cost  
22 to a stratified cost index;

23 (2) the percentage of acres burned with re-  
24 source benefits;

1           (3) the percentage of Federal land burned and  
2           the percentage of the total suppression costs ultimately paid by the Secretaries;

4           (4) the number of hours of exposure experienced by firefighters;

6           (5) the effectiveness of wildfire management decisions, including—

8                 (A) an analysis of the estimated monetary  
9                 value of the resources protected;

10                (B) the risk to the resources from the wildfire;  
11                fire;

12                (C) the costs incurred or that would have  
13                been incurred to protect the resources;

14                (D) the impact of any actions taken to  
15                protect the resources; and

16                (E) whether the resources were damaged  
17                by the wildfire;

18           (6) the total cost of aircraft for the wildfire, including—

20                 (A) the cost of delivering water or fire retardant to the wildfire incurred after the initial  
21                 attack; and  
22                 attack; and

23                 (B) the cost of aircraft use incurred after  
24                 the wildfire is contained;

1           (7) whether the fire operations strategy tracked  
2           the relevant spatial wildfire risk assessment and spa-  
3           tial fire management plan; and

4           (8) any other costs or factors that the Secre-  
5           taries determine to be appropriate.

6           (c) SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION.—The Secre-  
7           taries shall—

8           (1) submit annually to the Committee on Ap-  
9           propriations, the Committee on the Budget, and the  
10          Committee on Natural Resources of the House of  
11          Representatives and the Committee on Appropria-  
12          tions, the Committee on the Budget, and the Com-  
13          mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Sen-  
14          ate a report describing the information required  
15          under subsection (a); and

16          (2) make the report submitted under paragraph  
17          (1) available to the public.

18 **SEC. 5. INCENTIVE FOR COST SAVINGS.**

19          (a) IN GENERAL.—Amounts made available in an an-  
20          nual appropriations Act for wildfire management oper-  
21          ations in the Wildland Fire Management account of the  
22          Department of the Interior or the Department of Agri-  
23          culture for a fiscal year that are not expended for that  
24          fiscal year may be available to the Secretary concerned  
25          for wildfire risk reduction projects on Federal land (in-

1 cluding land held in trust for an Indian tribe with the ap-  
2 proval of the Indian tribe) in accordance with subsection  
3 (b).

4 (b) PROJECT PRIORITIES.—In providing amounts  
5 made available to the Secretary concerned under sub-  
6 section (a), the Secretary concerned shall give priority to  
7 projects that are—

8 (1) conducted in areas that—

9 (A) are within or adjacent to—

10 (i) at-risk communities; or

11 (ii) high-value watersheds;

12 (B) have very high wildfire hazard poten-  
13 tial; and

14 (C) are in Fire Regime Group I, II, or III;

15 and

16 (2) designed to achieve one or more of the goals  
17 established in the report of the Secretaries entitled  
18 “The National Strategy: the Final Phase of the De-  
19 velopment of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire  
20 Management Strategy” and dated April 2014—

21 (A) to create fire-adapted communities;

22 (B) to restore and maintain resilient land-  
23 scapes; and

24 (C) to achieve safe, effective fire response.



1 (c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary concerned  
 2 shall submit with the annual budget of the United States  
 3 submitted by the President under section 1105 of title 31,  
 4 United States Code, a list of projects to be implemented  
 5 using amounts made available to the Secretary concerned  
 6 under subsection (a).

7 **SEC. 6. DEFINITION OF AT-RISK COMMUNITY.**

8 Section 101(1)(A) of the Healthy Forests Restoration  
 9 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511(1)(A)) is amended by strik-  
 10 ing “comprised of” in the matter preceding clause (i) and  
 11 all that follows through “a group” in clause (ii) and insert-  
 12 ing “comprised of a group”.

13 **SEC. 7. COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSISTANCE FOR AT-RISK**  
 14 **COMMUNITIES.**

15 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF MAP.—Not later than 180  
 16 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and periodi-  
 17 cally thereafter, the Secretaries shall develop and publish  
 18 a map depicting at-risk communities, including tribal com-  
 19 munities.

20 (b) PLANNING AND PREPARING AT-RISK COMMU-  
 21 NITIES FOR WILDFIRE.—Subject to the availability of ap-  
 22 propriations, the Secretaries shall provide financial assist-  
 23 ance to at-risk communities adjacent to Federal land (in-  
 24 cluding land held in trust for Indian tribes), including

1 through States, to assist the at-risk communities in plan-  
2 ning and preparing for wildfire, including—

3 (1) cosponsoring and supporting the expansion  
4 of—

5 (A) the Firewise Program;

6 (B) the Ready, Set, Go program;

7 (C) the Living with Wildfire program; or

8 (D) programs similar to the programs re-  
9 ferred to in subparagraphs (A) through (C);

10 (2) supporting the development, updating, and  
11 implementation of community wildfire protection  
12 plans;

13 (3) carrying out risk assessments and creating  
14 maps that depict wildfire risk to assist in planning  
15 for response and suppression resource needs and im-  
16 plementing hazardous fuel treatment programs;

17 (4) sharing costs to create defensible space for  
18 a distance of not less than 100 feet around a resi-  
19 dence that was built before the date of enactment of  
20 this Act; and

21 (5) planning and implementing cross-boundary  
22 hazardous fuels reduction projects as identified in a  
23 community wildfire protection plan.

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
2 authorized to be appropriated \$100,000,000 to carry out  
3 this section for each fiscal year.

4 **SEC. 8. ACCELERATED RESTORATION PROGRAM FOR PON-**  
5 **DEROSA PINE FORESTS.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) AVERAGE SEVERE FIRE WEATHER.—With  
8 respect to a unit of Federal land, the term “average  
9 severe fire weather” means the 90th percentile of at-  
10 mospheric and fuel conditions under which wildfires  
11 would burn in that unit in a given year.

12 (2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”  
13 means—

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

17 (B) land held in trust for Indian tribes; or

18 (C) National Forest System land.

19 (3) HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION.—The term  
20 “hazardous fuel reduction” means the removal or  
21 modification of flammable vegetation or woody de-  
22 bris through prescribed fire, thinning, brush re-  
23 moval, mastication, pruning, slash treatment, or a  
24 combination of those methods, on the condition that

1 the method is ecologically appropriate, cost-effective,  
2 and selected on a site-specific basis.

3 (4) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “pilot pro-  
4 gram” means the pilot program established under  
5 subsection (b)(1).

6 (b) PILOT PROGRAM.—Subject to the availability of  
7 appropriations, the Secretaries shall—

8 (1) establish a pilot program to reduce the risk  
9 of wildfires to communities in the wildland-urban  
10 interface and reestablish natural fire regimes outside  
11 the wildland-urban interface; and

12 (2) implement the pilot program to treat the  
13 approximately 2,000,000 acres of Federal land de-  
14 scribed in subsection (d), by not later than Sep-  
15 tember 30, 2027.

16 (c) ADMINISTRATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

17 (1) PROTECTING COMMUNITIES.—For land lo-  
18 cated in the wildland-urban interface, the Secretaries  
19 shall reduce the risk of wildfire to communities by  
20 removing or modifying vegetation and slash until the  
21 area would only sustain a wildfire that is low-inten-  
22 sity and easy to suppress in average severe fire  
23 weather conditions.

24 (2) RESTORING THE ROLE OF FIRE IN FOR-  
25 ESTS.—For land located outside the wildland-urban

1 interface, the Secretaries shall reestablish natural  
2 fire regimes by conducting prescribed fires and asso-  
3 ciated activities.

4 (3) ACCOMPLISHMENTS.—The requirement to  
5 treat Federal land under subsection (b)(2) shall be  
6 considered to be met when—

7 (A) for Federal land located in the  
8 wildland-urban interface, the Federal land  
9 would only sustain a wildfire that is low-inten-  
10 sity and easy to suppress in average severe fire  
11 weather conditions; and

12 (B) for Federal land located outside the  
13 wildland-urban interface, the Federal land has  
14 been burned by a prescribed fire conducted by  
15 the Secretaries.

16 (4) BURNED AREAS.—Any Federal land that is  
17 burned by a wildfire after the date on which the doc-  
18 ument described in subsection (d)(2) is published  
19 shall be excluded from the pilot program.

20 (5) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretaries shall im-  
21 plement the pilot program cooperatively with part-  
22 ners, including States, local governments, prescribed  
23 fire councils, and other entities.

24 (6) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this sub-  
25 section modifies any requirements in applicable law

1 and policy to which the Secretaries must adhere  
2 while conducting prescribed fires.

3 (d) TREATMENT LOCATIONS.—The Secretaries shall  
4 only carry out the pilot program only on Federal land  
5 that—

6 (1) is, or historically was, composed primarily  
7 of ponderosa pines or Jeffrey pines; and

8 (2) is identified in the document of the Sec-  
9 retary of Agriculture entitled “Wildland Fire Poten-  
10 tial: A Tool for Assessing Wildfire Risk and Fuels  
11 Management Needs”, dated July 2015, and pub-  
12 lished as part of the Proceedings of the Large  
13 Wildland Fires Conference—

14 (A) as being the “highest priority areas”  
15 on National Forest System land; or

16 (B) as having a “very high” wildland fire  
17 potential on—

18 (i) public lands (as defined in section  
19 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Man-  
20 agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702));  
21 and

22 (ii) land held in trust for an Indian  
23 tribe.

24 (e) EXCLUDED AREAS.—This section does not apply  
25 to—

1           (1) any component of the National Wilderness  
2       Preservation System;

3           (2) any wilderness study area, if a treatment  
4       required by this section would impair the suitability  
5       of the area to be designated a component of the Na-  
6       tional Wilderness Preservation System;

7           (3) any research natural area;

8           (4) any Federal land on which the removal of  
9       vegetation described in this section is prohibited by  
10      law; or

11          (5) any Federal land that is burned by a  
12      wildland fire after the date on which the document  
13      described in subsection (d)(2) is published.

14      (f) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION TO REDUCE THE RISK  
15      OF WILDFIRES TO COMMUNITIES AND TO REESTABLISH  
16      NATURAL FIRE REGIMES.—

17          (1) AVAILABILITY OF A CATEGORICAL EXCLU-  
18      SION AND EXEMPTION.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
19      the Secretary concerned may use a categorical exclu-  
20      sion for conducting hazardous fuel reduction activi-  
21      ties for a project under the pilot program if the  
22      main purpose of which is to reduce the risk of  
23      wildfires to communities or to reestablish natural  
24      fire regimes on Federal land described in subsection  
25      (d).

1           (2) LIMITATIONS FOR THE USE OF THE CAT-  
2       EGORICAL EXCLUSION.—

3           (A) REQUIREMENT FOR COLLABORA-  
4       TION.—A project covered by a categorical exclu-  
5       sion described in paragraph (1)(A) shall be—

6           (i) developed by a certified collabo-  
7       rative;

8           (ii) included in a selected proposal  
9       under the Collaborative Forest Landscape  
10      Restoration Program established under  
11      section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land  
12      Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C.  
13      7303);

14          (iii) conducted pursuant to the Tribal  
15      Forest Protection Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C.  
16      3115a); or

17          (iv) covered in a community wildfire  
18      protection plan that was developed within  
19      the 5-year period preceding the date on  
20      which the hazardous fuels reduction  
21      project is authorized under this section.

22          (B) SIZE CONSTRAINT IN THE WILDLAND-  
23      URBAN INTERFACE.—A project that is covered  
24      by the categorical exclusion described in para-  
25      graph (1)(A) and conducted in the wildland-



1 urban interface shall not cover more than 3,000  
2 acres of Federal land.

3 (C) APPLICATION TO PRESCRIBED  
4 FIRES.—The Secretary concerned may use the  
5 categorical exclusion described in paragraph  
6 (1)(A) to conduct a prescribed fire outside the  
7 wildland-urban interface, regardless of the acre-  
8 age covered by the prescribed fire—

9 (i) to treat a site initially; or

10 (ii) to maintain the site.

11 (D) PRESCRIBED FIRE ASSOCIATED AC-  
12 TIVITIES.—A project covered by the categorical  
13 exclusion described in paragraph (1)(A) may in-  
14 clude activities associated with a prescribed fire,  
15 including hazardous fuel reduction activities  
16 and the construction of fire control lines, if—

17 (i) the Secretary concerned conducts  
18 the prescribed fire on the Federal land on  
19 which the Secretary concerned conducted  
20 the associated activities by the date that is  
21 not later than 4 years after the date on  
22 which the Secretary concerned commenced  
23 the associated activities; and

24 (ii) the project is located outside the  
25 wildland-urban interface.

1 (E) PESTICIDES.—A project covered by  
2 the categorical exclusion described in paragraph  
3 (1)(A) shall not include the use of herbicide or  
4 insecticide.

5 (F) EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.—

6 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary con-  
7 cerned shall apply the extraordinary cir-  
8 cumstances procedures under section 220.6  
9 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or  
10 successor regulations), in determining  
11 whether to use the categorical exclusion de-  
12 scribed in paragraph (1)(A).

13 (ii) FURTHER GUIDANCE.—The Sec-  
14 retary concerned may not use the categor-  
15 ical exclusion described in paragraph  
16 (1)(A) for a project located in any des-  
17 ignated critical habitat for a species listed  
18 as a threatened species or an endangered  
19 species under the Endangered Species Act  
20 of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) unless—

21 (I) the natural fire regimes on  
22 that land are identified as being im-  
23 portant for, or wildfire is identified as  
24 a threat to, an endangered species, a  
25 threatened species, or habitat of an

1 endangered species or threatened spe-  
2 cies in a species recovery plan pre-  
3 pared under section 4 of the Endan-  
4 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
5 1533), or a notice published in the  
6 Federal Register determining a spe-  
7 cies to be an endangered species or a  
8 threatened species or designating crit-  
9 ical habitat;

10 (II) the authorized hazardous  
11 fuel reduction project will provide en-  
12 hanced protection from uncharacteris-  
13 tic wildfire for the endangered species,  
14 threatened species, or habitat of the  
15 endangered species or threatened spe-  
16 cies; and

17 (III) the Secretary complies with  
18 any applicable guidelines specified in  
19 any management or recovery plan de-  
20 scribed in subparagraph (A).

21 (3) DECISION MEMORANDUM.—The Secretary  
22 concerned shall document in a decision memo-  
23 randum any decision of the Secretary concerned to  
24 use the categorical exclusion described in paragraph

1       (1)(A) to carry out hazardous fuel reduction activi-  
2       ties under this section.

3           (4) PUBLIC NOTICE.—With respect to a pro-  
4       posed project to carry out hazardous fuel reduction  
5       activities under this section, the Secretary concerned  
6       shall—

7           (A) conduct a public scoping process for  
8       the proposed project; and

9           (B) if the Secretary concerned uses a cat-  
10      egorical exclusion described in paragraph  
11      (1)(A), distribute to any parties interested in  
12      the proposed project the applicable decision  
13      memorandum prepared under paragraph (3).

14      (g) LIMITATIONS ON PILOT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—  
15      In conducting a project under the pilot program, the Sec-  
16      retary concerned—

17           (1) shall seek to maximize the retention of old  
18      trees and medium- and large-sized trees, as appro-  
19      priate for the forest type, to the extent that the  
20      trees promote fire-resilient stands and the objectives  
21      identified in this section can be achieved;

22           (2) shall seek to remove the appropriate quan-  
23      tity of small diameter trees and to treat accumula-  
24      tions of slash found in the Federal land described in  
25      subsection (d);

1           (3) shall ensure activities are consistent with  
2           the applicable forest plan; and

3           (4) shall not construct a permanent road.

4           (h) ROADS EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding sub-  
5 section (g)(4), the Secretary concerned—

6           (1) may include necessary maintenance of, re-  
7           pairs to, or rehabilitation of an existing permanent  
8           road to accomplish the objectives of this section; and

9           (2) shall decommission any temporary road con-  
10          structed in carrying out a project under the pilot  
11          program by not later than 3 years after the earlier  
12          of the date on which—

13                 (A) the temporary road is no longer need-  
14                 ed; or

15                 (B) the project is completed.

16          (i) PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

17                 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a com-  
18                 mittee, to be known as the “Pilot Monitoring Com-  
19                 mittee” (referred to in this subsection as the “Com-  
20                 mittee”), which shall—

21                         (A) monitor the impacts on wildfire risk  
22                         and the ecological effects of the projects being  
23                         implemented under the pilot program; and

24                         (B) provide regular feedback to the Secre-  
25                         taries on the implementation of the pilot pro-

1           gram and suggested timing of the treatments  
2           under the pilot program.

3           (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

4                 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall  
5           consist of not more than 12 members, to be ap-  
6           pointed by the Secretaries for a term of not  
7           fewer than 2 and not more than 4 years.

8                 (B) MEMBERSHIP.—The membership of  
9           the Committee shall consist of representatives  
10          of—

11                         (i) a wildlife conservation organiza-  
12                         tion;

13                         (ii) an environmental organization;

14                         (iii) the timber industry;

15                         (iv) a professional society for natural  
16                         resource managers;

17                         (v) a fire department in an at-risk  
18                         community;

19                         (vi) a State forestry agency;

20                         (vii) a Firewise community with a  
21                         community wildfire protection plan in ef-  
22                         fect on the date of the appointment;

23                         (viii) a federally recognized Indian  
24                         tribe;

25                         (ix) a prescribed fire council;

1 (x) scientists researching wildfires;  
2 and

3 (xi) a certified collaborative.

4 (C) PAY AND EXPENSES.—

5 (i) COMPENSATION.—A member of  
6 the Committee shall serve without com-  
7 pensation.

8 (ii) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member  
9 of the Committee shall be allowed travel  
10 expenses, including per diem in lieu of sub-  
11 sistence, in accordance with section 5703  
12 of title 5, United States Code.

13 (j) REPORTS.—

14 (1) ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTING.—Once each  
15 fiscal year through fiscal year 2027, the Secretaries  
16 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-  
17 gress a concise report describing the accomplish-  
18 ments of the Secretaries in implementing the pilot  
19 program.

20 (2) FINAL REPORT ON PROGRAM.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
22 before the date on which the pilot program ter-  
23 minates under subsection (k), the Secretaries  
24 shall prepare a final report describing the im-  
25 plementation and results of the pilot program.

1 (B) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The final report  
2 shall include recommendations of the Secre-  
3 taries relating to—

4 (i) whether the authorization for the  
5 categorical exclusion described in sub-  
6 section (f)(1)(A) should be extended, let  
7 expire, or made permanent;

8 (ii) the manner in which the pilot pro-  
9 gram should be modified; and

10 (iii) if and how the scope of the pilot  
11 program should be expanded, including  
12 whether the pilot program should be ex-  
13 panded to dry mixed-conifer forests.

14 (C) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretaries shall  
15 submit to the appropriate committees of Con-  
16 gress, and make available to the public, the  
17 final report.

18 (k) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authorities  
19 provided by and requirements described in this section  
20 shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date  
21 of enactment of this Act.

22 (l) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Any contract entered into by  
23 the Secretaries under this section before the date de-  
24 scribed in subsection (k) shall not be affected by the termi-  
25 nation of the pilot program.



1 (m) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Section 106 of the Healthy  
 2 Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6516) shall  
 3 apply to a forest management activity carried out under  
 4 this section in the same manner as that section applies  
 5 to an authorized hazardous fuel reduction project under  
 6 that Act.

7 (n) EFFECT OF SECTION.—Nothing in this section—

8 (1) affects, or otherwise biases, the use by the  
 9 Secretary concerned of any other statutory or ad-  
 10 ministrative authority (including any categorical ex-  
 11 clusion available under the National Environmental  
 12 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)) to  
 13 carry out one or more forest management activities  
 14 under this section; or

15 (2) prohibits the Secretary concerned from car-  
 16 rying out a treatment in an ecologically sensitive  
 17 area, if the area is in need of restoration.

18 **SEC. 9. INCREASING CERTAINTY FOR THE LOCAL WORK-**  
 19 **FORCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY**  
 20 **FOR RESTORATION.**

21 (a) CLARIFICATION ON USE OF STEWARDSHIP AU-  
 22 THORITIES.—The Secretary concerned may issue a stew-  
 23 ardship contract or enter into a stewardship agreement  
 24 under the authority provided in section 604 of the Healthy  
 25 Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) for

1 periods of not longer than 10 years to conduct prescribed  
2 fires on Federal land.

3 (b) PILOT PROGRAM FOR LONG-TERM CONTRACTS  
4 FOR RESTORATION OF FIRE-DEPENDENT FORESTS.—

5 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—Subject to the avail-  
6 ability of appropriations, the Secretaries shall estab-  
7 lish a pilot program to award contracts or agree-  
8 ments for terms of not longer than 20 years to carry  
9 out restoration projects or hazardous fuels reduction  
10 projects on Federal land (referred to in this sub-  
11 section as the “pilot program”).

12 (2) LIMITATIONS.—

13 (A) QUANTITY.—The Secretaries may  
14 enter into not more than 10 contracts or agree-  
15 ments under the pilot program during the pe-  
16 riod beginning on the date of enactment of this  
17 Act and ending on September 30, 2027.

18 (B) TYPES OF CONTRACTS.—Under the  
19 pilot program, the Secretary concerned may  
20 award only—

21 (i) timber contracts under section 14  
22 of the National Forest Management Act of  
23 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a); or

24 (ii) stewardship contracts and agree-  
25 ments under section 604 of the Healthy

1 Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16  
2 U.S.C. 6591c).

3 (C) LOCATIONS.—

4 (i) TYPE OF FORESTS.—The Secre-  
5 taries may enter into a contract or agree-  
6 ment under the pilot program to carry out  
7 projects only on Federal land located with-  
8 in Fire Regime Group I.

9 (ii) ADDITIONAL CRITERIA.—The Sec-  
10 retaries may enter into a contract or  
11 agreement under the pilot program only in  
12 a location for which there are fewer than  
13 2 local entities that are able to process for-  
14 est products from the contract or agree-  
15 ment.

16 (D) PREFERENCES.—In awarding a con-  
17 tract or agreement under the pilot program, the  
18 Secretary concerned shall give preference to an  
19 entity that will use forest products to manufac-  
20 ture—

21 (i) wood products that can be used in  
22 green building construction; or

23 (ii) mass timbers, including cross-lam-  
24 inated timber.

(4) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Any contract or agreement entered into by the Secretaries under this subsection before the termination of the pilot program shall not be affected by that termination.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 409 of the National For-  
est Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–7) is amended to  
read as follows:

11 "SEC. 409. ACTIVITIES OF THE FOUNDATION AND THE FOR-  
12 EST SERVICE.

“(a) CERTIFICATION OF COLLABORATIVES.—Not later than September 30, 2019, the Foundation shall establish and administer a program to certify as a collaborative a group of interested persons that—

“(1) is interested in assisting the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to increase the quantity of projects or activities carried out by the applicable Secretary on an individual unit of National Forest System land or public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, as applicable, in accordance with the management plan that covers the land; and

25 “(2) at a minimum—

1           “(A) includes a diverse and balanced rep-  
2           resentation of stakeholders;

3           “(B) establishes clear expectations and  
4           goals;

5           “(C) has a goal of maximum transparency  
6           in the decisionmaking process;

7           “(D) encourages stakeholders to function  
8           as representatives;

9           “(E) recognizes timeframes and resources;  
10          and

11          “(F) enhances agency decisionmaking.

12          “(b) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—The activities of the Foun-  
13          dation shall supplement, and shall not preempt, any au-  
14          thority or responsibility of the Forest Service under any  
15          other law.”.

16          (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
17          410 of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C.  
18          583j–8) is amended by adding at the end the following:

19          “(c) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—

20                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
21                 appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture to carry  
22                 out section 409(a) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2018  
23                 and each fiscal year thereafter.

24                 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of Agri-  
25                 culture shall make available to the Foundation the

1        amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) to  
2        match, on a 1-for-1 basis, private contributions  
3        made to the Foundation to establish or administer  
4        the certification program required under section  
5        409(a).”.

6    **SEC. 11. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

7        The authority provided by this Act and the amend-  
8        ments made by this Act terminate on the date that is 10  
9        years after the date of enactment of this Act.

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