

We have a Sierra Nevada Framework that will restrict access to over 11 million acres of California forest.

We have the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Plan (ICBEMP) that would limit the use of 60 million acres in the northwest.

Add to that 2 million acres of new national monuments created just this year.

All of these proposals and changes are policies that conflict with, rather than complement, a cohesive national fire strategy.

Mr. Speaker, this year we will spend close to a billion dollars fighting catastrophic fires in the West. A lot of that will be emergency money tacked on top of the budget. Then next year, we will spend hundreds of millions more restoring some of these areas to avoid mudslides and erosion. It doesn't have to be this way.

The bipartisan resolution I am introducing today, with original cosponsors from the East, the South and the West, calls on the U.S. Forest Service and other land management agencies to create a cohesive fuels strategy.

This resolution is identical to the bill that recently passed the California State Assembly. It has strong bipartisan cosponsorship and passed on a unanimous vote.

Similar legislation has been adopted by the State Legislatures in Colorado, Idaho and Arizona, also with bipartisan support.

Our States are calling out for help. Federal forest lands need better care. Specifically:

1. We need a strategy to reduce accumulated fuels. Dense brush cannot be burned with prescribed fire until the small trees are removed mechanically. A fuels reduction strategy will include both of these important tools.

2. We need a strategy to remove diseased trees. Insects and pathogens infect 26 million acres of federal trees and they threaten state

and private forests nearby. These trees can be removed and used in order to improve the overall health of the forest.

3. And we need to include states, locals and private business in the effort. A collaborative approach will ensure that important local variations are included in the plans.

Mr. Speaker, the Forest Service is being pulled in so many directions that their mission seems unclear. I want this Congress to give them some leadership. The priority should be fuels reduction and forest health. These are the highest priority the U.S. Congress has for forest management.

This resolution says clearly that we want such a strategy incorporated into new regulatory proposals and that we want locals involved.

This summer, we have witnessed a real tragedy as millions of acres burned. But keep in mind that over 57 million acres are still at high risk. Not even ten percent of the total has burned this year.

There is still time to create a strategy and to save what's left. We need to protect the Western environment and to protect the people who live there.

HONORING U.S. ATTORNEYS AND
INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS
FROM THE 9TH DISTRICT OF
TEXAS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 22, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commend a team of law enforcement

professionals, U.S. attorneys, and Internet service providers who worked together in recent weeks in federally charging a health teacher and trainer in my district of possessing and receiving child pornography.

An investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation found that he was using his home computer to download child pornography from the Internet. Authorities became aware of this man's activities through Operation Innocent Images, a partnership between U.S. Customs and the FBI that is responsible for tracking pedophiles on the Internet. The FBI has the ability to monitor certain activity over the Internet that they believe deals with child pornography or the sexual exploitation of children. In doing this, they have set up a number of operations around the country to monitor activities in a cooperative effort with local law enforcement agencies and all Internet Service Providers (ISP). ISP's help to monitor Internet activity and furnish investigative leads if they believe that a person is inappropriately using the Internet.

I'd also like to commend U.S. Attorney Mike Bradford, who succinctly stated, "Those offenders who possess and distribute child pornography perpetuate the exploitation of children depicted in the pornographic images. Those who use the Internet to acquire or exchange child pornography commit serious crimes and will be prosecuted when caught. The message we want to convey is an absolute intolerance of child exploitation."