

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 8790, AS REPORTED  
OFFERED BY MR. HUFFMAN OF CALIFORNIA**

Page 3, strike line 3 and all that follows through the  
end of the bill 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.  
Sec. 3. Trust responsibility.

**TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE RESTORATION**

**Subtitle A—Addressing 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. Fireshed management projects.  
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.  
Sec. 115. Joint Chiefs landscape restoration partnership program.  
Sec. 116. Collaborative forest landscape restoration program.

**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. 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.

Sec. 306. Keeping forest plans current and monitored.

## 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.

16 (5) FOREST PLAN.—The term “forest plan”  
17 means—

18 (A) a land use plan prepared by the Bu-  
19 reau of Land Management for public lands pur-

1           suant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy  
2           and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.  
3           1712);

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

10          (C) a forest management plan (as defined  
11          in section 304 of the National Indian Forests  
12          Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3104))  
13          with respect to Indian forest land or rangeland.

14          (6) GOVERNOR.—The term “Governor” means  
15          the Governor or any other appropriate executive offi-  
16          cial of an affected State or Indian Tribe or the Com-  
17          monwealth of Puerto Rico.

18          (7) HAZARDOUS FUELS MANAGEMENT ACTIVI-  
19          TIES.—The term “hazardous fuels management ac-  
20          tivities” means any vegetation management activities  
21          (or combination thereof) that aim to reduce the risk  
22          of wildfire, including mechanical thinning, mastica-  
23          tion, prescribed burning, cultural burning (as deter-  
24          mined by the applicable Indian Tribe), and grazing.

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

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

10 (A) is held in trust by, or with a restriction  
11 against alienation by, the United States for an  
12 Indian Tribe or a member of an Indian Tribe;  
13 and

14 (B)(i)(I) is Indian forest land (as defined  
15 in section 304 of the National Indian Forest  
16 Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103));  
17 or

18 (II) has a cover of grasses,  
19 brush, or any similar vegetation; or

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

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

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

6           (12) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”  
7           has the meaning given that term in section 103 of  
8           the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of  
9           1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702), except that the term in-  
10          cludes Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands and Or-  
11          egon and California Railroad Grant lands.

12          (13) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
13          TEES.—The term “relevant Congressional Commit-  
14          tees” means—

15                (A) the Committees on Natural Resources  
16                and Agriculture of the House of Representa-  
17                tives; and

18                (B) the Committees on Energy and Nat-  
19                ural Resources and Agriculture, Nutrition, and  
20                Forestry of the Senate.

21          (14) RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.—The term “re-  
22          sponsible official” means an employee of the Depart-  
23          ment of the Interior or Forest Service who has the  
24          authority to make and implement a decision on a  
25          proposed action.

1 (15) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”  
2 means each of—

3 (A) the Secretary of the Interior; and

4 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 (16) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
6 means the Secretary of Agriculture.

7 (17) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term  
8 “Secretary concerned” means—

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

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

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

16 **SEC. 3. TRUST RESPONSIBILITY.**

17 Nothing in this Act shall be construed as absolving  
18 the Federal Government from—

19 (1) trust responsibilities of the United States  
20 with respect to Indian Tribes; or

21 (2) responsibilities for government-to-govern-  
22 ment consultation with Indian Tribes.

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

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

7       (a) INITIAL DESIGNATIONS.—For the period begin-  
8       ning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on  
9       the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of  
10      this Act, there are designated fireshed management areas,  
11      which—

12           (1) shall be comprised of individual landscape-  
13      scale firesheds identified as being a high risk  
14      fireshed in the “Wildfire Crisis Strategy” published  
15      by the Forest Service in January 2022;

16           (2) shall be comprised of individual landscape-  
17      scale firesheds identified by the Secretary, in con-  
18      sultation with the Secretary of the Interior, as being  
19      in the top 20 percent of the 7,688 firesheds pub-  
20      lished by the Rocky Mountain Research Station of  
21      the Forest Service in 2019 for exposure to unnatu-  
22      ral, high-severity wildfire based on the following cri-  
23      teria—

1 (A) wildfire exposure and corresponding  
2 risk to communities, including risk to structures  
3 and life;

4 (B) wildfire exposure and corresponding  
5 risk to municipal watersheds, including tribal  
6 water supplies and systems; and

7 (3) shall not overlap with any other fireshed  
8 management areas;

9 (4) may contain Federal and non-Federal land,  
10 including Indian forest lands or rangelands; and

11 (5) the Secretary concerned may carry out  
12 fireshed management projects in.

13 (b) FURTHER FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREA DES-  
14 IGNATIONS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—On the date that is 5 years  
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act and every  
17 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation  
18 with the Secretary of the Interior, shall submit to  
19 the relevant Congressional Committees an updated  
20 map of firesheds based on the Fireshed Registry  
21 maintained under section 103.

22 (2) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 60 days  
23 after submitting an updated fireshed map under  
24 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, based on such  
25 map, designate additional fireshed management



1 areas that are identified as being in the top 20 per-  
2 cent of firesheds at risk of wildfire exposure based  
3 on the criteria specified in paragraphs (2), (3), (4),  
4 and (5) of subsection (a).

5 **SEC. 102. FIRESHED CENTER.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
8 through the Chief of the Forest Service, and the  
9 Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Direc-  
10 tor of the U.S. Geological Survey, shall jointly estab-  
11 lish a Fireshed Center (hereinafter referred to as the  
12 “Center”) comprised of at least one career rep-  
13 resentative from each of the following:

14 (A) The Forest Service.

15 (B) The Bureau of Land Management.

16 (C) The National Park Service.

17 (D) The Bureau of Indian Affairs.

18 (E) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

19 (F) The U.S. Geological Survey.

20 (G) The Department of Defense.

21 (H) The Department of Homeland Secu-  
22 rity.

23 (I) The Department of Energy.

24 (J) The Federal Emergency Management  
25 Agency.

1 (K) The National Science Foundation.

2 (L) The National Oceanic and Atmos-  
3 pheric Administration.

4 (M) The National Aeronautics and Space  
5 Administration.

6 (N) The National Institute of Standards  
7 and Technology.

8 (O) The Environmental Protection Agency.

9 (2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary, acting through  
10 the Chief of the Forest Service, and the Secretary  
11 of the Interior, acting through the Director of the  
12 U.S. Geological Survey, shall jointly appoint a Direc-  
13 tor of the Center, who—

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

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

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

21 (3) ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATION.—The Sec-  
22 retary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-  
23 ice and the Secretary of the Interior, acting through  
24 the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey—

1 (A) shall jointly appoint an individual to  
2 the Center to serve as Tribal liaison; and

3 (B) may jointly appoint additional rep-  
4 resentatives of Federal agencies to the Center,  
5 as the Secretaries determine necessary.

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

7 (1) comprehensively assess and predict fire and  
8 smoke in the wildland and built environment inter-  
9 face across jurisdictions to inform—

10 (A) land and fuels management;

11 (B) community, public health, and built  
12 environment risk reduction; and

13 (C) fire response and post-fire recovery;

14 (2) provide data aggregation, real-time pre-  
15 dictive services, and science-based decision support  
16 services, including through modeling of pre-fire cli-  
17 mate conditions;

18 (3) reduce fragmentation and duplication across  
19 Federal land management agencies with respect to  
20 predictive service and decision support functions re-  
21 lated to wildland fire and smoke;

22 (4) promote coordination and sharing of data  
23 regarding wildland fire and smoke decision making  
24 between Federal agencies, States, Indian Tribes,

1 local governments, academic or research institutions,  
2 and private entities;

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

6 (6) provide publicly accessible data, models,  
7 technologies (including mapping technologies), as-  
8 sessments, and fire weather forecasts to support  
9 short- and long-term planning regarding wildland  
10 fire and smoke risk reduction and post-fire recovery;

11 (7) inform activities that protect public health  
12 and safety during and after a fire, including—

13 (A) mapping services and data provision to  
14 support evacuation decisions; and

15 (B) monitoring of air quality for informa-  
16 tion about air-related health risks; and

17 (8) maintain the Fireshed Registry established  
18 under section 103.

19 (c) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Center  
20 may enter into memorandums of understanding, con-  
21 tracts, or other agreements with State governments, In-  
22 dian Tribes, local governments, academic or research insti-  
23 tutions, and private entities to improve the information  
24 and operations of the Center.

1 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-  
2 ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—

3 (1) USGS SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the In-  
4 terior shall make personnel of the U.S. Geological  
5 Survey available to the Center for such administra-  
6 tive support, technical services, and development and  
7 dissemination of data as the Secretary determines  
8 necessary to carry out this section.

9 (2) USFS SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall  
10 make personnel of the Forest Service available to  
11 the Center for such administrative support, technical  
12 services, and the development and dissemination of  
13 information related to fire management and the  
14 Fire Management Registry as the Secretary determines nec-  
15 essary to carry out this section.

16 (e) COORDINATION AND COLOCATION.—The Center  
17 may coordinate and colocate activities of the Center with  
18 other interagency efforts, including—

19 (1) efforts of the National Wildfire Coordi-  
20 nating Group;

21 (2) efforts of the National Interagency Fire  
22 Center; or

23 (3) other interagency efforts, as the Secretaries  
24 determine appropriate.

1 **SEC. 103. FIRESHED REGISTRY.**

2 (a) FIRESHED REGISTRY.—The Secretary, acting  
3 through the Director of the Fireshed Center appointed  
4 under section 102, shall maintain a Fireshed Registry on  
5 a publicly accessible website that provides interactive  
6 geospatial data on individual firesheds, including informa-  
7 tion on—

8 (1) wildfire exposure delineated by ownership,  
9 including rights-of-way for utilities and other public  
10 or private purposes;

11 (2) any hazardous fuels management activities  
12 that have occurred within an individual fireshed in  
13 the past 10 years;

14 (3) wildfire exposure with respect to such  
15 fireshed delineated by—

16 (A) wildfire exposure and corresponding  
17 risk to communities, including risk to structures  
18 and life;

19 (B) wildfire exposure and corresponding  
20 risk to municipal watersheds, including tribal  
21 water supplies and systems; and

22 (C) risk of forest conversion, permanent  
23 vegetation conversion, or long-term loss of eco-  
24 system components due to wildfire;

25 (4) the percentage of the fireshed that has  
26 burned in wildfires in the past 10 years, including,

1 to the extent practicable, delineations of acres that  
2 have burned at a high severity;

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

5 (6) any hazardous fuels management activities  
6 planned for the fireshed, including fireshed manage-  
7 ment projects.

8 (b) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS.—

9 The Director shall make data from the Fireshed Registry  
10 available to local communities developing or updating com-  
11 munity wildfire protection plans.

12 (c) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN.—As part of the  
13 website containing the Fireshed Registry, the Director  
14 shall—

15 (1) publish fireshed assessments created under  
16 section 105; and

17 (2) maintain a searchable database to track—

18 (A) the status of Federal environmental re-  
19 views, permits, and authorizations for fireshed  
20 management projects, including—

21 (i) a comprehensive permitting time-  
22 table;

23 (ii) the status of the compliance of  
24 each lead agency, cooperating agency, and  
25 participating agency with the permitting

1 timetable with respect to such fireshed  
2 management projects;

3 (iii) any modifications of the permit-  
4 ting timetable required under clause (i), in-  
5 cluding an explanation as to why the per-  
6 mitting timetable was modified; and

7 (iv) information about project-related  
8 public meetings, public hearings, and pub-  
9 lic comment periods, which shall be pre-  
10 sented in English and the predominant  
11 language of the community or communities  
12 most affected by the project, as that infor-  
13 mation becomes available;

14 (B) the projected cost of such fireshed  
15 management projects; and

16 (C) in the case of completed fireshed man-  
17 agement projects, the effectiveness of such  
18 projects in reducing the wildfire exposure within  
19 an applicable fireshed, including wildfire expo-  
20 sure described in subparagraphs (A) through  
21 (C) of subsection (a)(3).

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



1 (e) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out this section, the  
2 Director may enter into memorandums of understanding  
3 with State governments, Indian Tribes, local governments,  
4 academic institutions, research institutions, or private en-  
5 tities to improve the information and data used in the  
6 Fireshed Registry.

7 **SEC. 104. SHARED STEWARDSHIP.**

8 (a) JOINT AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days  
9 after receiving a written request from a Governor of a  
10 State or an Indian Tribe, the Secretary concerned shall,  
11 under terms deemed appropriate by the Secretary con-  
12 cerned, enter into a shared stewardship agreement (or  
13 similar agreement) with such Governor or Indian Tribe  
14 to jointly—

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

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

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

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

- (1) designate additional fireshed management areas under such agreement; and
- (2) update such agreement to address new wild-fire threats.

(c) **SHARED STEWARDSHIP.**—A shared stewardship agreement (or similar agreement) entered into between the Secretary concerned and a Governor of a State or an Indian Tribe before the date on which the Secretary concerned receives a written request from the Governor or the Indian Tribe pursuant to subsection (a) may be treated as an agreement under subsection (a), if the Governor or the Indian Tribe approves such treatment.

(d) **TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO INDIAN TRIBES.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds to be transferred to an Indian Tribe to support a shared stewardship agreement under subsection (a) shall, upon request of the Indian Tribe, be transferred to the Indian Tribe pursuant to a contract, compact, or funding agreement awarded pursuant to title I or title IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

**SEC. 105. FIRESHED ASSESSMENTS.**

(a) **FIRESHED ASSESSMENTS.**—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
2           the date on which the Secretary concerned enters  
3           into an agreement with a Governor of a State or an  
4           Indian Tribe under section 104, the Secretary con-  
5           cerned and such Governor or Indian Tribe may, with  
6           respect to the fireshed management areas designated  
7           in such State or Tribal lands, jointly conduct a  
8           fireshed assessment that—

9                   (A) identifies—

10                       (i) using the best available and high-  
11                       quality science, wildfire exposure risks  
12                       within each such fireshed management  
13                       area, including scenario planning and wild-  
14                       fire hazard mapping and models; and

15                       (ii) each at-risk community within  
16                       each fireshed management area;

17                   (B) identifies potential fireshed manage-  
18                   ment projects to be carried out in such fireshed  
19                   management areas, giving priority—

20                       (i) primarily, to projects with the pur-  
21                       pose of reducing—

22                           (I) wildfire exposure and cor-  
23                           responding risk to communities, in-  
24                           cluding risk to structures and life;

1 (II) wildfire exposure and cor-  
2 responding risk to municipal water-  
3 sheds, including tribal water supplies  
4 and systems;

5 (III) risk of forest conversion due  
6 to wildfire; or

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

10 (ii) secondarily, to projects with the  
11 purpose of protecting—

12 (I) critical infrastructure, includ-  
13 ing utility infrastructure;

14 (II) wildlife habitats, including  
15 habitat for species listed under the  
16 Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C.  
17 1531 et seq.);

18 (III) the built environment, in-  
19 cluding residential and commercial  
20 buildings;

21 (IV) resources of an Indian  
22 Tribe, as defined by the Indian Tribe;  
23 or

- 1 (V) any combination of purposes  
2 described in subclauses (I) through  
3 (IV);  
4 (C) includes—  
5 (i) a strategy for reducing the threat  
6 of wildfire to at-risk communities in the  
7 wildland-urban interface on Federal, non-  
8 Federal land, and Tribal lands;  
9 (ii) a timeline for the implementation  
10 of fireshed management projects;  
11 (iii) long-term benchmark goals for  
12 the completion of fireshed management  
13 projects in the highest wildfire exposure  
14 areas so that such projects contribute to  
15 the development and maintenance of  
16 healthy and resilient landscapes; and  
17 (iv) policies to ensure fireshed man-  
18 agement projects comply with applicable  
19 forest plans and incorporate the best avail-  
20 able and high-quality science;  
21 (D) shall be regularly updated based on  
22 the best available and high-quality science, as  
23 determined by the Secretary concerned; and  
24 (E) shall be publicly available on a website  
25 maintained by the Secretary concerned.

1           (2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION.—

2       Upon the written request of a local government, the  
3       Secretary concerned and the Governor of the State  
4       in which the local government is located may allow  
5       such local government to participate in producing  
6       the fireshed assessment under paragraph (1) for  
7       such State.

8           (3) INFORMATION IMPROVEMENT.—

9           (A) MEMORANDUMS OF UNDER-  
10       STANDING.—In carrying out a fireshed assess-  
11       ment under this subsection, the Secretary con-  
12       cerned may enter into memorandums of under-  
13       standing with other Federal agencies or depart-  
14       ments, States, Indian Tribes, private entities,  
15       or research or educational institutions to im-  
16       prove, with respect to such assessment, the use  
17       and integration of—

18                   (i) advanced remote sensing and  
19                   geospatial technologies;

20                   (ii) statistical modeling and analysis;

21                   or

22                   (iii) any other technology or combina-  
23       tion of technologies and analyses that the  
24       Secretary concerned determines will benefit  
25       the quality of information of such an as-

1                    sessment, such as linking fireshed manage-  
2                    ment to critical societal values (including  
3                    fire risk reduction, air quality, water qual-  
4                    ity, and fish and wildlife well-being).

5                    (B) BEST AVAILABLE, HIGH-QUALITY  
6                    SCIENCE.—In using the best available and high-  
7                    quality science for the fireshed assessments  
8                    completed under subsection (a)(1), the Sec-  
9                    retary concerned and Governor or Indian Tribe  
10                   shall, to the maximum extent practicable, incor-  
11                   porate—

12                   (i) traditional ecological knowledge  
13                   from Indian Tribes, or other applicable In-  
14                   digenous Knowledge;

15                   (ii) data from State forest action  
16                   plans and State wildfire risk assessments;

17                   (iii) data from the Fireshed Registry  
18                   maintained under section 103;

19                   (iv) data from other Federal, State,  
20                   Tribal, and local governments or agencies;  
21                   and

22                   (v) commercial data.

23                   (C) DATA SOVEREIGNTY.—With respect to  
24                   the incorporation of any traditional ecological  
25                   knowledge from an Indian Tribe required under

1           subparagraph (B)(i), the Secretary concerned  
2           and the Governor (if applicable) shall enter into  
3           such agreements as are necessary with the In-  
4           dian Tribe to protect any confidential informa-  
5           tion and to ensure such incorporation is not ap-  
6           propriative.

7   **SEC. 106. FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.**

8           (a) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned,  
10          acting through a responsible official, may carry out  
11          fireshed management projects in fireshed manage-  
12          ment areas designated under section 101 in accord-  
13          ance with this section.

14          (2) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—The  
15          responsible official may carry out the following for-  
16          est and vegetation management activities as fireshed  
17          management projects under this section:

18                 (A) Conducting hazardous fuels manage-  
19                 ment activities.

20                 (B) Creating fuel breaks and fire breaks.

21                 (C) Removing hazard trees.

22                 (D) Developing, approving, or conducting  
23          routine maintenance under a vegetation man-  
24          agement, facility inspection, and operation and  
25          maintenance plan submitted under section



1           512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Man-  
2           agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(1)).

3           (E) Using re-seeding and planting treat-  
4           ments to address insects and disease and con-  
5           trol vegetation competition or invasive species.

6           (F) Any activities recommended by an ap-  
7           plicable fireshed assessment carried out under  
8           section 105.

9           (G) Any activities recommended by an ap-  
10          plicable community wildfire protection plan.

11          (H) Any combination of activities described  
12          in this paragraph.

13          (3) COMPLIANCE.—For any fireshed manage-  
14          ment project carried out under this section, the Sec-  
15          retary concerned shall ensure compliance with all ap-  
16          plicable laws, and regulations including the National  
17          Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.),  
18          the amendments made to such statute by the Fiscal  
19          Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5), any  
20          applicable forest plan or resource management plan,  
21          and all other applicable laws.

22          (4) USE OF AUTHORITIES.—To the maximum  
23          extent practicable, the Secretary concerned may use  
24          existing authorities, or a combination of existing au-

1       thorities, to carry out fireshed management projects,  
2       including—

3               (A) good neighbor agreements entered into  
4               under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of  
5               2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) (as amended by this  
6               Act);

7               (B) stewardship contracting projects en-  
8               tered into under section 604 of the Healthy  
9               Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.  
10              6591c) (as amended by this Act);

11              (C) self-determination contracts and self-  
12              governance compact agreements entered into  
13              under the Indian Self- Determination and Edu-  
14              cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);  
15              and

16              (D) agreements entered into under the  
17              Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (25  
18              U.S.C. 3115a et seq.).

19       (b) MULTIPLE BENEFITS.—

20              (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned  
21              shall carry out activities under fireshed management  
22              projects in a manner that—

23                      (A) attains multiple ecosystem benefits, in-  
24                      cluding—

25                              (i) reducing hazardous fuels;

- 1 (ii) maintaining biological diversity;  
2 (iii) improving wetland and water  
3 quality; and  
4 (iv) increasing resilience to changing  
5 climate, temperatures and drought condi-  
6 tions;  
7 (B) is in coordination and consultation  
8 with impacted parties, including Tribal and  
9 local governments; and  
10 (C) is consistent with any applicable For-  
11 est Management Plan.

12 (2) LARGE TREE RETENTION AND ECOLOGICAL  
13 INTEGRITY.—The Secretary concerned shall carry  
14 out fireshed management projects in a manner  
15 that—

- 16 (A) focuses largely on small diameter trees,  
17 thinning, strategic fuel breaks, and prescribed  
18 fire to modify fire behavior, as measured by the  
19 projected reduction of uncharacteristically se-  
20 vere wildfire effects (such as adverse soil im-  
21 pacts, tree mortality or other effects) for the  
22 forest type;  
23 (B) maximizes the retention of large trees,  
24 as appropriate for the forest type; and

1 (C) considers the best available scientific  
2 information to maintain or restore the ecologi-  
3 cal integrity, including maintaining or restoring  
4 structure, function, composition, and  
5 connectivity.

6 **SEC. 107. SUNSET.**

7 The authority under this subtitle shall terminate on  
8 the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of  
9 this Act.

10 **Subtitle B—Expanding Collaborative Tools to Reduce Wildfire**  
11 **Risk and Improve Forest Health**

13 **SEC. 111. MODIFICATION OF THE TREATMENT OF CERTAIN**  
14 **REVENUE AND PAYMENTS UNDER GOOD**  
15 **NEIGHBOR AGREEMENTS.**

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

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

21 (2) in subsection (b)—

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

24 (B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

1 (i) by striking clause (i) and inserting  
2 the following:

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Funds received  
4 from the sale of timber or forest product  
5 by a Governor, an Indian tribe, or a county  
6 under a good neighbor agreement shall be  
7 retained and used by the Governor, Indian  
8 tribe, or county, as applicable—

9 “(I) to carry out authorized res-  
10 toration services under the good  
11 neighbor agreement; and

12 “(II) if there are funds remain-  
13 ing after carrying out subclause (I),  
14 to carry out authorized restoration  
15 services under other good neighbor  
16 agreements and for the administration  
17 of a good neighbor authority program  
18 by a Governor, Indian tribe, or coun-  
19 ty.”; and

20 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “2024”  
21 and inserting “2029”;

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

24 (D) by striking paragraph (4).

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 8206(a)  
2 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)) is  
3 amended—

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

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

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

12 (1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if  
13 the project was initiated after the date of enactment  
14 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public  
15 Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or

16 (2) on or after the date of enactment of this  
17 Act.

18 **SEC. 112. FIXING STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CON-**  
19 **TRACTING.**

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

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

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

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

5           “(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARD-  
6       SHIP CONTRACTS.—

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

17          “(B) DEFINITION OF LONG-TERM AGREE-  
18      MENT OR CONTRACT.—In this paragraph, the  
19      term ‘long-term agreement or contract’ means  
20      an agreement or contract under subsection  
21      (b)—

22                  “(i) with a term of more than 5 years;  
23                  and

24                  “(ii) entered into on or after the date  
25                  of the enactment of this paragraph.”.

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

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary concerned  
3 shall establish intra-agency strike teams to assist the Sec-  
4 retary concerned with—

5 (1) any reviews, including analysis under the  
6 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
7 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under the Na-  
8 tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C.  
9 470 et seq.), and consultations under the Endan-  
10 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.),  
11 with the intent to accelerate and streamline inter-  
12 agency consultation processes;

13 (2) the implementation of any necessary site  
14 preparation work in advance of or as part of a  
15 fireshed management project;

16 (3) the implementation of fireshed management  
17 projects under such section; and

18 (4) any combination of purposes under para-  
19 graphs (1) through (3).

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

23 (1) employees of the Department under the ju-  
24 risdiction of the Secretary concerned;

25 (2) employees of a different Federal agency,  
26 with the consent of that agency's Secretary;



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

5           (4) volunteers from any nonprofit organization,  
6           State government, Indian Tribe, local government,  
7           quasi-governmental agency, academic institution, or  
8           private organization.

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

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

13          (a) THRESHOLD ADJUSTMENT.—Section 14(d) of the  
14          National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C.  
15          472a(d)) is amended by—

16               (1) striking “\$10,000” and inserting  
17               “\$55,000”; and

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

1 (b) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—Begin-  
2 ning on the date that is 30 days after the date of enact-  
3 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall solicit bids under sec-  
4 tion 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976  
5 (16 U.S.C. 472a(d)) for fireshed management projects  
6 under section 106.

7 **SEC. 115. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PART-**  
8 **nership Program.**

9 Section 40808 of the Infrastructure Investment and  
10 Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592d) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

12 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or”  
13 at the end;

14 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the  
15 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;  
16 and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(D) to recover from wildfires; or

19 “(E) to enhance soil, water, and related  
20 natural resources.”;

21 (2) in subsection (d)(1)—

22 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
23 “and post-wildfire impacts” after “wildfire  
24 risk”; and

1 (B) in subparagraph (F), by inserting “,  
2 as identified in the corresponding State forest  
3 action plan or similar priority plan (such as a  
4 State wildlife or water plan)” before the semi-  
5 colon;

6 (3) in subsection (g)(2), by inserting “and at  
7 least once every 2 fiscal years thereafter” after “and  
8 2023”; and

9 (4) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “and  
10 2023” and inserting “through 2028”.

11 **SEC. 116. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORA-**  
12 **TION PROGRAM.**

13 Section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Manage-  
14 ment Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b)(3)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “spe-  
17 cies;” and inserting “species or pathogens;”;

18 (B) in subparagraph (G), by striking  
19 “and” at the end;

20 (C) in subparagraph (H), by adding “and”  
21 after the semicolon at the end; and

22 (D) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(I) address standardized monitoring ques-  
24 tions and indicators;”;

25 (2) in subsection (c)(3)(A)—

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

3 (B) in clause (ii), by adding “and” at the  
4 end; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(iii) include a plan to provide sup-  
7 port to collaborative processes established  
8 pursuant to subsection (b)(2);”;

9 (3) in subsection (d)—

10 (A) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
12 “and” at the end;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
14 the period at the end and inserting “;  
15 and”; and

16 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(G) proposals that seek to use innovative  
19 implementation mechanisms, including good  
20 neighbor agreements entered into under section  
21 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16  
22 U.S.C. 2113a);

23 “(H) proposals that seek to reduce the risk  
24 of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase ecologi-  
25 cal restoration activities—

1 “(i) within areas across land owner-  
2 ships, including State, Tribal, and private  
3 land; and

4 “(ii) within the wildland-urban inter-  
5 face (as defined in section 101 of the  
6 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003  
7 (16 U.S.C. 6511)); and

8 “(I) proposals that seek to enhance water-  
9 shed health and drinking water sources.”; and  
10 (B) in paragraph (3)—

11 (i) by amending subparagraph (A) to  
12 read as follows:

13 “(A) 4 proposals in any 1 region of the  
14 National Forest System to be funded during  
15 any fiscal year; and”;

16 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

17 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph  
18 (C) as subparagraph (B); and

19 (4) in subsection (f)—

20 (A) in paragraph (4)(B)(ii), by striking  
21 “\$4,000,000” and inserting “\$8,000,000”; and

22 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking “2019  
23 through 2023” and inserting “2023 through  
24 2029”.

1 **TITLE II—PROTECTING COMMU-**  
2 **NITIES IN THE WILDLAND-**  
3 **URBAN INTERFACE**

4 **SEC. 201. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PRO-**  
5 **GRAM.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after  
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall  
8 jointly establish an interagency program to be known as  
9 the “Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program” that  
10 shall consist of at least one representative from each of  
11 the following:

12 (1) The Office of Wildland Fire of the Depart-  
13 ment of the Interior.

14 (2) The National Park Service.

15 (3) The Bureau of Land Management.

16 (4) The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-  
17 ice.

18 (5) The Bureau of Indian Affairs.

19 (6) The Forest Service.

20 (7) The Federal Emergency Management Agen-  
21 cy.

22 (8) The United States Fire Administration.

23 (9) The National Institute of Standards and  
24 Technology.

25 (10) The Environmental Protection Agency.

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

6 (1) advancing research and science in wildfire  
7 resilience and land management, including support  
8 for non-Federal research partnerships;

9 (2) supporting adoption by Indian Tribes and  
10 local governmental entities of fire-resistant building  
11 methods, codes, and standards;

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

16 (4) encouraging public-private partnerships to  
17 conduct hazardous fuels management activities in  
18 the wildland-urban interface;

19 (5) providing technical and financial assistance  
20 targeted towards communities, including tribal com-  
21 munities, including—

22 (A) streamlined and unified technical as-  
23 sistance and grant management mechanisms,  
24 including the portal and grant application es-  
25 tablished under subsection (c), to—

1 (i) encourage critical risk reduction  
2 measures on private property with high  
3 wildfire risk exposure in such communities;  
4 and

5 (ii) mitigate costs for and improve ca-  
6 pacity among such communities;

7 (B) financial incentives to encourage crit-  
8 ical risk reduction measures with respect to pri-  
9 vate properties most at risk;

10 (C) subsidies to offset mitigation costs for  
11 economically disadvantaged residents;

12 (D) technical and financial assistance for  
13 low-capacity communities;

14 (E) support for non-agency partners in re-  
15 search and science; and

16 (F) support for partnerships with Indian  
17 Tribes to advance wildland fire risk reduction  
18 efforts on, and adjacent to, Tribal lands.

19 (c) PORTAL AND UNIFORM GRANT APPLICATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program es-  
21 tablished under subsection (a), the Secretaries and  
22 the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-  
23 agement Agency shall establish a portal through  
24 which a person may submit a single, uniform appli-  
25 cation for any of the following:



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

4 (B) An emergency management perform-  
5 ance grant under section 662 of the Post-  
6 Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of  
7 2006 (6 U.S.C. 761).

8 (C) A grant under section 33 of the Fed-  
9 eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
10 (15 U.S.C. 2229).

11 (D) A grant under section 34 of the Fed-  
12 eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
13 (15 U.S.C. 2229a).

14 (E) Financial or technical assistance or a  
15 grant under sections 203, 205, 404, 406, or  
16 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
17 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
18 5133, 5135, 5170c, 5172, 5187).

19 (2) SIMPLIFICATION OF APPLICATION.—In es-  
20 tablishing the portal and application under para-  
21 graph (1), the Secretaries and the Administrator  
22 shall seek to reduce the complexity and length of the  
23 application process for the grants described in para-  
24 graph (1).

1           (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretaries  
2       shall provide technical assistance to communities or  
3       persons seeking to apply for financial assistance  
4       through the portal using the application established  
5       under paragraph (1).

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

9       **SEC. 202. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE RESEARCH PRO-**  
10           **GRAM.**

11       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall, acting  
12       jointly, expand the Joint Fire Science Program to include  
13       a performance-driven research and development program  
14       known as the “Community Wildfire Defense Research  
15       Program” for the purpose of testing and advancing inno-  
16       vative designs to create or improve the wildfire-resistance  
17       of structures and communities.

18       (b) PROGRAM PRIORITIES.—In carrying out the pro-  
19       gram established under subsection (a), the Secretaries  
20       shall evaluate opportunities to create wildfire-resistant  
21       structures and communities through—

22           (1) different affordable building materials, in-  
23       cluding mass timber and engineered materials from  
24       agricultural waste;

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

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

5           (4) landscape architecture; and

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

8           (c) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE INNOVATION  
9           PRIZE.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program  
11           established under subsection (a), subject to the  
12           availability of appropriations made in advance for  
13           such purpose, the Secretaries shall carry out a com-  
14           petition through which a person may submit to the  
15           Secretaries innovative designs for the creation or im-  
16           provement of an ignition-resistant structure or fire-  
17           adapted communities.

18           (2) PRIZE.—Subject to the availability of ap-  
19           propriations made in advance for such purpose, the  
20           Secretaries may award a prize under the competition  
21           described in paragraph (1), based on criteria estab-  
22           lished by the Secretaries and in accordance with  
23           paragraph (3).

24           (3) SCALE.—In awarding a prize under para-  
25           graph (2), the Secretaries shall prioritize for an

1       award designs with the most potential to scale to ex-  
2       isting infrastructure.

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

6       **SEC. 203. SEEDS OF SUCCESS.**

7       (a) STRATEGY ESTABLISHED.—Not later than 2  
8       years after the date of enactment of this Act, subject to  
9       the availability of appropriations made in advance for such  
10      purposes, the Secretaries and the Secretary of Defense  
11      shall jointly develop and implement a strategy, to be  
12      known as the “Seeds of Success strategy”, to enhance the  
13      domestic supply chain of seeds.

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

16           (1) Facilitating sustained interagency coordina-  
17           tion in, and a comprehensive approach to, native  
18           plant materials development and restoration.

19           (2) Promoting the re-seeding of native or fire-  
20           resistant vegetation post-wildfire, particularly in the  
21           wildland-urban interface.

22           (3) Creating and consolidating information on  
23           native or fire-resistant vegetation and sharing such  
24           information with State governments, Indian Tribes,  
25           and local governments.

1           (4) Building regional programs and partner-  
2       ships to promote the development of materials made  
3       from plants native to the United States and restore  
4       such plants to their respective, native habitats within  
5       the United States, giving priority to the building of  
6       such programs and partnerships in regions of the  
7       Bureau of Land Management where such partner-  
8       ships and programs do not already exist as of the  
9       date of enactment of this Act.

10          (5) Expanding seed storage and seed-cleaning  
11       infrastructure.

12          (6) Expanding the Warehouse System of the  
13       Bureau of Land Management, particularly the cold  
14       storage capacity of the Warehouse System.

15          (7) Shortening the timeline for the approval of  
16       permits to collect seeds on public lands managed by  
17       the Bureau of Land Management.

18       (c) EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS.—The strategy re-  
19       quired under subsection (a) may include, to the extent  
20       practicable, coordination through existing interagency  
21       partnerships related to seed collection and national seed  
22       strategies.

23       (d) REPORT.—The Secretaries and the Secretary of  
24       Defense shall submit to the relevant Congressional Com-  
25       mittees the strategy developed under subsection (a).

1 **TITLE III—TRANSPARENCY AND**  
2 **TECHNOLOGY**

3 **SEC. 301. BIOCHAR INNOVATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES**  
4 **FOR CONSERVATION, HEALTH, AND AD-**  
5 **VANCEMENTS IN RESEARCH.**

6 (a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

7 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years  
9 after the date of enactment of this Act, subject  
10 to the availability of appropriations made in ad-  
11 vance for such purpose, the covered Secretaries  
12 shall establish a program to enter into partner-  
13 ships with eligible entities to carry out dem-  
14 onstration projects to support the development  
15 and commercialization of biochar in accordance  
16 with this subsection.

17 (B) LOCATION OF DEMONSTRATION  
18 PROJECTS.—In carrying out the program estab-  
19 lished under subparagraph (A), the covered  
20 Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent prac-  
21 ticable, enter into partnerships with eligible en-  
22 tities such that not fewer than one demonstra-  
23 tion project is carried out in each region of the  
24 Forest Service and each region of the Bureau  
25 of Land Management.

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

7           (3) PRIORITY.—In selecting proposals under  
8       paragraph (2), the covered Secretaries shall give pri-  
9       ority to entering into partnerships with eligible enti-  
10      ties that submit proposals to carry out biochar dem-  
11      onstration projects that—

12                (A) have the most carbon sequestration po-  
13      tential;

14                (B) have the most potential to create new  
15      jobs and contribute to local economies, particu-  
16      larly in rural areas;

17                (C) have the most potential to dem-  
18      onstrate—

19                       (i) new and innovative uses of biochar;

20                       (ii) market viability for cost effective  
21      biochar-based products;

22                       (iii) the ecosystem services created or  
23      supported by the use of biochar;

1 (iv) the restorative benefits of biochar  
2 with respect to forest health and resiliency,  
3 including forest soils and watersheds; or

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

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

9 (i) nearby lands identified as having  
10 high or very high or extreme risk of wild-  
11 fire;

12 (ii) availability of sufficient quantities  
13 of feedstocks;

14 (iii) a high level of demand for  
15 biochar or other commercial byproducts of  
16 biochar; or

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

19 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the pro-  
20 gram established under paragraph (1)(A), the cov-  
21 ered Secretaries may enter into partnerships and  
22 provide funding to such partnerships to carry out  
23 demonstration projects to—

24 (A) acquire and test various feedstocks and  
25 their efficacy;



1 (B) develop and optimize commercially and  
2 technologically viable biochar production units,  
3 including mobile and permanent units;

4 (C) demonstrate—

5 (i) the production of biochar from for-  
6 est residue; and

7 (ii) the use of biochar to restore forest  
8 health and resiliency;

9 (D) build, expand, or establish biochar fa-  
10 cilities;

11 (E) conduct research on new and innova-  
12 tive uses of biochar;

13 (F) demonstrate cost-effective market op-  
14 portunities for biochar and biochar-based prod-  
15 ucts;

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

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

20 (5) FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS.—To the max-  
21 imum extent practicable, an eligible entity that car-  
22 ries out a biochar demonstration project under this  
23 subsection shall, with respect to the feedstock used  
24 under such project, derive at least 50 percent of  
25 such feedstock from forest thinning and manage-

1       ment activities, including mill residues, conducted on  
2       National Forest System lands or public lands.

3               (6) REVIEW OF BIOCHAR DEMONSTRATION.—

4               (A) IN GENERAL.—The covered Secretaries  
5       shall conduct regionally-specific research, in-  
6       cluding economic analyses and life-cycle assess-  
7       ments, on any biochar produced from a dem-  
8       onstration project carried out under the pro-  
9       gram established in paragraph (1)(A), includ-  
10      ing—

11              (i) the effects of such biochar on—

12                      (I) forest health and resiliency;

13                      (II) carbon capture and seques-  
14                      tration, including increasing soil car-  
15                      bon in the short-term and long-term;

16                      (III) productivity, reduced input  
17                      costs, and water retention in agricul-  
18                      tural practices;

19                      (IV) the health of soil and grass-  
20                      lands used for grazing activities, in-  
21                      cluding grazing activities on National  
22                      Forest System land and public land;

23                      (V) environmental remediation  
24                      activities, including abandoned mine  
25                      land remediation; and

1 (VI) other ecosystem services cre-  
2 ated or supported by the use of  
3 biochar;

4 (ii) the effectiveness of biochar as a  
5 co-product of biofuels or in biochemicals;  
6 and

7 (iii) the effectiveness of other poten-  
8 tial uses of biochar to determine if any  
9 such use is technologically and commer-  
10 cially viable.

11 (B) COORDINATION.—The covered Secre-  
12 taries shall, to the maximum extent practicable,  
13 provide data, analyses, and other relevant infor-  
14 mation collected under subparagraph (A) with  
15 recipients of a grant under subsection (b).

16 (7) LIMITATION ON FUNDING FOR ESTAB-  
17 LISHING BIOCHAR FACILITIES.—If the covered Sec-  
18 retaries provide to an eligible entity that enters into  
19 a partnership with the covered Secretaries under  
20 paragraph (1)(A) funding for establishing a biochar  
21 facility, such funding may not exceed 35 percent of  
22 the total capital cost of establishing such biochar fa-  
23 cility.

24 (b) BIOCHAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT  
25 PROGRAM.—

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

6           (2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
7           grant under this subsection, an eligible institution  
8           shall submit to the Secretary a proposal at such  
9           time, in such manner, and containing such informa-  
10          tion as the Secretary may require.

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

14                (A) the effect of biochar on forest health  
15                and resiliency, accounting for variations in  
16                biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

17                (B) the effect of biochar on soil health and  
18                water retention, accounting for variations in  
19                biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

20                (C) the long-term carbon sequestration po-  
21                tential of biochar;

22                (D) the best management practices with  
23                respect to biochar and biochar-based products  
24                that maximize—

25                       (i) carbon sequestration benefits; and

1 (ii) the commercial viability and appli-  
2 cation of such products in forestry, agri-  
3 culture, environmental remediation, water  
4 quality improvement, and any other similar  
5 uses, as determined by the Secretary;

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

8 (i) uses in agriculture and environ-  
9 mental remediation; and

10 (ii) use as a co-product in fuel produc-  
11 tion;

12 (F) new and innovative uses for biochar  
13 byproducts; and

14 (G) opportunities to expand markets for  
15 biochar and create related jobs, particularly in  
16 rural areas.

17 (c) REPORTS.—

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

22 (A) includes policy and program rec-  
23 ommendations to improve the widespread use of  
24 biochar;

1 (B) identifies any area of research needed  
2 to advance biochar commercialization; and

3 (C) identifies barriers to further biochar  
4 commercialization, including permitting and  
5 siting considerations.

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

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

21 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) BIOCHAR.—The term “biochar” means car-  
23 bonized biomass produced by converting feedstock  
24 through reductive thermal processing for non-fuel  
25 uses.

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

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

4                   (B) an eligible institution; or

5                   (C) a private, non-private, or cooperative  
6       entity.

7           (3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-  
8       ble institution” means land-grant colleges and uni-  
9       versities, including institutions eligible for funding  
10      under the—

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

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

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

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

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

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

3           (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting  
4       through the Chief of the Forest Service;

5           (B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting  
6       through the Director of the Bureau of Land  
7       Management; and

8           (C) the Secretary of Energy, acting  
9       through the Director of the Office of Science.

10 **SEC. 302. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**  
11 **PORTS.**

12       (a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION  
13 REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE  
14 PRESIDENT’S BUDGET.—

15       (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fis-  
16 cal year that begins after the date of enactment of  
17 this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-  
18 retary concerned shall include in the materials sub-  
19 mitted to Congress in support of the President’s  
20 budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United  
21 States Code, a report on the number of acres of  
22 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned car-  
23 ried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during  
24 the preceding fiscal year.



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

4           (A) in determining the number of acres of  
5       Federal land on which the Secretary concerned  
6       carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities  
7       during the period covered by the report—

8           (i) record acres of Federal land on  
9       which hazardous fuels reduction activities  
10      were completed during such period; and

11          (ii) record each acre described in  
12      clause (i) once in the report, regardless of  
13      whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction  
14      activities were carried out on such acre  
15      during such period; and

16          (B) with respect to the acres of Federal  
17      land recorded in the report, include information  
18      on—

19          (i) which such acres are located in the  
20      wildland-urban interface;

21          (ii) the level of wildfire risk (high,  
22      moderate, or low) on the first and last day  
23      of the period covered by the report;

24          (iii) the types of hazardous fuels ac-  
25      tivities completed for such acres, delin-

1                   eating between whether such activities  
2                   were conducted—

3                               (I) in a wildfire managed for re-  
4                               source benefits; or

5                               (II) through a planned project;

6                               (iv) the cost per acre of hazardous  
7                   fuels activities carried out during the pe-  
8                   riod covered by the report;

9                               (v) the region or system unit in which  
10                  the acres are located; and

11                              (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous  
12                  fuels reduction activities on reducing the  
13                  risk of wildfire.

14                  (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned  
15                  shall make each report submitted under paragraph  
16                  (1) publicly available on the websites of the Depart-  
17                  ment of Agriculture and the Department of the Inte-  
18                  rior, as applicable.

19                  (b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

20                              (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
21                  the date of enactment of this Act, subject to the  
22                  availability of appropriations made in advance for  
23                  such purposes, the Secretary concerned shall imple-  
24                  ment standardized procedures for tracking data re-

1       lated to hazardous fuels reduction activities carried  
2       out by the Secretary concerned.

3           (2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures  
4       required under paragraph (1) shall include—

5           (A) regular, standardized data reviews of  
6       the accuracy and timely input of data used to  
7       track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

8           (B) verification methods that validate  
9       whether such data accurately correlates to the  
10      hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out  
11      by the Secretary concerned;

12          (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term  
13      effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction  
14      activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

15          (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities  
16      that occur partially within the wildland-urban  
17      interface, methods to distinguish which acres  
18      are located within the wildland-urban interface  
19      and which acres are located outside the  
20      wildland-urban interface.

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

25           (A) such standardized procedures; and

1 (B) program and policy recommendations  
2 to Congress to address any limitations in track-  
3 ing data related to hazardous fuels reduction  
4 activities under this subsection.

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

8 (1) conduct a study on the implementation of  
9 this section, including any limitations with respect  
10 to—

11 (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-  
12 tivities under subsection (a); or

13 (B) tracking data related to hazardous  
14 fuels reduction activities under subsection (b);  
15 and

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

18 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

22 (A) means any vegetation management ac-  
23 tivity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including  
24 mechanical treatments and prescribed burning;  
25 and

1 (B) does not include the awarding of con-  
2 tracts to conduct hazardous fuels reduction ac-  
3 tivities.

4 (2) FEDERAL LANDS.—The term “Federal  
5 lands” means lands under the jurisdiction of the  
6 Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agri-  
7 culture.

8 (e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No addi-  
9 tional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements  
10 of this section, and the activities authorized by this section  
11 are subject to the availability of appropriations made in  
12 advance for such purposes.

13 **SEC. 303. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DE-**  
14 **PLOYMENT AND TESTBED PARTNERSHIP.**

15 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered  
17 agency” means—

18 (A) each Federal land management agency  
19 (as such term is defined in the Federal Lands  
20 Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C.  
21 6801));

22 (B) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
23 Administration;

24 (C) the United States Fire Administration;

1 (D) the Federal Emergency Management  
2 Agency;  
3 (E) the National Aeronautics and Space  
4 Administration;  
5 (F) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;  
6 (G) the Department of Defense; and  
7 (H) any other Federal agency involved in  
8 wildfire response.

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

11 (A) a private entity;  
12 (B) a nonprofit organization; or  
13 (C) an institution of higher education (as  
14 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education  
15 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

16 (b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the  
17 date of enactment of this Act, subject to the availability  
18 of appropriations made in advance for such purposes, the  
19 Secretaries, in coordination with the heads of the covered  
20 agencies, shall establish a deployment and testbed pilot  
21 program (in this section referred to as “Pilot Program”)  
22 for new and innovative wildfire prevention, detection, com-  
23 munication, and mitigation technologies.

24 (c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program,  
25 the Secretaries shall—

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

3 (2) in consultation with the heads of covered  
4 agencies, identify and advance key technology pri-  
5 ority areas with respect to wildfire prevention, detec-  
6 tion, communication, and mitigation technologies, in-  
7 cluding—

8 (A) hazardous fuels reduction treatments  
9 or activities;

10 (B) dispatch communications;

11 (C) remote sensing, detection, and track-  
12 ing;

13 (D) safety equipment; and

14 (E) common operating pictures or oper-  
15 ational dashboards; and

16 (3) connect each covered entity selected to par-  
17 ticipate in the Pilot Program with the appropriate  
18 covered agency to coordinate real-time and on-the-  
19 ground testing of technology during wildland fire  
20 mitigation activities and training.

21 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to be selected to  
22 participate in the Pilot Program, a covered entity shall  
23 submit to the Secretaries an application at such time, in  
24 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
25 retaries may require, including a proposal to test tech-

1 nologies specific to the key technology priority areas iden-  
2 tified pursuant to subsection (c)(2).

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

12 (f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination  
13 with the heads of covered agencies, shall make public the  
14 key technology priority areas identified pursuant to sub-  
15 section (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply under  
16 subsection (d) to test and demonstrate their technologies  
17 to address such priority areas.

18 (g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later  
19 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and  
20 annually thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Program,  
21 the Secretaries shall submit to the relevant Congressional  
22 Committees, the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-  
23 nology of the House of Representatives, and the Com-  
24 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the



1 Senate a report that includes, with respect to the Pilot  
2 Program, the following:

3 (1) A list of participating covered entities.

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

6 (3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring each  
7 such technology and applying the technology at  
8 scale.

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

11 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-  
12 ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and  
13 application at-scale in Federal land management  
14 agencies' wildfire prevention, detection, communica-  
15 tion, and mitigation efforts.

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

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

20 Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment  
21 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
22 shall—

23 (1) conduct a study evaluating—

24 (A) the effectiveness of Forest Service  
25 wildland firefighting operations;

1 (B) transparency and accountability meas-  
2 ures in the Forest Service's budget and ac-  
3 counting process; and

4 (C) the suitability and feasibility of estab-  
5 lishing a new Federal agency with the responsi-  
6 bility of responding and suppressing wildland  
7 fires on Federal lands; and

8 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes  
9 the results of the study required under paragraph  
10 (1).

11 **SEC. 305. FOREST SERVICE WESTERN HEADQUARTERS**  
12 **STUDY.**

13 Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment  
14 of this Act, subject to the availability of appropriations  
15 made in advance for such purpose, the Chief of the Forest  
16 Service shall—

17 (1) conduct a study evaluating—

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

22 (B) the potential benefits and drawbacks  
23 of creating a Western headquarters for the For-  
24 est Service, including expected—

25 (i) improvements to customer service;

- 1 (ii) improvements to employee recruit-  
2 ment and retention; and  
3 (iii) operational efficiencies and cost  
4 savings; and  
5 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes  
6 the results of the study required under paragraph  
7 (1).

8 **SEC. 306. KEEPING FOREST PLANS CURRENT AND MON-**  
9 **ITORED.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

11 (1) to the greatest extent practicable—

12 (A) ensure forest plans comply with the re-  
13 quirements of section 6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest  
14 and Rangeland Resources Planning Act of 1974  
15 (16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5)(A)); and

16 (B) prioritize revising any forest plan not  
17 in compliance with such section 6(f)(5)(A);

18 (2) not later than 120 days after the date of  
19 the enactment of this Act, submit to the relevant  
20 Congressional Committees the date on which each  
21 forest plan required by such section 6 was most re-  
22 cently revised, amended, or modified;

23 (3) seek to publish a new, complete version of  
24 a forest plan that the Secretary has been directed to  
25 amend, revise, or modify by a court order within 60

1 days of such amendment, revision, or modification,  
2 subject to the availability of appropriations made in  
3 advance for such purpose; and

4 (4) maintain a central, publicly accessible  
5 website with links to—

6 (A) the most recently available forest plan  
7 adopted, amended, or modified by a court order  
8 as a single document; and

9 (B) the most recently published forest plan  
10 monitoring report for each unit of the National  
11 Forest System.

12 (b) GOOD FAITH UPDATES.—If the Secretary is not  
13 acting expeditiously and in good faith, within the funding  
14 available to revise, amend, or modify a plan for a unit  
15 of the National Forest System as required by law or a  
16 court order, subsection (a) shall be void with respect to  
17 such plan and a court of proper jurisdiction may order  
18 completion of the plan on an accelerated basis.

19 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
20 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
21 a report to the relevant Congressional Committees sum-  
22 marizing the implementation of this section.

