

AMENDMENT TO DIVISION A OF RULES
COMMITTEE PRINT 117-57
OFFERED BY MR. GARCIA OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of title III of division A, add the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION TO EXPEDITE CER-**
2 **TAIN CRITICAL RESPONSE ACTIONS.**

3 (a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ESTABLISHED.—For-
4 est management activities described in subsection (b) are
5 a category of actions hereby designated as being categori-
6 cally excluded from the preparation of an environmental
7 assessment or an environmental impact statement under
8 section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of
9 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

10 (b) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DESIGNATED
11 FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—The forest management
12 activities designated under this section for a categorical
13 exclusion are forest management activities carried out by
14 the Secretary concerned on National Forest System lands
15 or public lands where the primary purpose of such activity
16 is—

17 (1) to address an insect or disease infestation;

18 (2) to reduce hazardous fuel loads;

1 (3) to protect a municipal water source;

2 (4) to maintain, enhance, or modify critical
3 habitat to protect such habitat from catastrophic
4 disturbances;

5 (5) to increase water yield;

6 (6) to remove dead or dying trees or trees at
7 high risk of dying;

8 (7) to facilitate native species restoration; or

9 (8) any combination of the purposes specified in
10 paragraphs (1) through (7).

11 (c) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—

12 On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
13 Secretary concerned may use the categorical exclusion es-
14 tablished under subsection (a) in accordance with this sec-
15 tion.

16 (d) ACREAGE LIMITATIONS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
18 graph (2), a forest management activity covered by
19 the categorical exclusion established under sub-
20 section (a) may not contain treatment units exceed-
21 ing a total of 10,000 acres.

22 (2) LARGER AREAS AUTHORIZED.—A forest
23 management activity covered by the categorical ex-
24 clusion established under subsection (a) may contain
25 treatment units exceeding a total of 10,000 acres

1 but not more than a total of 30,000 acres if the for-
2 est management activity is—

3 (A) developed through a collaborative proc-
4 ess;

5 (B) proposed by a resource advisory com-
6 mittee; or

7 (C) covered by a community wildfire pro-
8 tection plan.

9 (e) EXCLUSIONS.—The authorities provided by sec-
10 tion do not apply with respect to any National Forest Sys-
11 tem lands or public lands—

12 (1) that are included in the National Wilderness
13 Preservation System;

14 (2) that are located within a national or State-
15 specific inventoried roadless area established by the
16 Secretary of Agriculture through regulation, un-
17 less—

18 (A) the forest management activity to be
19 carried out under such authority is consistent
20 with the forest plan applicable to the area; or

21 (B) the Secretary concerned determines
22 the activity is allowed under the applicable
23 roadless rule governing such lands; or

24 (3) on which timber harvesting for any purpose
25 is prohibited by Federal statute.

1 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.—The term “col-
3 laborative process” means a process relating to the
4 management of National Forest System lands or
5 public lands by which a project or forest manage-
6 ment activity is developed and implemented by the
7 Secretary concerned through collaboration with mul-
8 tiple interested persons representing diverse inter-
9 ests.

10 (2) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION
11 PLAN.—The term “community wildfire protection
12 plan” has the meaning given that term in section
13 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
14 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

15 (3) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY.—The
16 term “forest management activity” means a project
17 or activity carried out by the Secretary concerned on
18 National Forest System lands or public lands con-
19 sistent with the forest plan covering such lands.

20 (4) FOREST PLAN.—The term “forest plan”
21 means—

22 (A) a land use plan prepared by the Bu-
23 reau of Land Management for public lands pur-
24 suant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy

1 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.
2 1712); or

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

9 (5) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term
10 “National Forest System” has the meaning given
11 that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-
12 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
13 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

14 (6) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”
15 has the meaning given that term in section 103 of
16 the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
17 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702), except that the term in-
18 cludes Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands and Or-
19 egon and California Railroad Grant lands.

20 (7) RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The
21 term “resource advisory committee” has the mean-
22 ing given that term in section 201 of the Secure
23 Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination
24 Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7121).

1 (8) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
2 retary concerned” means—

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

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

