

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

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

1 **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . FOREST LANDSCAPES.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
4 the date of receiving a request from a Governor of  
5 a State, the Secretary shall select forest landscape in  
6 the State on which to conduct a forest landscape  
7 project described in subsection (b)(1).

8 (2) PROCESS.—To request a forest landscape  
9 project be carried out in a forest landscape selected  
10 under paragraph (1), the Governor of such State  
11 may submit to the Secretary a proposal for a forest  
12 landscape project in such State.

13 (3) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.—The selection of  
14 a forest landscape under this subsection shall not be  
15 subject to the National Environmental Policy Act of  
16 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and other applicable  
17 laws.

18 (b) FOREST LANDSCAPE PROJECTS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—A forest landscape project  
2 carried out by the Secretary under this section is a  
3 project the primary purpose of which is—

4           (A) to reduce the risk of wildfire in the  
5 forest landscape; and

6           (C) to adapt the forest landscape to the in-  
7 creased risk of wildfire due to drought.

8           (2) INCLUSIONS.—A forest management project  
9 may include a forest management activity to—

10           (A) install fuel breaks (including shaded  
11 fuel breaks) not more than 1/2-mile wide across  
12 a forest landscape in a strategic system that  
13 maximizes the reduction of wildfire risk to com-  
14 munities or watersheds;

15           (B) carry out mechanical thinning (includ-  
16 ing restoration thinning) of a forest landscape  
17 to clear—

18           (i) surface fuels, such as slash;

19           (ii) ladder fuels, such as small and  
20 medium diameter trees and shrubs; or

21           (iii) both of the fuels described in  
22 clauses (i) and (ii);

23           (C) conduct controlled burns; and

24           (D) remove dead trees, dying trees, or  
25 trees at high-risk of dying.

1 (c) ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS.—

2 (1) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL  
3 ASSESSMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATE-  
4 MENTS.—This subsection shall apply in any case in  
5 which the Secretary prepares an environmental as-  
6 sessment or an environmental impact statement pur-  
7 suant to section 102(2) of the National Environ-  
8 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)) for  
9 a forest landscape project that—

10 (A) is developed through a collaborative  
11 process; or

12 (B) is covered by a community wildfire  
13 protection plan.

14 (2) CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES.—In an  
15 environmental assessment or an environmental im-  
16 pact statement described in paragraph (1), the Sec-  
17 retary shall study, develop, and describe only the fol-  
18 lowing alternatives:

19 (A) The proposed agency action.

20 (B) The alternative of no action.

21 (3) WAIVER.—In preparing an environmental  
22 impact statement for a forest landscape project de-  
23 scribed in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall not be  
24 required to comply with section 1502.11(g) or

1 1502.17 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or  
2 successor regulations).

3 (d) JUDICIAL REVIEW IN UNITED STATES DISTRICT  
4 COURTS.—

5 (1) VENUE.—Notwithstanding section 1391 of  
6 title 28, United States Code, or other applicable law,  
7 a forest landscape project for which an environ-  
8 mental assessment or an environmental impact  
9 statement is prepared shall be subject to judicial re-  
10 view only in—

11 (A) the United States district court for a  
12 district in which the Federal land to be treated  
13 under the forest landscape project is located; or

14 (B) the United States district court for the  
15 District of Columbia.

16 (2) EXPEDITIOUS COMPLETION OF JUDICIAL  
17 REVIEW.—In the judicial review of an action chal-  
18 lenging a forest landscape project described in para-  
19 graph (1), Congress encourages a court of competent  
20 jurisdiction to expedite, to the maximum extent  
21 practicable, the proceedings in the action with the  
22 goal of rendering a final determination on jurisdic-  
23 tion, and, if jurisdiction exists, a final determination  
24 on the merits, as soon as practicable after the date

1 on which a complaint or appeal is filed to initiate  
2 the action.

3 (e) EXCLUSIONS.—The authorities provided under  
4 this section may not apply to—

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

7 (2) any congressionally designated wilderness  
8 study area; or

9 (3) National Forest System lands—

10 (A) on which the removal of vegetation is  
11 prohibited by Act of Congress; or

12 (B) that are located within a national or  
13 State-specific inventoried roadless area estab-  
14 lished by the Secretary through regulation, un-  
15 less—

16 (i) the forest management activity to  
17 be carried out under such authority is con-  
18 sistent with the forest plan applicable to  
19 the area;

20 (ii) the Secretary determines the for-  
21 est management activity is permissible  
22 under the applicable roadless rule gov-  
23 erning such lands; or

1 (iii) the inventoried roadless area was  
2 not recommended for wilderness designa-  
3 tion as a result of—

4 (I) the second roadless area re-  
5 view and evaluation program (RARE  
6 II); or

7 (II) a subsequent revision of a  
8 land and resources management plan  
9 under section 6 of the Forest and  
10 Rangeland Renewable Resources  
11 Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.  
12 1604).

13 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.—The term “col-  
15 laborative process” means—

16 (A) a collaborative process described in  
17 section 4003(b)(2) of the Omnibus Public Land  
18 Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C.  
19 7303(b)(2)); or

20 (B) the process established under a Shared  
21 Stewardship Agreement signed by the State and  
22 Secretary of Agriculture.

23 (2) FOREST LANDSCAPE.—The term “forest  
24 landscape” means an area selected under subsection

25 (a) that—

1 (A) primarily or entirely contains land that  
2 has a high or very high wildfire hazard poten-  
3 tial;

4 (B) is a landscape where a wildfire could—

5 (i) endanger a nearby at-risk commu-  
6 nity (as defined in section 101 of the  
7 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003  
8 (16 U.S.C. 6511));

9 (ii) damage a municipal watershed or  
10 infrastructure that serves an at-risk com-  
11 munity described in clause (i); or

12 (iii) transmit high intensity wildfire  
13 from the forest landscape to a nearby com-  
14 munity; and

15 (C) is not more than 1.5 million acres of  
16 National Forest System land and land adjacent  
17 to National Forest System land.

18 (3) FOREST LANDSCAPE PROJECT.—The term  
19 “forest landscape project” means a project described  
20 in subsection (b)(1).

21 (4) FOREST PLAN.—The term “forest plan”  
22 means a land and resource management plan pre-  
23 pared by the Forest Service for a unit of the Na-  
24 tional Forest System pursuant to section 6 of the

1 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Plan-  
2 ning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

3 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
4 the Secretary of Agriculture.

