

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 471**OFFERED BY MS. PETTERSEN OF COLORADO**

After subtitle C of title I insert the following:

1 **Subtitle D—Utilizing Aquatic Res-**
2 **toration and Conservation to**
3 **Improve Wildfire Risk Reduc-**
4 **tion and Post-fire Recovery**

5 **SEC. 131. PILOT PROJECTS FOR EVALUATION OF EFFECTS**
6 **OF AQUATIC RESTORATION AND CONSERVA-**
7 **TION ON WILDFIRE RISK LEVELS AND POST-**
8 **FIRE RECOVERY.**

9 (a) ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting
11 through the Chief of the Forest Service, in consultation
12 with the National Forest Foundation, shall submit to the
13 relevant Congressional Committees and make publicly
14 available on a website of the Forest Service, a report re-
15 garding opportunities to utilize aquatic restoration and
16 conservation activities in wildfire risk reduction and post-
17 fire recovery strategies. The report shall include the fol-
18 lowing:

19 (1) An assessment of the Secretary, using the
20 best available science, regarding the effects of aquat-

1 ic restoration and conservation activities on wildfire
2 risk levels and post-wildfire recovery outcomes.

3 (2) Identification by the Secretary of any addi-
4 tional areas of additional research that may result in
5 improving or better understanding the effectiveness
6 of aquatic restoration and conservation activities as
7 a means to reduce wildfire risk and assist in post-
8 wildfire recovery.

9 (3) An assessment of the Secretary of any bar-
10 riers (including permitting and training require-
11 ments, if applicable) to increasing the usage of
12 aquatic restoration and conservation activities in, or
13 in conjuncture with, wildfire risk reduction and post-
14 wildfire recovery strategies in use as of the date of
15 the assessment.

16 (4) An assessment of the Secretary of opportu-
17 nities to coordinate aquatic restoration and con-
18 servation activities of—

19 (A) the Federal Government;

20 (B) State, Tribal, or local governments;

21 and

22 (C) any private or non-governmental enti-
23 ties that carry out aquatic restoration or con-
24 servation activities, including in partnership

1 with Federal, State, Tribal, or local govern-
2 ment.

3 (5) Identification by the Secretary of any op-
4 portunities for increased use of aquatic restoration
5 and conservation activities as elements of, or in con-
6 juncture with, a strategy for post-fire recovery and
7 restoration.

8 (6) Recommendations of the Secretary with re-
9 spect to any policies or programs that may be imple-
10 mented by the Chief of the Forest Service to in-
11 crease the usage of aquatic restoration and conserva-
12 tion activities as elements of, or in conjuncture with,
13 wildfire risk reduction and post-wildfire recovery
14 strategies existing as of the date of the report, in-
15 cluding the “Wildfire Crisis Strategy” published by
16 the Forest Service in January 2022.

17 (b) PILOT PROGRAM FOR FUNDING OF NATIONAL
18 FOREST FOUNDATION PILOT PROJECTS.—

19 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days
20 after the date on which the report under subsection
21 (a) is submitted to the relevant Congressional Com-
22 mittees, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of
23 the Forest Service, in consultation with the National
24 Forest Foundation, shall establish a pilot program
25 (herein referred to as the “Pilot Program”) through

1 which funds shall be provided to the National Forest
2 Foundation for use carrying out not more than 5
3 projects (herein referred to as “pilot projects”) in
4 accordance with paragraph (3).

5 (2) FUNDING.—

6 (A) PILOT PROGRAM FUNDS.—As a condi-
7 tion of receiving funds under the Pilot Pro-
8 gram, the National Forest Foundation shall
9 enter into an agreement with the Secretary, or
10 modify an agreement with the Secretary exist-
11 ing as of the date of enactment of this Act, that
12 stipulates to such terms and conditions as de-
13 termined appropriate by the Secretary.

14 (B) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—The National
15 Forest Foundation may use Federal or non-
16 Federal funds to carry out a pilot project in ac-
17 cordance with the Pilot Program.

18 (3) PILOT PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—For pur-
19 poses of paragraph (1), a pilot project shall—

20 (A) be aquatic restoration or conservation
21 activities;

22 (B) be carried out for the purpose of eval-
23 uating the effects of aquatic restoration and
24 conservation activities on wildfire risk reduction
25 and post-wildfire recovery efforts;

1 (C) be carried out in a landscape identified
2 as Wildfire Crisis Strategy landscape in the
3 “Wildfire Crisis Strategy” published by the
4 Forest Service in January 2022; and

5 (D) be carried out as an element of, or in
6 conjuncture with, hazardous fuel management
7 activities (including mechanical thinning, mas-
8 tication, creation of fuel breaks, creation of fire
9 breaks, prescribed burning, and timber harvest)
10 being carried out, or planned to be carried out,
11 as of the date of the establishment of such pilot
12 program.

13 (4) PILOT PROJECT SELECTION.—The National
14 Forest Foundation, in consultation with the Sec-
15 retary and any other stakeholders determined appro-
16 priate by the Secretary, shall select a diverse range
17 of pilot projects, including, to the extent possible—

18 (A) one pilot project involving an Indian
19 Tribe;

20 (B) one pilot project—

21 (i) involving a municipal water utility;

22 and

23 (ii) designed to protect critical drink-
24 ing water supplies and systems; and

25 (C) one pilot project—

1 (i) involving an irrigation district or
2 similar entity; and

3 (ii) designed to protect critical agri-
4 cultural water storage and delivery infra-
5 structure.

6 (5) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
7 date on which the Pilot Program commences, the
8 Secretary shall submit to the relevant Congressional
9 Committees a report summarizing the implementa-
10 tion of this subsection.

