



Summary of Select Wildland Fire Bills in the 119th Congress

Updated May 21, 2025

[Fix Our Forests Act H.R. 471](#)

Initially introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Westerman (R-AR). The bill passed the House in January by a roll call vote of 279-141. In the Senate, a version containing several changes has been introduced by Curtis (R-UT), Hickenlooper (D-CO), Sheehy (R-MT), and Padilla (D-CA). Generally, the bill seeks to increase fuel reduction and forest health treatments on National Forest System lands, reduce wildfire risk within communities, and address reforestation needs.

Specific to wildfire, the House version of the bill would:

- Designate Fireshed Management Areas (sec. 101) and directs the use of streamlined authorities to carry out fuels and fire management projects within the fireshed.
- Establish a Fireshed Center (sec. 102) comprised of 14 federal agencies and housed jointly within the USDA Forest Service and U.S. Geological Survey.
- Establish the Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program (sec. 201), comprised of eight federal agencies. The program aims to advance research and science, support local adoption of code and standards, support local efforts to address wildfire impacts, including property damage, air and water quality, encourage public-private partnerships for fuel reduction, and provide technical and financial assistance to communities.
- Expand the Joint Fire Science Program (sec. 202) to advance research on innovative designs to create or improve wildfire-resistant structures and communities.
- Include provisions from the [Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act](#) (sec. 309) and the [Fire Department Repayment Act](#) (sec. 207).

In addition to what is in the House version, the Senate version would:

- Expand the Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program, with more emphasis on program structure, accountability, and the built environment (sec. 201).
- Add home hardening as an eligible activity under the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program (sec. 204).
- Enhance the Wildfire Intelligence Center beyond what is in the House version (sec. 102).
- Addition of provisions relating to prescribed fire, including increased accessibility of training and assignments for non-federal burners (Title I, Subtitle D).

Links to the bill text and a section-by-section summary can be found in the [press release](#).

[Western Wildfire Support Act S. 91](#)

The bill, introduced by Senator Cortez Masto (D-NV) and cosponsored by Senator Sheehy (R-MT), has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. It generally seeks to improve federal wildland firefighting activities and increase transparency in wildfire cost accounting.

A few highlights from the 16-part bill include:

- Establishes accounts in the Treasury to address wildfires.
- Requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to review existing fire management policies in fireheds that could pose risks to first responders, communities, and infrastructure, and coordinate with states to identify potential wildfire control locations.
- Directs the Secretaries to expedite the placement of wildfire detection equipment, expand the use of satellite data to improve wildfire detection and response, and use unmanned aerial vehicles to assess wildland fires.
- Permanently authorizes a program to award grants to eligible states or units of local government to acquire slip-on tanks.
- Directs the Joint Fire Science Program to research and develop unmanned aircraft system fire applications.
- Codifies the Burned Area Emergency Response Teams (BAER) to coordinate immediate post-fire emergency erosion control efforts and establishes a new Burned Area Rehabilitation account for medium and long-range fire rehabilitation efforts on National Forest System lands.

Links to the bill text and a section-by-section summary can be found in the [press release](#).

Fit For Purpose Wildfire Readiness Act S. 441

Introduced by Senators Sheehy (R-MT) and Padilla (D-CA), the bill would require the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to develop a plan to consolidate all existing USDA and DOI federal wildland fire preparedness, suppression, and recovery efforts into a new “National Wildland Firefighting Service” housed within the DOI. The bill does not create this new agency but requires the plan to be outlined in a report to Congress, which must include the following items.

- A proposed budget for the new agency.
- A description of the qualifications for an appointee to lead the agency.
- A description of the resources and authorities needed to complete the consolidation.

Wildfire Response and Preparedness Act (WRAP) S. 902

Senators Sheehy (R-MT) and Kim (D-NJ) introduced the WRAP Act. The bill would establish a 30-minute national standard response time to evaluate any fire occurring on federal land and include deploying fire suppression assets in under three hours. The bill would also require the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to submit a joint report to Congress that provides:

- A single Point of Contact for federal wildland fire response at the Department of Interior.
- A unified budget request covering all wildland fire activities.
- A description of key performance indicators for wildland fire response agencies.
- The aviation and ground fleet required to meet the standard response times.
- Proposed changes to the federal ordering and dispatching system to enable quicker deployment of resources.
- Recommendations for streamlining the federal contracting process.
- The resources and authorities needed to ensure year-round wildland firefighting assets are available.

Direct Hire to Fight Fire Act H.R. 435

This bill, introduced by Representative Issa (R-CA), would amend Title 5 of the United States Code to provide the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior with permanent direct hire authority to appoint individuals to federal wildland firefighting and firefighting support positions. It also directs the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to streamline hiring previously employed personnel and reduce barriers to transferring firefighters between agencies.

Representatives Riley (R-CA) and Obernolte (R-CA) cosponsored the bill, which has been referred to the House Committees on Natural Resources, Oversight and Government Reform, and Agriculture.

[Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response Operations \(ACERO\) Act H.R. 390](#)

Representatives Fong (R-CA) and McClellan (D-VA) introduced the ACERO Act to authorize NASA's Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response Operations (ACERO) project. The bill authorizes NASA's ACERO project to develop technology for drones to improve wildfire response operations. Specifically, the bill helps improve the management, deconfliction, and coordination of manned and unmanned aerial vehicles in emergency response activities, including requiring NASA to create a unified concept of operations for managing airspace during wildfires.

Representatives Whitesides (D-CA) and Obernolte (D-CA) have signed on as cosponsors, and the bill has been referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

[Emergency Wildfire Technology Act H.R. 836](#)

Introduced by Representative Valadao (R-CA), this bill passed the House by voice vote and is now in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. It would require the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, in consultation with the National Interagency Aviation Committee and the Interagency Airtanker Board, to assess the use of the container aerial firefighting system (CAFFS) to mitigate and suppress wildfires.

The bill would require the evaluation and consultation to begin within 90 days after enactment and a report to the House and Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committees.

[Fire Ready Nation Act S. 306](#)

Introduced by Senator Cantwell (D-WA), the bill would establish and maintain a coordinated program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that improves wildfire, fire weather, fire risk, and wildfire smoke-related forecasting, detection, modeling, observations, and service delivery.

The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, where Senator Cantwell is the Ranking Member. Cosponsors include the committee chair, three committee members, and four other Senators.

[Strengthening Wildfire Resiliency Through Satellites Act H.R. 527](#)

This bill, introduced by Representative Pettersen (D-CO) and cosponsored by Representatives Obernolte (R-CA) and Fitzpatrick (R-PA), would require the Secretary of Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, to establish a competitive grant program and authorize \$20,000,000.00 for two fiscal years to monitor wildfires by satellite. It has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

[Fire Information and Reaction Enhancement Act \(FIRE Act\) H.R. 753](#)

Representative Chu introduced this bill to establish a program in NOAA for enhancing wildfire forecasting, detection, warning systems, and information-sharing to better support firefighters and mitigate wildfires early to protect life and property.

Specifically, the bill aims to improve:

- Early detection of wildfire.
- Prediction and spread of wildfire.
- The forecast and communication of smoke dispersion from wildfires.
- Information dissemination and risk communication to create more effective watch and warning products.

Additionally, the bill authorizes NOAA to conduct development, testing, and deployment activities related to:

- Advanced satellite detection products.
- Grid-based assessments and outlooks of fuel moisture and danger levels.
- Coupled atmosphere and fire modeling systems.
- Systems to link climate predictions to achievable land management decisions.
- Improved spatial and temporal resolution observations in high latitudes.

The bill is co-sponsored by Representatives Kim (R-CA) and Brownley (D-CA) and has been referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Wildfire Insurance Coverage Study Act of 2025

Introduced by Representative Walters (D-CA), the bill would require a Government Accountability Office study regarding insurance for wildfire damage. It contains over thirty individual items for study under four broad groups:

- The extent and nature of wildfire risk.
- Existing state of homeowner and commercial property insurance coverage for damage from wildfires.
- Actions taken by state insurance regulatory agencies in response to increased premiums and exclusion of coverage.
- Challenges faced by private insurers underwriting wildfire risk.

The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Financial Services, of which Representative Walters is the Ranking Member. It has one cosponsor, Representative Sherman (D-CA).