

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—118th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 1764

To improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended to be proposed by Mr. MANCHIN

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:
2

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Western Wildfire Support Act of 2024”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—PREPARATION

Sec. 101. Firefighting account transparency.

Sec. 102. Reimbursement for wildfires caused by military training.

Sec. 103. Strategic wildland fire management planning.

Sec. 104. Study on integrating local firefighters into wildfire response.

TITLE II—WILDFIRE DETECTION AND SUPPRESSION SUPPORT

- Sec. 201. Wildfire detection equipment.
- Sec. 202. Slip-on tank units.
- Sec. 203. Research and development of unmanned aircraft system fire applications.
- Sec. 204. Study on drone incursions on wildfire suppression.
- Sec. 205. Study on modernizing wildfire response technologies.

TITLE III—POST-FIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

- Sec. 301. Funding for online guides for post-disaster assistance.
- Sec. 302. Post-fire management and recovery.
- Sec. 303. Long-Term Burned Area Rehabilitation account.
- Sec. 304. Prize for wildfire-related invasive species reduction.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term
4 “congressional committees” means—

5 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
6 Resources and the Committee on Appropria-
7 tions of the Senate; and

8 (B) the Committee on Natural Resources
9 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
10 House of Representatives.

11 (2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
12 means—

13 (A) public lands (as defined in section 103
14 of the Federal Land Policy and Management
15 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702));

16 (B) units of the National Park System;

17 (C) units of the National Wildlife Refuge
18 System;

1 (D) land held in trust by the United States
2 for the benefit of Indian Tribes or members of
3 an Indian Tribe; and

4 (E) land in the National Forest System.

5 (3) FIRESHED.—The term “fireshed” means a
6 geographically delineated forest landscape, within
7 which a fire ignition would threaten homes, commu-
8 nities, or critical infrastructure.

9 (4) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “National
11 Forest System” has the meaning given the term
12 in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland
13 Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
14 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

15 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “National
16 Forest System” does not include any forest re-
17 serve not created from the public domain.

18 (5) RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term
19 “resource management plan” has the meaning given
20 the term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Res-
21 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

22 (6) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
23 means—

24 (A) the Secretary of the Interior; and

25 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

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

3 (A) the Secretary of the Interior, in the
4 case of Federal land under the jurisdiction of
5 the Secretary of the Interior; and

6 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, in the
7 case of Federal land under the jurisdiction of
8 the Secretary of Agriculture.

9 **TITLE I—PREPARATION**

10 **SEC. 101. FIREFIGHTING ACCOUNT TRANSPARENCY.**

11 (a) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Section 104(a) of division
12 O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (43
13 U.S.C. 1748a–2(a)), is amended—

14 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
15 striking “the fiscal year” and all that follows
16 through “this division,” and inserting “each fiscal
17 year,”; and

18 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “report with
19 respect to the additional new budget authority;” and
20 inserting “report on the amounts obligated and the
21 amounts expended from Wildland Fire Management
22 accounts, including any amounts obligated or ex-
23 pended using additional new budget authority under
24 section 251(b)(2)(F) of the Balanced Budget and

1 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C.
2 901(b)(2)(F)), in the preceding fiscal year;”.

3 (b) INCLUSIONS.—Section 104(b) of division O of the
4 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (43 U.S.C. 1748a–
5 2(b)), is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding
7 subparagraph (A), by striking “a statistically signifi-
8 cant sample of large fires, including an analysis for
9 each fire” and inserting “each catastrophic wildfire
10 described in subsection (c), including an analysis for
11 each such catastrophic wildfire”; and

12 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “by fire size”
13 and all that follows through the semicolon at the end
14 and inserting the following: “by—

15 “(A) the total ground-based operations
16 costs;

17 “(B) the total aircraft operations costs;

18 “(C) the total personnel costs;

19 “(D) the total on-incident and off-incident
20 support costs;

21 “(E) the total funding allocated from the
22 Wildland Fire Management account of the Sec-
23 retary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agri-
24 culture (as applicable) to pay for administrative
25 costs; and

1 “(F) any other relevant factors, as deter-
2 mined by the Secretary of the Interior or the
3 Secretary of Agriculture (as applicable);”.

4 (c) CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE DESCRIBED.—Section
5 104 of division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,
6 2018 (43 U.S.C. 1748a–2), is amended by adding at the
7 end the following:

8 “(c) CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE DESCRIBED.—A cat-
9 astrophic wildfire referred to in subsection (b)(3) is a wild-
10 fire incident or wildfire complex that—

11 “(1) requires the mobilization or use of Federal
12 firefighting resources;

13 “(2)(A) burns at least 100,000 acres of land; or

14 “(B) burns at least 50,000 acres of land, with
15 a 50 percent or greater portion at high severity; and

16 “(3)(A) results in total suppression costs of
17 \$50,000,000 or more;

18 “(B) destroys 1 or more primary residences; or

19 “(C) directly results in the death of 1 or more
20 individuals.”.

21 **SEC. 102. REIMBURSEMENT FOR WILDFIRES CAUSED BY**
22 **MILITARY TRAINING.**

23 (a) MUTUAL AID.—In accordance with section 2 of
24 the Act of May 27, 1955 (42 U.S.C. 1856a) (commonly
25 known as the “Reciprocal Fire Protection Act”), the Sec-

1 retary of Defense shall seek to enter into reciprocal agree-
2 ments with State agencies for mutual aid in furnishing
3 fire suppression services.

4 (b) REIMBURSEMENTS.—Each reciprocal agreement
5 entered into under subsection (a) shall provide for the re-
6 imbursement of the State agency that is a party to the
7 agreement for fire suppression services provided by the
8 State agency as a result of a fire caused by military train-
9 ing or other planned actions carried out by the Depart-
10 ment of Defense in support of military operations.

11 (c) LIMITATION.—Services reimbursable under sub-
12 section (b) shall be limited to services directly attributable
13 to the fire for which reimbursement is sought.

14 (d) APPLICATION.—Each application from a State
15 agency for reimbursement for services under subsection
16 (b) shall provide an itemized request of the services cov-
17 ered by the application, including the costs of the services.

18 (e) FUNDS.—Reimbursements under subsection (b)
19 shall be made from amounts authorized to be appropriated
20 to the Department of Defense for operation and mainte-
21 nance.

22 (f) EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—An agreement in effect
23 as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be considered
24 an agreement entered into under subsection (a) if the

1 agreement otherwise meets the requirements of such an
2 agreement under this section.

3 **SEC. 103. STRATEGIC WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN-**
4 **NING.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30,
6 2026, the Secretary concerned shall review existing spatial
7 fire management policies for each firehed on Federal land
8 and issue, as appropriate, new or revised policies that in-
9 corporate the best available science and planning tools.

10 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—Spatial fire management poli-
11 cies issued under subsection (a) shall—

12 (1) be routinely reviewed and updated—

13 (A) to include forest management activities
14 or changes in accessibility;

15 (B) not later than 1 year after the date on
16 which a wildfire incident has occurred within
17 the applicable firehed; and

18 (C) not less frequently than once every 10
19 years;

20 (2) identify potential wildfire and smoke risks
21 to first responders, communities, critical infrastruc-
22 ture, and high-value resources;

23 (3) be consistent with any resource manage-
24 ment plan developed for the applicable firehed;

1 (4) in coordination with any State that includes
2 that fireshed, delineate potential wildland fire oper-
3 ational delineations that—

4 (A) identify potential wildfire control loca-
5 tions; and

6 (B) specify the places in which risk to
7 wildfire responders may be elevated as a result
8 of—

9 (i) exceeding a certain slope for the
10 landscape;

11 (ii) containing an excess of hazardous
12 fuels such that a threat would be posed
13 under severe fire weather conditions; or

14 (iii) containing other known hazards;

15 (5) include a description of the weather condi-
16 tions for the fireshed that would comprise severe fire
17 weather conditions; and

18 (6) include other prefire planning provisions rel-
19 evant to wildfire response, at the discretion of the
20 Secretary concerned.

21 (c) WILDFIRE CONSIDERATION DURING LAND MAN-
22 AGEMENT PLANNING.—To the maximum extent prac-
23 ticable, the Secretary concerned shall include, on a team
24 carrying out any development or revision of a resource
25 management plan for Federal land containing 1 more

1 firesheds, an employee that was involved in the develop-
2 ment of the spatial fire management policies for that
3 fireshed.

4 **SEC. 104. STUDY AND REPORT ON INTEGRATING LOCAL**
5 **FIREFIGHTERS INTO WILDFIRE RESPONSE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland
8 Security, acting through the Administrator of the U.S.
9 Fire Administration and in coordination with the National
10 Wildfire Coordinating Group, shall—

11 (1) conduct a study on the gaps in training for
12 structural firefighters in high wildfire risk areas;
13 and

14 (2) submit to the congressional committees a
15 report describing the results of the study conducted
16 under paragraph (1).

17 (b) INCLUSIONS.—The report submitted under sub-
18 section (a)(2) shall include—

19 (1) a summary of existing coordination prac-
20 tices between Federal wildland firefighters and
21 State, local, or Tribal firefighters;

22 (2) an analysis of the differences in best re-
23 sponse practices for State, local, or Tribal fire-
24 fighters when responding to a fire incident that

1 threatens a single structure as compared to a wild-
2 fire that threatens a community;

3 (3) existing training modules, or gaps in exist-
4 ing training modules, available through the National
5 Fire Academy to train State, local, or Tribal fire-
6 fighters on best response practices for a wildfire that
7 threatens a community; and

8 (4) an estimated cost and spending plan to ad-
9 dress any gaps in existing training modules de-
10 scribed in paragraph (3).

11 **TITLE II—WILDFIRE DETECTION** 12 **AND SUPPRESSION SUPPORT**

13 **SEC. 201. WILDFIRE DETECTION EQUIPMENT.**

14 To the extent practicable, the Secretary concerned
15 shall—

16 (1) expedite the placement of wildfire detection
17 equipment, such as sensors, cameras, and other rel-
18 evant equipment, in areas at risk of wildfire;

19 (2) expand the use of satellite data to improve
20 wildfire detection and response;

21 (3) expedite any permitting required by the
22 Secretary concerned for the installation, mainte-
23 nance, or removal of wildfire detection equipment;

1 (4) use unmanned aerial vehicles to assess
2 wildland fires in their incipient stages to determine
3 the appropriate initial response actions;

4 (5) review permitting described in paragraph
5 (3) and procurement requirements for wildfire detec-
6 tion equipment within the context of modern and in-
7 novative technology; and

8 (6) annually provide a forum for companies en-
9 gaging in the development and testing of emergent
10 wildland fire technology to engage with wildland fire
11 managers.

12 **SEC. 202. SLIP-ON TANKER UNITS.**

13 (a) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ACQUISITION OF
14 FIREFIGHTING SLIP-ON TANKER UNITS.—Section
15 40803(c)(5) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
16 Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(c)(5)) is amended by inserting “and
17 Indian Tribes” after “local governments”.

18 (b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-
20 rior shall submit to the Committee on Energy and
21 Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee
22 on Natural Resources of the House of Representa-
23 tives an annual report on the implementation of sec-
24 tion 40803(c)(5) of the Infrastructure Investment

1 and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(c)(5)), including a
2 description of—

3 (A) the total number of slip-on tanker
4 units purchased with financial assistance pro-
5 vided by the Secretary of the Interior under
6 that section in the preceding year, by State;

7 (B) the number of requests received by the
8 Secretary of the Interior for financial assistance
9 under that section to purchase slip-on tanker
10 units in the preceding year; and

11 (C) any barriers identified by the Secretary
12 of the Interior to the ability of local govern-
13 ments and Indian Tribes to participate in the
14 pilot program established under that section.

15 (2) TIMING.—

16 (A) INITIAL REPORT.—The Secretary of
17 the Interior shall submit the first report re-
18 quired under paragraph (1) not later than Oc-
19 tober 1, 2024.

20 (B) SUNSET.—The requirements of this
21 subsection shall expire on October 1, 2028.

22 (c) INTEGRATION INTO WILDFIRE RESPONSE.—The
23 Secretaries, in coordination with recipients of financial as-
24 sistance for slip-on tanker units provided under section

1 40803(c)(5) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
2 Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(c)(5)), shall—

3 (1) in coordination with the Administrator of
4 the U.S. Fire Administration, promulgate guidance
5 for the mobilization of slip-on tanker units for wild-
6 fire response;

7 (2) as practicable, incorporate mobilized slip-on
8 tanker units into resource tracking systems; and

9 (3) collaborate with the Administrator of the
10 U.S. Fire Administration regarding any necessary
11 training for operators of slip-on tanker units.

12 **SEC. 203. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNMANNED**
13 **AIRCRAFT SYSTEM FIRE APPLICATIONS.**

14 (a) **DEFINITION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYS-**
15 **TEM.**—In this section, the term “unmanned aircraft sys-
16 tem” means an unmanned aircraft and associated ele-
17 ments (including, if applicable, communication links and
18 the components that control the unmanned aircraft) that
19 are required for the operator to operate safely and effi-
20 ciently.

21 (b) **RESEARCH.**—The Secretaries shall, acting
22 through the Joint Fire Science Program, work with uni-
23 versities and other research institutions to carry out re-
24 search and development on the wildfire response applica-
25 tions of unmanned aircraft systems.

1 (c) TESTING.—The Secretaries may coordinate with
2 the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration
3 to test an unmanned aircraft system developed under this
4 section at an unmanned aircraft test range in accordance
5 with section 44803 of title 49, United States Code.

6 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
7 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretaries such
8 sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

9 **SEC. 204. STUDY ON DRONE INCURSIONS ON WILDFIRE**
10 **SUPPRESSION.**

11 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
13 trator” means the Administrator of the Federal
14 Aviation Administration.

15 (2) DRONE.—The term “drone” means an un-
16 manned aircraft system owned by a private indi-
17 vidual or entity.

18 (3) DRONE INCURSION.—The term “drone in-
19 cursion” means the operation of a drone within any
20 airspace for which the Administrator has issued a
21 temporary flight restriction because of a wildfire.

22 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Administrator, in con-
23 sultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Sec-
24 retary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the For-
25 est Service, shall conduct a study on the effects of drone

1 incursions on wildfire suppression with respect to land
2 managed by the Department of the Interior or the Depart-
3 ment of Agriculture.

4 (c) STUDY CONTENTS.—In conducting the study re-
5 quired under subsection (b), the Administrator shall—

6 (1) determine, for each of the 5 most recent
7 calendar years—

8 (A) the number of occurrences in which a
9 drone incursion interfered with wildfire suppres-
10 sion; and

11 (B) the estimated effect of each occurrence
12 described in subparagraph (A) on—

13 (i) the length of time required to
14 achieve complete suppression;

15 (ii) any associated delay in the field-
16 ing of aerial firefighting response units;
17 and

18 (iii) the amounts expended by the
19 Federal Government; and

20 (2) evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of
21 various actions to prevent drone incursions, includ-
22 ing—

23 (A) the use of counter-drone radio towers;

24 (B) the use of reasonable force to disable,
25 damage, or destroy a drone;

1 (C) the seizure of a drone, including sei-
2 zure with a net device; and

3 (D) the dissemination of educational mate-
4 rials relating to the effects of drone incursions
5 on wildfire suppression.

6 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall sub-
8 mit to the congressional committees, the Committee on
9 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate,
10 and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
11 of the House of Representatives a report describing—

12 (1) the findings of the study required under
13 subsection (b); and

14 (2) any recommendations relating to those find-
15 ings.

16 **SEC. 205. STUDY ON MODERNIZING WILDFIRE RESPONSE**
17 **TECHNOLOGIES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall conduct a
19 study on—

20 (1) necessary improvements to radio commu-
21 nications systems and infrastructure during wildland
22 fire or prescribed fire operations, including—

23 (A) an assessment of the quality and reli-
24 ability of existing radio infrastructure;

1 (B) for any instance in which existing
2 radio communications infrastructure has failed,
3 an assessment of the impacts on forest manage-
4 ment or wildfire response activities;

5 (C) a comparison of existing options to im-
6 prove on-the-ground communications; and

7 (D) a cost analysis and estimated timeline
8 to install the most feasible option identified
9 under subparagraph (C);

10 (2) real-time or near-real-time situational
11 awareness tools for operational firefighters, includ-
12 ing—

13 (A) standards and requirements for such
14 tools to ensure interoperability between Federal
15 firefighting entities and applicable State, local,
16 Tribal, or other partners;

17 (B) any requirements for additional remote
18 sensing and mapping capabilities to fully lever-
19 age such situational awareness tools; and

20 (C) a cost comparison between commer-
21 cially available systems and internally developed
22 systems; and

23 (3) wildland fire predictive modeling, includ-
24 ing—

1 (A) an analysis of the data required to re-
2 duce predictive error for existing or developing
3 models;

4 (B) an analysis of computing needs to
5 more swiftly or accurately model wildland fire
6 using existing or developing models;

7 (C) the feasibility of using artificial intel-
8 ligence for wildland fire modeling; and

9 (D) existing or developing wildland fire
10 predictive models that could assist with estab-
11 lishing safe conditions for igniting a prescribed
12 fire.

13 (b) SUBMISSION AND PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not
14 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,
15 the Secretaries shall submit to the congressional commit-
16 tees and make publicly available the results of the study
17 conducted under subsection (a).

18 **TITLE III—POST-FIRE RECOVERY** 19 **SUPPORT**

20 **SEC. 301. FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR POST-DIS-** 21 **ASTER ASSISTANCE.**

22 (a) USE OF SERVICES OF OTHER AGENCIES.—Sec-
23 tion 201(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
24 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131(a)) is amend-
25 ed—

1 (1) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at
2 the end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(8) post-disaster assistance.”.

5 (b) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-
6 ANCE.—Section 201 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
7 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131)
8 is amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(e) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-
10 ANCE.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
12 Federal Emergency Management Agency may enter
13 into cooperative agreements to provide funding or
14 technical assistance to a State agency designated or
15 established under subsection (c) to establish, update,
16 or operate a website to provide information relating
17 to post-disaster recovery funding and resources to a
18 community or an individual impacted by a major
19 disaster or emergency.

20 “(2) MANAGEMENT.—A website established, up-
21 dated, or operated under this subsection shall be—

22 “(A) managed by the State agency; and

23 “(B) suitable for the residents of the State
24 of the State agency.

1 “(3) CONTENT.—The Administrator may pro-
2 vide funding to a State agency under this subsection
3 to establish, update, or operate a website that pro-
4 vides only 1 or more of the following:

5 “(A) A list of Federal, State, and local
6 sources of post-disaster recovery funding or as-
7 sistance that may be available to a community
8 after a disaster or emergency.

9 “(B) A list of Federal, State, and local
10 sources of post-disaster recovery funding or as-
11 sistance that may be available to an individual
12 impacted by a major disaster or emergency.

13 “(C) A technical guide that lists and ex-
14 plains the costs and benefits of alternatives
15 available to a community to mitigate the im-
16 pacts of a major disaster or emergency and pre-
17 pare for sequential hazards, such as flooding
18 after a wildfire.

19 “(4) COOPERATION.—A State agency that re-
20 ceives funding or technical assistance to establish,
21 update, or operate a website under this subsection
22 shall cooperate with the Secretary of the Interior,
23 the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Hous-
24 ing and Urban Development, the Administrator of
25 the Small Business Administration, and the Admin-

1 istrator of the Federal Emergency Management
2 Agency in establishing, updating, or operating the
3 website under this subsection.

4 “(5) UPDATES.—A State agency that receives
5 funding to establish, update, or operate a website
6 under this subsection shall update the website not
7 less frequently than once every 180 days.”.

8 **SEC. 302. POST-FIRE MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned
11 shall establish 1 or more permanent Burned Area Emer-
12 gency Response Teams (referred to in this section as a
13 “BAER Team”) to coordinate immediate post-wildfire
14 emergency stabilization and erosion planning efforts.

15 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—A BAER Team shall—

16 (1) survey the landscape affected by a wildfire
17 to determine burn severity;

18 (2) identify and remove, as necessary, dead or
19 dying trees that may pose an immediate hazard to
20 individuals, communities, or critical infrastructure;

21 (3) stabilize or remove hazardous materials re-
22 sulting from a wildfire that may pose an immediate
23 hazard to individuals, communities, or the environ-
24 ment;

1 Term Burned Area Rehabilitation account for the Depart-
2 ment of Agriculture.

3 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2025 and
5 each fiscal year thereafter for the account established by
6 subsection (a) such sums as are necessary to carry out
7 the activities described in subsection (d), not to exceed
8 \$100,000,000.

9 (c) PRESIDENTIAL BUDGET REQUESTS.—For fiscal
10 year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary
11 of Agriculture shall submit through the budget request of
12 the President and in accordance with subsection (b), a re-
13 quest for amounts in the National Forest System appro-
14 priation account to carry out the activities described in
15 subsection (d).

16 (d) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Ag-
17 riculture shall use amounts in the account established by
18 subsection (a) for rehabilitation projects located at sites
19 impacted by a wildfire or post-wildfire flooding primarily
20 on Federal land, but may include areas on non-Federal
21 land, that—

22 (1) restore the functions of an ecosystem, in-
23 cluding—

24 (A) identifying areas where natural regen-
25 eration is unlikely to occur;

1 (B) revegetation and reforestation, includ-
2 ing coordinating any necessary site preparation,
3 salvage harvesting, and replanting;

4 (C) watershed restoration;

5 (D) invasive species mitigation and re-
6 moval; and

7 (E) wildlife habitat restoration; or

8 (2) repair or replace infrastructure or facilities
9 critical for land management activities.

10 (e) DURATION OF ACTIVITIES.—A rehabilitation
11 project under subsection (d) shall—

12 (1) begin not earlier than the date on which the
13 wildfire was contained; and

14 (2) be completed not later than 5 years after
15 the date on which the wildfire was contained.

16 (f) AGREEMENT AUTHORITY.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
18 may enter to agreements with non-Federal entities
19 to carry out activities described in subsection (d).

20 (2) COST SHARE.—The non-Federal share of
21 the costs of implementing activities under an agree-
22 ment entered into under paragraph (1)—

23 (A) shall be not more than 20 percent; and

24 (B) may include in-kind contributions.

1 (3) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this sub-
2 section—

3 (A) requires the Secretary of Agriculture
4 to enter into agreements with non-Federal enti-
5 ties to carry out activities described in sub-
6 section (d); or

7 (B) limits the effect of the prioritization
8 requirements under subsection (g).

9 (g) PRIORITIZATION OF FUNDING.—The Secretary of
10 Agriculture shall prioritize, on a nationwide basis, projects
11 for which funding requests are submitted under this sec-
12 tion based on downstream effects on water resources.

13 (h) REPORTING.—Beginning in fiscal year 2027, and
14 each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture
15 shall annually submit to Congress a report on the burned
16 area recovery work performed using—

17 (1) amounts from the account established by
18 subsection (a);

19 (2) amounts made available under the Act of
20 June 9, 1930 (16 U.S.C. 576 et seq.); and

21 (3) amounts from the Reforestation Trust Fund
22 established by section 303(a) of Public Law 96–451
23 (16 U.S.C. 1606a(a)).

1 **SEC. 304. PRIZE FOR WILDFIRE-RELATED INVASIVE SPE-**
2 **CIES REDUCTION.**

3 Section 7001(d) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Con-
4 servation, Management, and Recreation Act (16 U.S.C.
5 742b note; Public Law 116–9) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “paragraph (8)(A)” each place
7 it appears and inserting “paragraph (9)(A)”;

8 (2) by striking “paragraph (8)(B)” each place
9 it appears and inserting “paragraph (9)(B)”;

10 (3) by redesignating paragraph (8) as para-
11 graph (9);

12 (4) by inserting after paragraph (7) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(8) THEODORE ROOSEVELT GENIUS PRIZE
15 FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDFIRE-RELATED INVASIVE
16 SPECIES.—

17 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

18 “(i) BOARD.—The term ‘Board’
19 means the Management of Wildfire-Related
20 Invasive Species Technology Advisory
21 Board established by subparagraph (C)(i).

22 “(ii) PRIZE COMPETITION.—The term
23 ‘prize competition’ means the Theodore
24 Roosevelt Genius Prize for the manage-
25 ment of wildfire-related invasive species es-
26 tablished under subparagraph (B).

1 “(B) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 180
2 days after the date of enactment of the Western
3 Wildfire Support Act of 2024, the Secretary
4 shall establish under section 24 of the Steven-
5 son-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980
6 (15 U.S.C. 3719) a prize competition, to be
7 known as the ‘Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize
8 for the management of wildfire-related invasive
9 species’—

10 “(i) to encourage technological innova-
11 tion with the potential to advance the mis-
12 sion of the National Invasive Species
13 Council with respect to the management of
14 wildfire-related invasive species; and

15 “(ii) to award 1 or more prizes annu-
16 ally for a technological advancement that
17 manages wildfire-related invasive species.

18 “(C) ADVISORY BOARD.—

19 “(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is es-
20 tablished an advisory board, to be known
21 as the ‘Management of Wildfire-Related
22 Invasive Species Technology Advisory
23 Board’.

24 “(ii) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall
25 be composed of not fewer than 9 members

1 appointed by the Secretary, who shall pro-
2 vide expertise in—

3 “(I) invasive species;

4 “(II) biology;

5 “(III) technology development;

6 “(IV) engineering;

7 “(V) economics;

8 “(VI) business development and
9 management;

10 “(VII) wildfire; and

11 “(VIII) any other discipline, as
12 the Secretary determines to be nec-
13 essary to achieve the purposes of this
14 paragraph.

15 “(iii) DUTIES.—Subject to clause (iv),
16 with respect to the prize competition, the
17 Board shall—

18 “(I) select a topic;

19 “(II) issue a problem statement;

20 “(III) advise the Secretary re-
21 garding any opportunity for techno-
22 logical innovation to manage wildfire-
23 related invasive species; and

24 “(IV) advise winners of the prize
25 competition regarding opportunities to

1 pilot and implement winning tech-
2 nologies in relevant fields, including in
3 partnership with conservation organi-
4 zations, Federal or State agencies,
5 federally recognized Indian Tribes,
6 private entities, and research institu-
7 tions with expertise or interest relat-
8 ing to the management of wildfire-re-
9 lated invasive species.

10 “(iv) CONSULTATION.—In selecting a
11 topic and issuing a problem statement for
12 the prize competition, the Board shall con-
13 sult widely with Federal and non-Federal
14 stakeholders, including—

15 “(I) 1 or more Federal agencies
16 with jurisdiction over the management
17 of invasive species;

18 “(II) 1 or more Federal agencies
19 with jurisdiction over the management
20 of wildfire;

21 “(III) 1 or more State agencies
22 with jurisdiction over the management
23 of invasive species;

1 “(IV) 1 or more State agencies
2 with jurisdiction over the management
3 of wildfire;

4 “(V) 1 or more State, regional,
5 or local wildlife organizations, the
6 mission of which relates to the man-
7 agement of invasive species; and

8 “(VI) 1 or more wildlife con-
9 servation groups, technology compa-
10 nies, research institutions, institutions
11 of higher education, industry associa-
12 tions, or individual stakeholders with
13 an interest in the management of
14 wildfire-related invasive species.

15 “(v) REQUIREMENTS.—The Board
16 shall comply with all requirements under
17 paragraph (9)(A).

18 “(D) ADMINISTRATION BY THE NATIONAL
19 INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL.—The Secretary,
20 acting through the Executive Director of the
21 National Invasive Species Council, shall admin-
22 ister the prize competition and perform the du-
23 ties described in paragraph (9)(B)(i).

24 “(E) JUDGES.—

1 “(i) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary
2 shall appoint not fewer than 3 judges who
3 shall, except as provided in clause (ii), se-
4 lect the 1 or more annual winners of the
5 prize competition.

6 “(ii) DETERMINATION BY SEC-
7 RETARY.—The judges appointed under
8 clause (i) shall not select any annual win-
9 ner of the prize competition if the Sec-
10 retary makes a determination that, in any
11 fiscal year, none of the technological ad-
12 vancements entered into the prize competi-
13 tion merits an award.

14 “(F) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later
15 than 60 days after the date on which a cash
16 prize is awarded under this paragraph, the Sec-
17 retary shall submit to the Committee on Energy
18 and Natural Resources of the Senate and the
19 Committee on Natural Resources of the House
20 of Representatives a report on the prize com-
21 petition that includes—

22 “(i) a statement by the Board that
23 describes the activities carried out by the
24 Board relating to the duties described in
25 subparagraph (C)(iii);

1 funds are available for an additional cash
2 prize under the prize competition under
3 paragraph (8) for a year, the Secretary
4 shall determine the amount of the addi-
5 tional cash prize.”.