

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 18, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Jefferson Drive SW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Chief Randy Moore
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins and Chief Moore:

We are writing to express our concern over President Trump's sudden decision to terminate the employment of several thousand United States Forest Service (USFS) employees. We are concerned about the merit and reasoning for these firings, but we are even more concerned about how a sudden loss of staff will impact Nevadans, our communities, and the critical work performed on public lands around the state.

The Forest Service manages approximately 5.9 million acres of land in Nevada, including some of our most cherished landscapes such as the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Ruby Mountains within the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area outside of Las Vegas. Many Nevadans rely on the services provided by Forest Service staff. We are concerned these firings pose immediate risks to Nevadans' safety and livelihoods.

We are frequently told by our constituents that more USFS employees are needed to perform mission-critical functions such as implementing wildfire prevention and mitigation activities, facilitating recreation access, processing grazing and mineral development permits, managing invasive species, conducting land transfers and appraisals, and enacting erosion control and watershed protections, the latter of which is especially necessary to ensure certain communities in Nevada have access to clean water. The loss of trained Forest Service professionals will undoubtedly exacerbate the backlog of these critical functions, and will have unnecessary and undue impacts on regional economies and community safety.


Furthermore, Congress has already provided funding necessary to address the backlog of many of these activities through the Inflation Reduction Act. This landmark law provided nearly \$5 billion to USFS for preventative forestry and community protection measures, including \$1.2 billion for hazardous fuels management. Without the proper staff in place, we are concerned that these programs will not be able to be implemented to the fullest extent, and federal dollars will go to waste.

For these reasons, we request that USFS provide the following information so the public may understand the impacts to their communities:

- The number of employees terminated from the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, and any other employees located in Nevada.
- A description of the position and responsibilities of each terminated employee.
- A list and description of the projects to which each terminated employee was assigned.
- A description of what information the terminated employees were provided, including if they were provided with the legally required notice under 5 CFR § 315.803(b) or Reductions in Force regulations.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

United States Senate

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