



## Addressing Wildfire Risk And Related Issues Together.

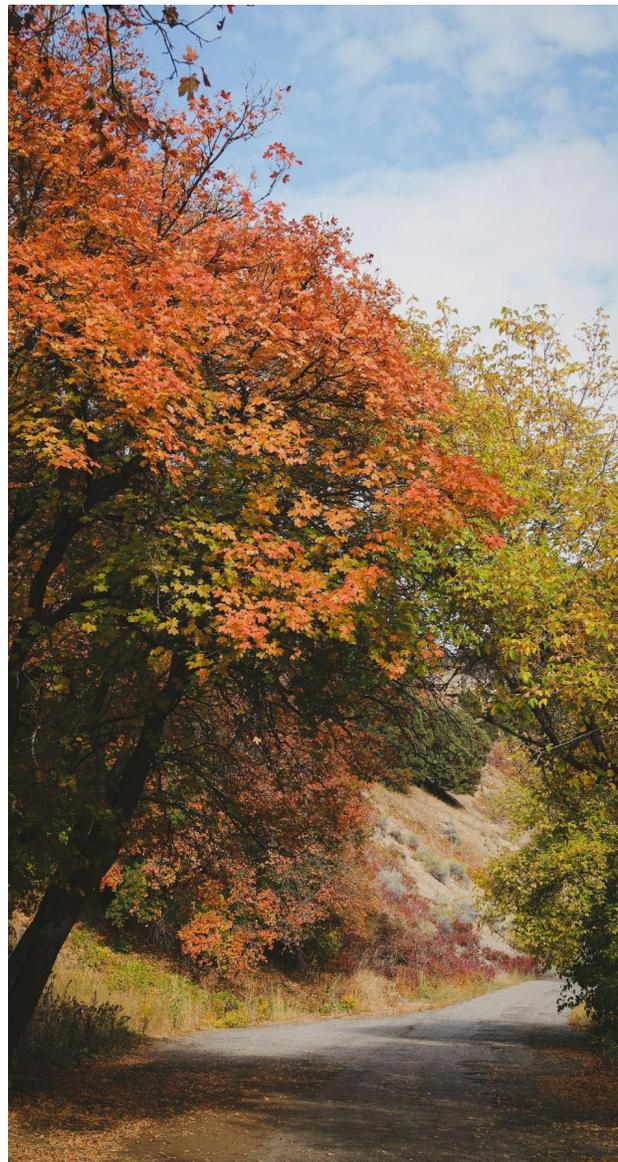
June 26th, 2025

### Member Spotlight

This week, we're shining the light on the **City of MillCreek!**

Millcreek, located in the southeastern area of Salt Lake County, Utah, is a recently incorporated city near the metropolitan area. The population doubled from around 30,000 in 2000 to just over 60,000 in 2010 and is continuing to grow.

Following a **massive fire several years ago**, Millcreek has worked consistently to protect its urban areas and residences from the wildfire prone areas of the nearby canyon and federal lands. The urban-wild land interface requires a federal collaboration, and Millcreek is working with **federal partners to ground power lines and introduce other wildfire response measures** in the area. As you'll see in our next section, federal lands and the complexity of an integrated wildfire response is



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## Regional Wildfire Differences

Last week, we talked about regional wildfire challenges that were identified in a **widely shared report** from the **National Interagency Fire Center**. This week, we're reviewing the challenges of the Western United States, especially as they face increasing wildfires risks.



A piece of the complexity in wildfire prevention and response in the Western United States is the amount of federally owned lands. The United States government owns about 47% of land in the western region, making wildfire prevention and containment a local, state, and federal issue. This requires immense intergovernmental collaboration and often creates different approaches to policy.

## Understanding Federal Policy

### Breakdown of Department of the Interior's Budget in Brief

It's that time of year for federal appropriations funding and we're still seeing some requests go through, so we wanted to do an in-depth breakdown of what different federal department budget requests are saying about wildfire policy. Today's snapshot, the **Department of the Interior's FY26 Budget in Brief**

The 2026 budget request calls for a total of \$6.55 billion for operations and suppression reserve fund. Operationally, the request combines the fire oriented activities of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Dept. of Agriculture, and Forest Service, into a single organization called the U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS). The budget request calls for legislation from the administration to accomplish this, and to give authority to USWFS to manage 693 million acres.

Among other things wildfire related, included in the budget are firefighter pay reforms, vegetation fuels management, burned area rehabilitation, intelligence and technology, grants and partnerships, and preparedness.



## The Latest on Capitol Hill

### U.S Secretary of Agriculture Rescinds 2001 Roadless Rule

If you didn't catch our post on our [X account](#) earlier this week, U.S Secretary of Agriculture Rollins announced at the Western Governor's Association that the administration would be **rescinding the 2001 Roadless Rule**. Repealed during the first Trump administration, but reinstated during the Biden administration, the Roadless Rule prohibits road construction, reconstruction, and harvesting on 58.5 million acres of inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands.

The administration has pointed towards the rule as a barrier to land management and wildfire prevention, noting that 30% of National Forest System lands are affected by this regulation. In her press release, Secretary Rollins acknowledged that 28 million acres affected by the 2001 Roadless Rule are in areas at high or very high risk of wildfire.

[Media Coverage](#)



## Wildfire in the News

- **Nature** - New report finds wildfires drive multi-year water quality degradation in the Western United States
- **New York Times** - L.A. Homeowners Face Toxic Hazards After Wildfires
- **Salt Lake Tribune** - The Forsyth Fire and France Canyon Fire continue to spread across southern Utah
- **Wired** - Google Wants to Get Better at Spotting Wildfires From Space

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## About Us

Wildlife Alliance is a growing coalition of local governments and state entities that work with Congress and executive agencies to address important issues related to the increased prevalence and severity of wildfires across the country.

Alliance members set the priorities, policy and legislative recommendations, and in collaboration, we make recommendations before Congress. Wildfire Alliance staff work to find consensus among its members and provide expertise on navigating the federal process to ensure member objectives are met.



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## Have a Referral?

If you have other agencies or organizations interested in becoming a member, please let us know or share our contact information:



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