



Addressing Wildfire Risk And Related Issues Together.

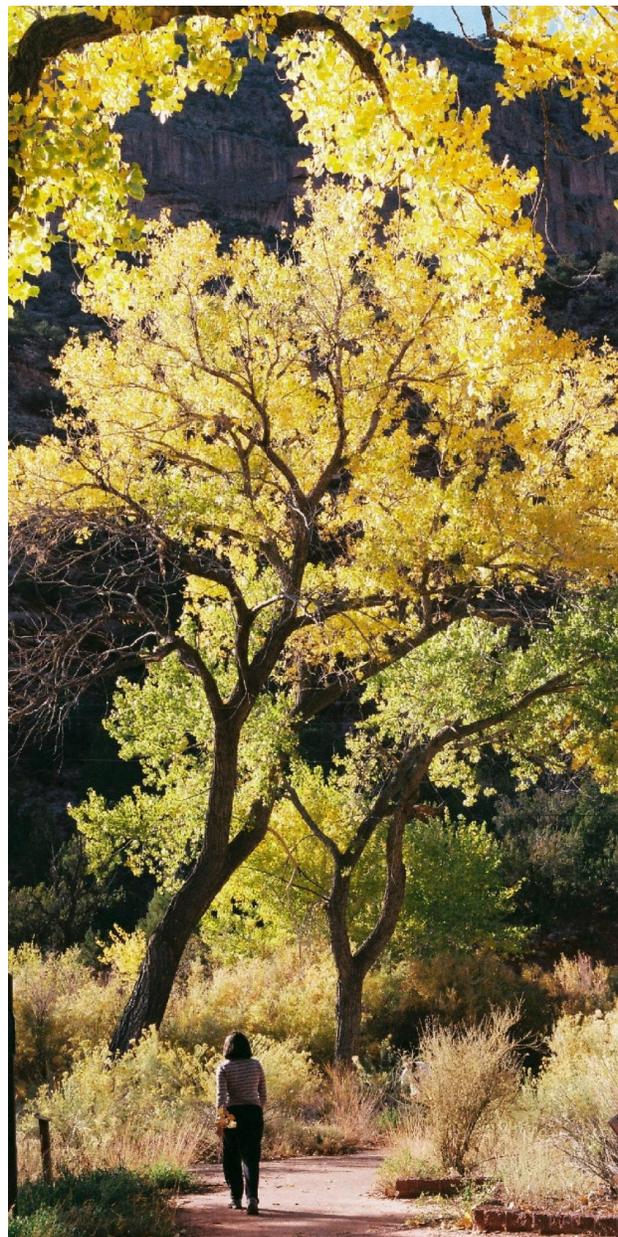
July 24th, 2025

Member Spotlight

This week's member spotlight features **New Mexico Highlands University!**

New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) is a public state-run institution based in Las Vegas, New Mexico, with additional centers across the state. Dedicated to serving both local and global communities, the university provides a comprehensive education that emphasizes creativity, critical thinking, and research in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional fields within a diverse community.

NMHU is a leading institution on wildfire research and forest management, but it was severely impacted by the **2022 Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon Fire that arose from out-of-control prescribed fires** conducted by the U.S. Forest Service. As NMHU and our coalition navigate



federal wildfire policy, we're proud to count them as a member of the Alliance.

Latest on Capitol Hill

Wildfire Management Bills Advance in Congressional Committees, Await Scheduling for Full Chamber Votes

Congress advanced several bills concerning wildfire and land management out of Committees this week. A bill authored by Rep. Darrell Issa to **streamline the hiring of federal firefighters unanimously passed** the House Natural Resources Committee Tuesday. **The Direct Hire to Fight Fires** bill is intended to cut red tape to make the hiring of firefighters a simpler process. In addition, bills such as the "Put Out the Fire Act", the "Proven Forest Management Act" and the "Utah Wildfire Research Institute Act of 2025" also **progressed from Committee and could receive floor votes in the House**.

The House Appropriations Committee also **advanced their markup of the Fiscal Year 2026 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Act** which includes legislative funding relevant to the Trump Administration's proposed Wildland Fire Service Agency. With the House starting its August recess, votes on these bills by the full Congress is not expected to at least September if not longer.

[Media Coverage](#)



Wildfire in the Data

Wave of New Research Emphasizes the Consequences of Wildfire Smoke

As wildfires continue across the United States and Canada, smoke and a hazy summers have become the new normal. With the long-term increase in wildfires and their smoke in recent decades, researchers have started to uncover the extent to which smoke inhalation affects public health. A **recent report from the University of Colorado** linked smoke inhalation to difficulties in cognitive development, and **another study in June** found smoke also impacted the immune system.

What many of these studies find is that fine particular matter, or particles known as PM_{2.5} are the main source of the smoke's harmful properties. About 20 times smaller than a human hair, the particles can also be found in harmful pollutants but were banned by the EPA decades ago. Now, under the increasing severity of wildfires with no discrimination of boundary or regulation, these harmful particles are again a major public health issue.

[Media Coverage](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Wildland Urban Interface Summit - Prescott, AZ | Oct. 28-30**
- **Southern Blueridge TREX - Blueridge NC & SC | Nov. 3-15**

Wildfire in the News

- **The Guardian** - US faces alarming firefighter shortage during peak wildfire season, as data reveals
- **NBC** - Oregon wildfire burning over 95k acres could reach rare megafire status
- **The New York Times** - What to know about Canada's fires as smoke drifts south
- **The Washington Post** - I'm a pulmonologist. This is how I protect myself from wildfire smoke

About Us

Wildfire Alliance is a coalition of local governments and state entities working with Congress and federal agencies to address the rising threat of wildfires.



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