



Addressing Wildfire Risk And Related Issues Together.

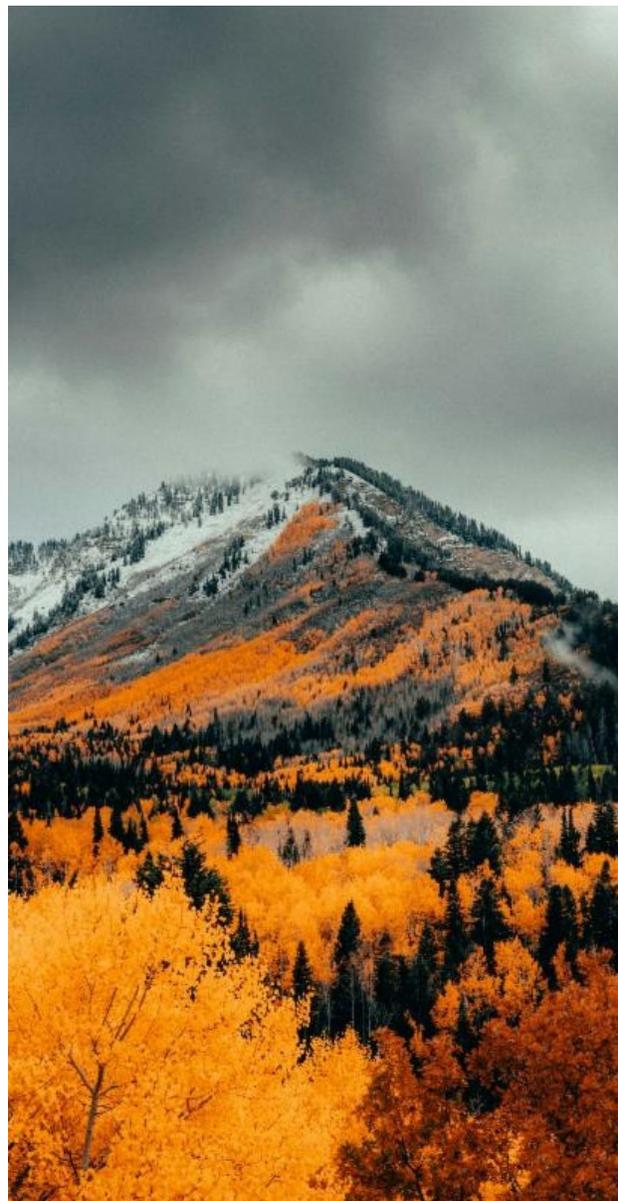
July 31st, 2025

Member Spotlight

This week's member spotlight features the **City of Holladay!**

Holladay, Utah is a leafy suburban city in central Salt Lake County, part of the Salt Lake City metropolitan area, with a population of 31,965 at the 2020 census. First settled in 1847 and named after pioneer John Holladay, it was officially incorporated in November of 1999.

With nearby canyons and federal lands ripe with wildfire risk, Holladay is a prime example of the complexities of wildland-urban interfaces. The city recognizes the need for coordinated federal action, and advocates for the resources and policies needed to protect its residents and reduce long-term fire threats.



Latest on Capitol Hill

Congress Taps the Breaks on the White House's Unified Wildfire Service

The House Appropriations Committee has paused the administration's plan to establish a unified Wildland Fire Service by merger of firefighting operations across multiple agencies. In its **draft Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill** for fiscal year 2026, lawmakers flagged concerns over how the restructuring would affect agency capacity to meet hazardous-fuel reductions, timber targets, and staffing benchmarks—especially given an understaffed, red-card-certified firefighting workforce. Among other actions, the committee asked the Government Accountability Office to conduct a six-month review and cost-benefit analysis before moving forward, effectively delaying implementation until at least early 2026.

Media Coverage



Alliance Focus Areas

Reviewing our Priorities: Wildfire Risk Insurance

A new section to our weekly newsletters will be reviewing **Wildfire Alliance's current seven priority issues** relating to wildfire policy. First up, wildfire risk insurance. Wildfires are driving up insurance premiums and causing

widespread policy cancellations, with **some homeowners facing rate hikes of more than 30% since 2020**. As insurers withdraw from high-risk areas, families are being left without coverage, just as wildfires become more frequent and destructive.

Despite the growing threat, no federal solutions currently exist to address the wildfire insurance crisis. The most recent movement was a **bill introduced just last week from Senators Heinrich and Sheehy** that would empower the Government Accountability Office to study how wildfires have affected private insurance premiums. The Wildfire Alliance is calling on Congress to step in and help close the widening coverage gap. Without action, communities across the country will continue to face rising risk with fewer tools to recover and rebuild.

Media Coverage



Wildfire in the Data

King of the Jungle? New Research Shows Aspen Forests Slow Wildfire Spread

Researchers from Western Colorado University's Clark School of Environment and Sustainability, along with colleagues at Colorado State University and the U.S. Forest Service, have provided the first clear **quantitative evidence that aspen forests significantly slow wildfire spread** in the southwestern U.S. Analysis of 314 wildfires across Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah

spanning 2001 to 2020 revealed that areas with at least 25% aspen cover burned at just one-third the rate of areas with under 10% aspen coverage. Specifically, where aspen cover exceeded 25%, average daily burned area dropped to 368 hectares versus 1,112 hectares/day and ~2.1 km/day when aspen cover was below 10%.

Additionally, the study showed that aspens were 44% more likely to be found at fire perimeters than within burn interiors—indicating their capacity to stop or deflect advancing flames. These effects persisted even under extreme fire weather. The authors suggest that actively promoting aspen—through prescribed burns, forest management, or planting around communities—could create natural “green fuel breaks.”

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

- **New Scientist** - California bets on iron-salt battery to protect against wildfire
- **The Weather Channel** - Grand Canyon fire's containment drops by half

- **CBS News** - Air quality alert issues for all of Michigan Wednesday and Thursday because of Canadian wildfires
- **USA Today** - US Wildfire smoke map: Track latest wildfires, red flag warnings across the US

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.



Follow us on Social Media



Stay up to date on wildfire news and legislation by following Wildfire Alliance on X and LinkedIn.



Have a Referral?

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

 Share This Email



 Share This Email

info@wildfirepolicy.org

Join the
Alliance



Wildfire Alliance | 512 C St NE | Washington, DC 20002 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!