



**August 28th
2025**



Addressing Wildfire Risk And Related Issues Together

Reviewing our Priorities: Forest Management

Primarily, forest management involves the use of prescribed fires (also referred to as 'controlled burns') to limit natural wildfire fuel such as dead wood and underbrush. However, proper forest management includes a far wider range of actions than just controlled burns.

Because wildfire risk is a combination of factors, including the availability of fuel and types of plant and tree species, fuel reduction (either through controlled burns or harvesting and removal of dead fuel, also called 'mechanical thinning') is most effective when paired with invasive species management, reforestation efforts, and advanced wildfire detection systems.

Why this matters?

Fire is part of the natural ecosystem and is essential to maintaining healthy forests and, when used correctly, is a key part of wildfire mitigation. Controlled burns help prevent catastrophic wildfire events, but increased development on wildfire-prone land, air quality concerns, and other compounding factors mean that controlled burns are not a catch-all solution to limiting wildfire fuel.

When combined with mechanical thinning, invasive species management, reforestation, and wildfire detection, controlled burns are just one part of a holistic forest management strategy. This approach not only ensures that forests and brushland are comprised of strong, wildfire-tolerant species with limited wildfire fuel available, but enables early detection of wildfires, facilitating rapid response to control blazes and support wildfire-resilient ecosystems.



Updates from Capitol Hill

California Wildfire Funding Audit Gains Traction in Congress

Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) this week backed calls from California wildfire victims to audit wildfire funding that the state has received from the Federal Government, highlighting concerns that federal funds have been misused.

Writing to Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, Scott requested "an update on the funding that has been allocated to California in the past ten years, starting on September 1, 2015."

California has been among the states hardest hit by catastrophic wildfires. The state's susceptibility to wildfire was put into stark relief in 2018 when the Camp Fire destroyed the town of Paradise and other communities in Butte County.

Subsequent catastrophic fires have led to pointed criticism of California's wildfire strategy, with opponents arguing that increased state and federal funding has done little to reduce the number and intensity of catastrophic wildfires.

Advocates for California's efforts **highlight that significant parts of the state's firehatched (areas prone to wildfire) are federally owned lands**, and point to significant investments of the state's own funds in wildfire prevention.

It's unknown if other Senators will support Scott's efforts to obtain a full breakdown of federal wildfire funds awarded to California, but any review or future audit by Congress or an executive agency could spark a landmark debate over the use of federal funds in wildfire planning and mitigation and underscore the need for comprehensive wildfire policy to resolve the current patchwork regulatory and administrative environment.



Senate Leader Express Support for FOFA

U.S. Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) this week penned an [opinion article in the Ohio Highland County Press](#) highlighting his support for the Fix Our Forests Act (FAFO), legislation that passed the House of Representatives in January with broad bipartisan support but has yet to be voted on in the Senate.

Crapo underlines that partnering with state and local stakeholders on forest management and wildfire prevention is critical to ensuring proper wildfire mitigation techniques, writing that federal programs already in place "have expanded the federal government's ability to partner with state foresters and private entities on forest restoration, wildfire risk reduction and wildlife habitat improvements."

Crapo's support for FAFO is notable given the legislation's slow progress in the Senate and his position in Senate leadership. He joins a growing list of bipartisan Western Senators who have voiced their support for FAFO.

[The legislation](#) would streamline the existing environmental review process for

proposed forest management projects, accelerate reforestation efforts, create a new centralized coordination office, and expand stakeholder coordination opportunities.



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 York Times** - Immigration Officials Conduct Operation at Wildfire Site in Washington State
- **BBC** - Wildfire threatens California's famed wine country in Napa Valley
- **Salt Lake Tribune** - Wildfire closes road in Zion National Park
- **The Oregonian** - 'The Office' actor evacuates Oregon cabin amid wildfire, declares 'Let's do something' about climate change

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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