



**September 4th
2025**



Addressing Wildfire Risk And Related Issues Together

Reviewing our Priorities: Risk Reduction and Suppression

Closely related to last week's priority highlight of forest management, risk reduction and suppression involves efforts to reduce the risk of wildfires through prescribed fire, mechanical thinning, species control, and other strategies. Suppression involves the work of detecting, monitoring, and containing wildfires once they start.

Notably, the goal of risk reduction is not to eliminate the occurrence of wildfires, but to ensure that fires are quickly detected, easily contained, and pose limited danger to communities and people. Some aspects, like emergency planning, monitoring technology, and others, are shared across risk reduction and suppression, playing important roles both before and after a wildfire has started.

Why this matters?

A **2019 article in the journal *Fire Management Today*** indicated that in a specific case study \$1 in fire risk reduction efforts lowered suppression costs by \$35. Municipalities and states should consider the need for both risk reduction and suppression funding, recognizing that risk reduction is generally more cost-effective than suppression.

However, risk reduction strategies can take several years to fully implement. This lead time results in municipalities and states being forced to absorb temporarily higher costs associated with funding risk reduction efforts at higher levels before a corresponding drop in suppression costs is observed.



Updates from Capitol Hill

Bipartisan Legislation Seeks to Improve Wildfire Resiliency

U.S. Senators Michael Bennett (D-CO), John Hickenlooper (D-CO), Ben Ray Luján (D-NM), Mike Crapo (R-ID), and James Risch (R-ID) yesterday introduced the Headwaters Protection Act aimed at improving watershed management and wildfire resiliency.

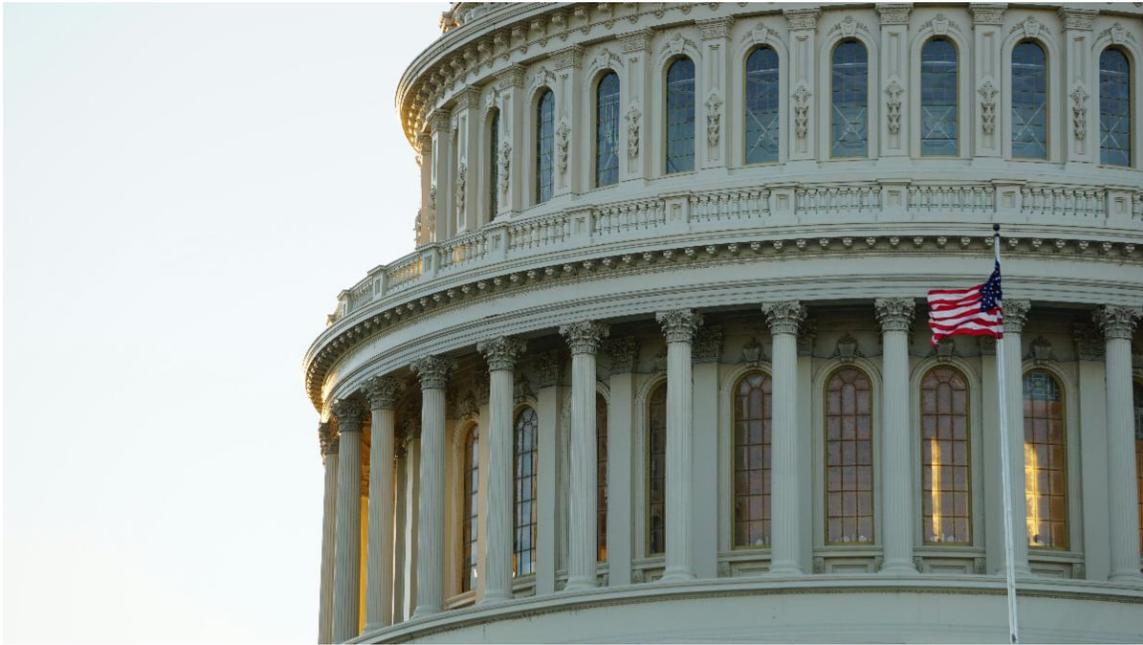
The bill mirrors many aspects of the Fix Our Forests Act, which has seen little progress in the Senate after passing the House in January. The Fix Our Forests Act has garnered support from a bipartisan group of Western senators, including Senators Bennett, Hickenlooper, Luján, Crapo, and Risch.

The Headwaters Protection Act more narrowly focuses on watershed preservation. Drought conditions and water use disagreements have long raised concerns about the availability of water for wildfire activities. Water is critical in both risk reduction and suppression efforts, as appropriately-watered tree and plant species can be resilient to wildfire and fire crews rely on water sources, including reservoirs, to assist in containment efforts.

The Aspen Times highlighted that the Headwaters Protection Act already has broad support from state and community officials across Colorado.

The bill is significant because it reinforces the urgency of action on wildfire

resiliency. Its introduction could serve to refocus debate on the Fix Our Forests Act and wildfire legislation at large.



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 - [In a Mammoth Wildfire's Remains, Clues to Tame Future Blazes](#)**
- **San Francisco Chronicle - [Here's What's Really Going on at the Forest Service as Wildfire Season Ramps Up](#)**
- **The Hotshot Wakeup - [Is the Aggressive Initial Attack Policy Working?](#)**
- **Los Angeles Times - [Bill Requiring Removal of Unused Power Lines to Avoid Wildfire Risks Dies in Sacramento](#)**

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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