

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3532

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a periodic wildfire assessment, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2021

Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. PANETTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a periodic wildfire assessment, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. WILDFIRE PREPARATION, RESPONSE, AND RE-**
4 **COVERY ASSESSMENT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—

6 (1) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of
7 Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest
8 Service and in consultation with the Secretary of the

1 Interior, shall, not less than once every 5 years,
2 complete a wildfire assessment that includes the
3 analysis described in paragraph (2).

4 (2) CONTENTS OF ANALYSIS.—The assessment
5 required under paragraph (1), shall, to the maximum
6 extent practicable, with respect to the preceding
7 5 years, include an analysis of—

8 (A) the direct costs of wildfire response,
9 preparation, and recovery, including—

- 10 (i) wildfire mitigation activities;
- 11 (ii) wildlife suppression activities;
- 12 (iii) insured private property losses
13 due to wildfire;
- 14 (iv) uninsured private property losses
15 due to wildfire;
- 16 (v) damage due to wildfire and the
17 necessary repairs related to utility infrastructure,
18 including shutoffs;
- 19 (vi) damage and loss of timber and
20 other agricultural resources due to wildfire;
- 21 (vii) damage due to wildfire and the
22 necessary restoration of archeological sites;
- 23 (viii) evacuations and emergency shelters;
24
- 25 (ix) labor;

- 1 (x) human health, including death, in-
2 jury, and illness;
- 3 (xi) necessary infrastructure and sta-
4 bilization repairs;
- 5 (xii) damage due to wildfire and the
6 necessary rehabilitation of ecosystem serv-
7 ices, including watershed impairment,
8 vegetation, and soil impacts; and
- 9 (xiii) damage due to wildfire and the
10 necessary restoration to wildlife habitat;
- 11 (B) the indirect costs of wildfire response,
12 preparation, and recovery, including—
- 13 (i) diminished tax revenue;
- 14 (ii) lost business revenue, including
15 supply chain impacts; and
- 16 (iii) property devaluation and housing
17 market impacts;
- 18 (C) whether the costs described in sub-
19 paragraphs (A) and (B) have been or will be
20 paid by—
- 21 (i) the Federal government;
- 22 (ii) State or territory governments; or
- 23 (iii) county or local governments;

1 (D) a comparison between the analysis
2 under such assessment and the analysis under
3 the preceding assessment (as applicable); and

4 (E) any challenges to ascertaining the
5 costs described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and
6 (C), including unavailable data.

7 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 2 years
8 after the date of the enactment of this section, and once
9 every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture, act-
10 ing through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall submit
11 to the President, the Committee on Agriculture of the
12 House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agri-
13 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate the most
14 recently completed assessment required under subsection
15 (a)(1).

16 (c) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out an assessment
17 required under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary of Agri-
18 culture may collaborate with relevant Federal agencies,
19 State and local governments, research institutions, utility
20 companies and cooperatives, and non-profit organizations.

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