

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 8790
OFFERED BY MR. HUFFMAN OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Fix Our Forests Act”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
5 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE RESTORATION

Subtitle A—Addressing Wildfire Risks in High Priority Firesheds

Sec. 101. Designation of fireshed management areas.
Sec. 102. Fireshed center.
Sec. 103. Fireshed registry.
Sec. 104. Shared stewardship.
Sec. 105. Fireshed assessments.
Sec. 106. Fireshed management projects.
Sec. 107. Sunset.

Subtitle B—Expanding Collaborative Tools to Reduce Wildfire Risk and
Improve Forest Health

Sec. 111. Modification of the treatment of certain revenue and payments under
good neighbor agreements.
Sec. 112. Fixing stewardship end result contracting.
Sec. 113. Intra-agency strike teams.
Sec. 114. Locally-led restoration.
Sec. 115. Joint chiefs landscape restoration partnership program.
Sec. 116. Collaborative forest landscape restoration program reauthorization.

TITLE II—PROTECTING COMMUNITIES IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN
INTERFACE

- Sec. 201. Community wildfire risk reduction program.
- Sec. 202. Community wildfire defense research program.
- Sec. 203. Seeds of Success.

TITLE III—TRANSPARENCY AND TECHNOLOGY

- Sec. 301. Biochar innovations and opportunities for conservation, health, and advancements in research.
- Sec. 302. Accurate hazardous fuels reduction reports.
- Sec. 303. Public-private wildfire technology deployment and testbed partnership.
- Sec. 304. GAO study on Forest Service policies.
- Sec. 305. Forest Service Western headquarters study.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
4 the Director of the Fireshed Center appointed under
5 section 102.

6 (2) FIRESHED.—The term “fireshed” means a
7 landscape-scale area that faces similar wildfire
8 threat where a response strategy could influence the
9 wildfire outcome.

10 (3) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT.—The
11 term “fireshed management project” means a
12 project under section 106.

13 (4) FIRESHED REGISTRY.—The term “Fireshed
14 Registry” means the fireshed registry established
15 under section 103.

16 (5) FOREST PLAN.—The term “forest plan”
17 means—

18 (A) a land use plan prepared by the Bu-
19 reau of Land Management for public lands pur-

1 suant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy
2 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.
3 1712);

4 (B) a land and resource management plan
5 prepared by the Forest Service for a unit of the
6 National Forest System pursuant to section 6
7 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-
8 sources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.
9 1604); or

10 (C) a forest management plan (as defined
11 in section 304 of the National Indian Forests
12 Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3104))
13 with respect to Indian forest land or rangeland.

14 (6) GOVERNOR.—The term “Governor” means
15 the Governor or any other appropriate executive offi-
16 cial of an affected State or Indian Tribe or the Com-
17 monwealth of Puerto Rico.

18 (7) HAZARDOUS FUELS MANAGEMENT ACTIVI-
19 TIES.—The term “hazardous fuels management ac-
20 tivities” means any vegetation management activities
21 (or combination thereof) that aim to reduce the risk
22 of wildfire, including mechanical thinning, mastication,
23 prescribed burning, cultural burning (as deter-
24 mined by the applicable Indian Tribe), , and graz-
25 ing.

1 (8) HFRA TERMS.—The terms “at-risk com-
2 munity”, “community wildfire protection plan”, and
3 “wildland-urban interface” have the meanings given
4 such terms, respectively, in section 101 of the
5 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
6 6511).

7 (9) INDIAN FOREST LAND OR RANGELAND.—
8 The term “Indian forest land or rangeland” means
9 land that—

10 (A) is held in trust by, or with a restriction
11 against alienation by, the United States for an
12 Indian Tribe or a member of an Indian Tribe;
13 and

14 (B)(i)(I) is Indian forest land (as defined
15 in section 304 of the National Indian Forest
16 Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103));
17 or

18 (II) has a cover of grasses, brush, or any
19 similar vegetation; or

20 (ii) formerly had a forest cover or vegeta-
21 tive cover that is capable of restoration.

22 (10) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
23 has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the
24 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
25 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

1 (11) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.—The
2 term “National Forest System lands” has the mean-
3 ing given the term in section 11(a) of the Forest
4 and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act
5 of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609).

6 (12) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”
7 has the meaning given that term in section 103 of
8 the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
9 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702), except that the term in-
10 cludes Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands and Or-
11 egon and California Railroad Grant lands.

12 (13) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
13 TEES.—The term “relevant Congressional Commit-
14 tees” means—

15 (A) the Committees on Natural Resources
16 and Agriculture of the House of Representa-
17 tives; and

18 (B) the Committees on Energy and Nat-
19 ural Resources and Agriculture, Nutrition, and
20 Forestry of the Senate.

21 (14) RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.—The term “re-
22 sponsible official” means an employee of the Depart-
23 ment of the Interior or Forest Service who has the
24 authority to make and implement a decision on a
25 proposed action.

1 (15) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
2 means each of—

3 (A) the Secretary of the Interior; and

4 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 (16) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
6 means the Secretary of Agriculture.

7 (17) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term
8 “Secretary concerned” means—

9 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
10 spect to National Forest System lands; and

11 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
12 spect to public lands.

13 (18) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
14 the several States, the District of Columbia, and
15 each territory of the United States.

16 **TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE**
17 **RESTORATION**

18 **Subtitle A—Addressing Wildfire**
19 **Risks in High Priority Firesheds**

20 **SEC. 101. DESIGNATION OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT**
21 **AREAS.**

22 (a) INITIAL DESIGNATIONS.—For the period begin-
23 ning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on
24 the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of

1 this Act, there are designated fireshed management areas,
2 which—

3 (1) shall be comprised of individual landscape-
4 scale firesheds identified as being a high risk
5 fireshed in the “Wildfire Crisis Strategy” published
6 by the Forest Service in January 2022;

7 (2) shall be comprised of individual landscape-
8 scale firesheds identified by the Secretary, in con-
9 sultation with the Secretary of the Interior, as being
10 in the top 20 percent of the 7,688 firesheds pub-
11 lished by the Rocky Mountain Research Station of
12 the Forest Service in 2019 for wildfire exposure
13 based on the following criteria—

14 (A) wildfire exposure and corresponding
15 risk to communities, including risk to structures
16 and life; and

17 (B) wildfire exposure and corresponding
18 risk to municipal watersheds, including tribal
19 water supplies and systems;

20 (3) shall not overlap with any other fireshed
21 management areas as designated by this section;

22 (4) may contain Federal and non-Federal land,
23 including Indian forest lands or rangelands; and

24 (5) where the Secretary concerned may carry
25 out fireshed management projects.

1 (b) FURTHER FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREA DES-
2 IGNATIONS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—On the date that is 5 years
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act and every
5 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation
6 with the Secretary of the Interior, shall submit to
7 the relevant Congressional Committees an updated
8 map of firesheds based on the Fireshed Registry
9 maintained under section 103.

10 (2) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 60 days
11 after submitting an updated fireshed map under
12 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, based on such
13 map, designate additional fireshed management
14 areas that are identified as being in the top 20 per-
15 cent of firesheds at risk for wildfire exposure based
16 on the criteria specified in subparagraphs (2), (3),
17 (4), and (5) of subsection (a).

18 **SEC. 102. FIRESHED CENTER.**

19 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
21 through the Chief of the Forest Service and the Sec-
22 retary of the Interior, acting through the Director of
23 the U.S. Geological Survey, shall jointly establish a
24 Fireshed Center (hereinafter referred to as the

1 “Center”) comprised of at least one career rep-
2 resentative from each of the following:

3 (A) The Forest Service.

4 (B) The Bureau of Land Management.

5 (C) The National Park Service.

6 (D) The Bureau of Indian Affairs.

7 (E) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

8 (F) The U.S. Geological Survey.

9 (G) The Department of Defense.

10 (H) The Department of Homeland Secu-
11 rity.

12 (I) The Department of Energy.

13 (J) The Federal Emergency Management
14 Agency.

15 (K) The National Science Foundation.

16 (L) The National Oceanic and Atmos-
17 pheric Administration.

18 (M) The National Aeronautics and Space
19 Administration.

20 (N) The National Institute of Standards
21 and Technology.

22 (O) The Environmental Protection Agency.

23 (2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary, acting through
24 the Chief of the Forest Service and the Secretary of
25 the Interior, acting through the Director of the U.S.

1 Geological Survey, shall jointly appoint a Director of
2 the Center, who—

3 (A) shall be an employee of the U.S. Geo-
4 logical Survey or the Forest Service;

5 (B) shall serve an initial term of not more
6 than 7 years; and

7 (C) may serve one additional term of not
8 more than 7 years after the initial term de-
9 scribed in subparagraph (B).

10 (3) ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATION.—The Sec-
11 retary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-
12 ice, and the Secretary of the Interior, acting through
13 the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey—

14 (A) may jointly appoint additional rep-
15 resentatives of Federal agencies to the Center,
16 as the Secretaries determine necessary; and

17 (B) shall jointly appoint a Tribal Liaison
18 to the Center.

19 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Center are to—

20 (1) comprehensively assess and predict fire in
21 the wildland and built environment interface through
22 data aggregation and science-based decision support
23 services, including through pre-fire modeling of cli-
24 mate conditions;

1 (2) reduce fragmentation and duplication across
2 Federal land management agencies with respect to
3 predictive service and decision support functions re-
4 lated to wildland fire;

5 (3) promote interorganizational coordination
6 and sharing of data regarding wildland fire decision
7 making;

8 (4) streamline procurement processes and cy-
9 bersecurity systems related to addressing wildland
10 fire;

11 (5) provide publicly accessible data, models,
12 technologies, assessments, and fire weather forecasts
13 to support short- and long-term planning regarding
14 wildland fire and post-fire recovery;

15 (6) inform activities that better protect public
16 health and safety during and after a fire, including
17 mapping services and data provision to support evac-
18 uation decisions and air quality monitoring for
19 health risk information; and

20 (7) maintain the Fireshed Registry established
21 under section 103.

22 (c) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Center
23 may enter into memorandums of understanding with State
24 governments, Indian Tribes, local governments, academic

1 or research institutions, and private entities to improve
2 the information and operations of the Center.

3 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-
4 ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—

5 (1) USGS SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the In-
6 terior shall make personnel of the U.S. Geological
7 Survey available to the Center for such administra-
8 tive support, technical services, and development and
9 dissemination of data as the Secretary determines
10 necessary to carry out this section.

11 (2) USFS SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall
12 make personnel of the Forest Service available to
13 the Center for such administrative support, technical
14 services, and the development and dissemination of
15 information related to fire management and the
16 Fire Management Registry as the Secretary determines nec-
17 essary to carry out this section.

18 (e) COORDINATION AND COLOCATION.—The Center
19 may include coordination and colocation with existing
20 interagency efforts, including—

- 21 (1) the National Wildfire Coordinating Group;
22 (2) the National Interagency Fire Center; and
23 (3) other interagency efforts determined appro-
24 priate by the Secretaries concerned.

1 **SEC. 103. FIRESHED REGISTRY.**

2 (a) FIRESHED REGISTRY.—The Secretary, acting
3 through the Director of the Fireshed Center appointed
4 under section 102, shall maintain a Fireshed Registry on
5 a publicly accessible website that provides interactive
6 geospatial data on individual firesheds, including informa-
7 tion on—

8 (1) wildfire exposure delineated by ownership,
9 including rights-of-way for utilities and other public
10 or private purposes;

11 (2) any hazardous fuels management activities
12 that have occurred within an individual fireshed in
13 the past 10 years;

14 (3) wildfire exposure with respect to such
15 fireshed delineated by—

16 (A) wildfire exposure and corresponding
17 risk to communities, including risk to structures
18 and life;

19 (B) wildfire exposure and corresponding
20 risk to municipal watersheds, including tribal
21 water supplies and systems; and

22 (C) risk of forest conversion, permanent
23 vegetation conversion, or long-term loss of eco-
24 system components due to wildfire;

25 (4) the percentage of the fireshed that has
26 burned in wildfires in the past 10 years, including,

1 to the extent practicable, delineations of acres that
2 have burned at a high severity;

3 (5) spatial patterns of wildfire exposure, includ-
4 ing plausible extreme fire events; and

5 (6) any hazardous fuels management activities
6 planned for the fireshed, including fireshed manage-
7 ment projects.

8 (b) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS.—

9 The Director shall make data from the Fireshed Registry
10 available to local communities developing or updating com-
11 munity wildfire protection plans.

12 (c) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN.—As part of the
13 website containing the Fireshed Registry, the Director
14 shall—

15 (1) publish fireshed assessments created under
16 section 105; and

17 (2) maintain a searchable database to track—

18 (A) the status of Federal environmental re-
19 views, permits, and authorizations for fireshed
20 management projects, including—

21 (i) a comprehensive permitting time-
22 table;

23 (ii) the status of the compliance of
24 each lead agency, cooperating agency, and
25 participating agency with the permitting

1 timetable with respect to such fireshed
2 management projects;

3 (iii) any modifications of the permit-
4 ting timetable required under clause (i), in-
5 cluding an explanation as to why the per-
6 mitting timetable was modified; and

7 (iv) information about project-related
8 public meetings, public hearings, and pub-
9 lic comment periods, which shall be pre-
10 sented in English and the predominant
11 language of the community or communities
12 most affected by the project, as that infor-
13 mation becomes available;

14 (B) the projected cost of such fireshed
15 management projects; and

16 (C) in the case of completed fireshed man-
17 agement projects, the effectiveness of such
18 projects in reducing the wildfire exposure within
19 an applicable fireshed, including wildfire expo-
20 sure described in subparagraphs (A) through
21 (C) of subsection (a)(3).

22 (d) RELIANCE ON EXISTING ASSESSMENTS.—In car-
23 rying out this section, the Director may rely on assess-
24 ments completed or data gather through existing partner-
25 ships, to the extent practicable.

1 (e) AGREEMENTS.—The Director may enter into
2 memorandums of understanding with State governments,
3 Indian Tribes, local governments, academic or research in-
4 stitutions, and private entities to improve the information
5 and data collection for the Fireshed Registry.

6 **SEC. 104. SHARED STEWARDSHIP.**

7 (a) JOINT AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days
8 after receiving a written request from a Governor of a
9 State or an Indian Tribe, the Secretary concerned shall,
10 under terms determined appropriate by the Secretary,
11 enter into a shared stewardship agreement (or similar
12 agreement) with such Governor or Indian Tribe to joint-
13 ly—

14 (1) promote the reduction of wildfire exposure,
15 based on the criteria in section 101(a)(1)(B), in
16 fireshed management areas across jurisdictional
17 boundaries; and

18 (2) conduct fireshed assessments under section
19 105.

20 (b) ADDITIONAL FIRESHED MANAGEMENT AREAS.—
21 With respect to a shared stewardship agreement (or simi-
22 lar agreement) with a Governor of a State or an Indian
23 Tribe entered into under subsection (a), the Secretary con-
24 cerned, if requested by such Governor or Indian Tribe,
25 may—

1 (1) designate additional fireshed management
2 areas under such agreement; and

3 (2) update such agreement to address new wild-
4 fire threats.

5 (c) **SHARED STEWARDSHIP.**—A previously signed
6 shared stewardship agreement, or similar agreement, be-
7 tween a Governor of a State or an Indian Tribe and the
8 Secretary concerned (or an update or successor agreement
9 to such shared stewardship agreement) may be treated as
10 an agreement under subsection (a) if such Governor or
11 Indian Tribe approves such treatment.

12 (d) **TRANSFERRAL OF FUNDS.**—Notwithstanding any
13 other provision of law, any funds transferred to an Indian
14 Tribe to support a shared stewardship entered into under
15 subsection (a) (or treated as entered into under subsection
16 (a) pursuant to subsection (c)) shall, at the request of that
17 Indian Tribe, be transferred to the Indian Tribe pursuant
18 to a contract, compact, or funding agreement awarded
19 pursuant to title I or IV of the Indian Self-Determination
20 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

21 **SEC. 105. FIRESHED ASSESSMENTS.**

22 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the
23 date on which the Secretary concerned enters into an
24 agreement with a Governor of a State or an Indian Tribe
25 under section 104, the Secretary concerned and such Gov-

1 error or Indian Tribe may, with respect to the firehed
2 management areas designated in such State or Indian
3 lands, jointly conduct a firehed assessment that—

4 (1) identifies—

5 (A) using the best available and most suit-
6 able high-quality science, wildfire exposure risks
7 within each such firehed management area, in-
8 cluding scenario planning and wildfire hazard
9 mapping and models; and

10 (B) each at-risk community within each
11 firehed management area;

12 (2) identifies potential firehed management
13 projects to be carried out in such firehed manage-
14 ment areas, giving priority—

15 (A) primarily, to projects with the purpose
16 of reducing—

17 (i) wildfire exposure and cor-
18 responding risk to communities, including
19 risk to structures and life;

20 (ii) wildfire exposure and cor-
21 responding risk to municipal watersheds,
22 including tribal water supplies and sys-
23 tems;

24 (iii) risk of forest conversion due to
25 wildfire; or

1 (iv) any combination of purposes de-
2 scribed in clauses (i) through (iii); and

3 (B) secondarily, to projects with the pur-
4 pose of protecting—

5 (i) critical infrastructure, including
6 utility infrastructure;

7 (ii) wildlife habitats, including habitat
8 for species listed under the Endangered
9 Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

10 (iii) the built environment, including
11 residential and commercial buildings;

12 (iv) resources of an Indian Tribe, as
13 defined by the Indian Tribe; or

14 (v) any combination of purposes de-
15 scribed in clauses (i) through (iv);

16 (3) includes—

17 (A) a strategy for reducing the threat of
18 wildfire to at-risk communities in the wildland-
19 urban interface on Federal, non-Federal land,
20 and Indian land;

21 (B) a timeline for the implementation of
22 fireshed management projects;

23 (C) long-term benchmark goals for the
24 completion of fireshed management projects in
25 the highest wildfire exposure areas so that such

1 projects contribute to the development and
2 maintenance of healthy and resilient landscapes;
3 and

4 (D) policies to ensure fireshed manage-
5 ment projects comply with applicable forest
6 plans and incorporate the best available science;

7 (4) shall be regularly updated based on the best
8 available and most suitable science, as determined
9 by the Secretary concerned; and

10 (5) shall be publicly available on a website
11 maintained by the Secretary concerned.

12 (b) LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION.—Upon
13 the written request of a local government, the Secretary
14 concerned and the Governor of the State in which the local
15 government is located may allow such local government
16 to participate in producing the fireshed assessment under
17 subsection (a) for such State.

18 (c) INFORMATION IMPROVEMENT.—

19 (1) MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING.—In
20 carrying out a fireshed assessment under this sec-
21 tion, the Secretary concerned may enter into memo-
22 randums of understanding with other Federal agen-
23 cies or departments, States, Indian Tribes, private
24 entities, or research or educational institutions to

1 improve, with respect to such assessment, the use
2 and integration of—

3 (A) advanced remote sensing and
4 geospatial technologies;

5 (B) statistical modeling and analysis; or

6 (C) any other technology or combination of
7 technologies and analyses that the Secretary
8 concerned determines will benefit the quality of
9 information of such an assessment, such as
10 linking fire management to critical societal
11 values (including fire risk reductions, air qual-
12 ity, water quality, fish, and wildlife).

13 (2) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In using the
14 best available science and commercial data for the
15 fire management assessments completed under subsection
16 (a)(1), the Secretary concerned and Governor or In-
17 dian Tribe shall, to the maximum extent practicable,
18 incorporate—

19 (A) traditional ecological knowledge or In-
20 digenous knowledge from Indian Tribes and
21 Tribal organizations as a source of best avail-
22 able science;

23 (B) data from State forest action plans
24 and State wildfire risk assessments;

1 (C) data from the Fireshed Registry main-
2 tained under section 103; and

3 (D) data from other Federal, State, Tribal,
4 and local governments or agencies.

5 (3) DATA SOVEREIGNTY.—In incorporating tra-
6 ditional ecological knowledge from Indian Tribes, the
7 Secretary concerned and Governor shall enter into
8 agreements with such Indian Tribes to protect the
9 confidentiality of such information and ensure such
10 incorporation is not appropriative.

11 (d) TRUST RESPONSIBILITY.—Nothing in this Act
12 shall absolve the Federal Government from its Federal
13 trust responsibility to Indian Tribes or its responsibility
14 for government-to-government consultation where there
15 may be Tribal implications from Federal policy making,
16 project planning, or related implementation.

17 **SEC. 106. FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.**

18 (a) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned,
20 acting through a responsible official, may carry out
21 fireshed management projects in fireshed manage-
22 ment areas designated under section 101 in accord-
23 ance with this section.

24 (2) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—The
25 responsible official may carry out the following for-

1 est and vegetation management activities as fireshed
2 management projects under this section:

3 (A) Conducting hazardous fuels manage-
4 ment activities.

5 (B) Creating fuel breaks and fire breaks.

6 (C) Removing hazard trees.

7 (D) Developing, approving, or conducting
8 routine maintenance under a vegetation man-
9 agement, facility inspection, and operation and
10 maintenance plan submitted under section
11 512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Man-
12 agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(1)).

13 (E) Using chemical or re-seeding and
14 planting treatments to address insects and dis-
15 ease and control vegetation competition or
16 invasive species.

17 (F) Any activities recommended by an ap-
18 plicable fireshed assessment carried out under
19 section 105.

20 (G) Any activities recommended by an ap-
21 plicable community wildfire protection plan.

22 (H) Any combination of activities described
23 in this paragraph.

24 (3) COMPLIANCE.—For any fireshed manage-
25 ment project carried out under this section, the Sec-

1 retary concerned shall ensure compliance with all ap-
2 plicable laws and regulations, including the National
3 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321
4 et seq.), the amendments made to such statute by
5 the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law
6 118–5), any applicable forest plan or resource man-
7 agement plan.

8 (4) USE OF AUTHORITIES.—To the maximum
9 extent practicable, the Secretary concerned may use
10 existing authorities in combination with other au-
11 thorities to carry out fished management projects,
12 including—

13 (A) good neighbor agreements entered into
14 under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of
15 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) (as amended by this
16 Act);

17 (B) stewardship contracting projects en-
18 tered into under section 604 of the Healthy
19 Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
20 6591e) (as amended by this Act);

21 (C) self-determination contracts and self-
22 governance compact agreements entered into
23 under the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
24 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);
25 and

1 (D) agreements entered into under the
2 Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (25
3 U.S.C. 3115a et seq.).

4 (b) MULTIPLE BENEFITS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—In conducting fireshed man-
6 agement activities under this Act, the Secretary con-
7 cerned shall conduct the activities in a manner
8 that—

9 (A) attains multiple ecosystem benefits, in-
10 cluding—

11 (i) reducing hazardous fuels;

12 (ii) maintaining biological diversity;

13 (iii) improving wetland and water
14 quality; and

15 (iv) increasing resilience to changing
16 climate temperatures and drought condi-
17 tions;

18 (B) is in coordination and consultation
19 with impacted parties, including Tribal and
20 local governments; and

21 (C) is consistent with any applicable For-
22 est Management Plan.

23 (2) LARGE TREE RETENTION AND ECOLOGICAL
24 INTEGRITY.—The Secretary concerned shall carry

1 out fireshed management projects under this Act in
2 a manner that—

3 (A) focuses largely on small diameter trees,
4 thinning, strategic fuel breaks, and prescribed
5 fire to modify fire behavior, as measured by the
6 projected reduction of uncharacteristically se-
7 vere wildfire effects for the forest type (such as
8 adverse soil impacts, tree mortality or other im-
9 pacts);

10 (B) maximizes the retention of large trees,
11 as appropriate for the forest type; and

12 (C) considers the best available scientific
13 information to maintain or restore the ecologi-
14 cal integrity, including maintaining or restoring
15 structure, function, composition, and
16 connectivity.

17 **SEC. 107. SUNSET.**

18 The authority under this subtitle shall terminate on
19 the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of
20 this Act.

1 **Subtitle B—Expanding Collaborative Tools to Reduce Wildfire**
2 **Risk and Improve Forest Health**

4 **SEC. 111. MODIFICATION OF THE TREATMENT OF CERTAIN**
5 **REVENUE AND PAYMENTS UNDER GOOD**
6 **NEIGHBOR AGREEMENTS.**

7 (a) GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.—Section 8206 of
8 the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) is amend-
9 ed—

10 (1) in subsection (a)(6), by striking “or Indian
11 tribe”; and

12 (2) in subsection (b)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “,
14 Indian tribe,” after “Governor”;

15 (B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

16 (i) by striking clause (i) and inserting
17 the following:

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Funds received
19 from the sale of timber or forest product
20 by a Governor, an Indian tribe, or a county
21 under a good neighbor agreement shall be
22 retained and used by the Governor, Indian
23 tribe, or county, as applicable—

1 “(I) to carry out authorized res-
2 toration services under the good
3 neighbor agreement; and

4 “(II) if there are funds remain-
5 ing after carrying out subclause (I),
6 to carry out authorized restoration
7 services under other good neighbor
8 agreements and for the administration
9 of a good neighbor authority program
10 by a Governor, Indian tribe, or coun-
11 ty.”; and

12 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “2024”
13 and inserting “2029”;

14 (C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, In-
15 dian tribe,” after “Governor”; and

16 (D) by striking paragraph (4).

17 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 8206(a)
18 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)) is
19 amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “, Indian
21 tribe,” after “Governor”; and

22 (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, Indian
23 tribe,” after “Governor”.

24 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
25 this section apply to any project initiated pursuant to a

1 good neighbor agreement (as defined in section 8206(a)
2 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a))—

3 (1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if
4 the project was initiated after the date of enactment
5 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public
6 Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or

7 (2) on or after the date of enactment of this
8 Act.

9 **SEC. 112. FIXING STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CON-**
10 **TRACTING.**

11 Section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
12 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (b), by inserting “, including
14 retaining and expanding existing forest products in-
15 frastructure” before the period at the end;

16 (2) in subsection (d)(3)(B), by striking “10
17 years” and inserting “20 years”; and

18 (3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the
19 following:

20 “(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARD-
21 SHIP CONTRACTS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A long-term agree-
23 ment or contract entered into with an entity
24 under subsection (b) by the Chief or the Direc-
25 tor shall provide that in the case of the can-

1 cellation or termination by the Chief or the Di-
2 rector of such long-term agreement or contract,
3 the Chief or the Director, as applicable, shall
4 provide 10 percent of the agreement or contract
5 amount to such entity as cancellation or termi-
6 nation costs.

7 “(B) DEFINITION OF LONG-TERM AGREE-
8 MENT OR CONTRACT.—In this paragraph, the
9 term ‘long-term agreement or contract’ means
10 an agreement or contract under subsection
11 (b)—

12 “(i) with a term of more than 5 years;
13 and
14 “(ii) entered into on or after the date
15 of the enactment of this paragraph.”.

16 **SEC. 113. INTRA-AGENCY STRIKE TEAMS.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary concerned
18 shall establish intra-agency strike teams to assist the Sec-
19 retary concerned with—

20 (1) any reviews, including analysis under the
21 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
22 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under the Na-
23 tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C.
24 470 et seq.), and consultations under the Endan-
25 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.),

1 with the intent to accelerate and streamline inter-
2 agency consultation processes;

3 (2) the implementation of any necessary site
4 preparation work in advance of or as part of a
5 fireshed management project;

6 (3) the implementation of fireshed management
7 projects under such section; and

8 (4) any combination of purposes under para-
9 graphs (1) through (3).

10 (b) MEMBERS.—The Secretary concerned may ap-
11 point not more than 10 individuals to serve on an intra-
12 agency strike team comprised of—

13 (1) employees of the Department under the ju-
14 risdiction of the Secretary concerned;

15 (2) employees of a different Federal agency,
16 with the consent of that agency's Secretary;

17 (3) private contractors from any nonprofit orga-
18 nization, State government, Indian Tribe, local gov-
19 ernment, quasi-governmental agency, academic insti-
20 tution, or private organization; and

21 (4) volunteers from any nonprofit organization,
22 State government, Indian Tribe, local government,
23 quasi-governmental agency, academic institution, or
24 private organization.

1 (c) SUNSET.—The authority provided under this sec-
2 tion shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the
3 date of enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 114. LOCALLY-LED RESTORATION.**

5 (a) THRESHOLD ADJUSTMENT.—Section 14(d) of the
6 National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C.
7 472a(d)) is amended by—

8 (1) striking “\$10,000” and inserting
9 “\$55,000”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following: “Begin-
11 ning on January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter,
12 the amount in the first sentence of this subsection
13 shall be adjusted by the Secretary for changes in the
14 Consumer Price Index of All Urban Consumers pub-
15 lished by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the De-
16 partment of Labor.”.

17 (b) FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—Begin-
18 ning on the date that is 30 days after the date of enact-
19 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall solicit bids under sec-
20 tion 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976
21 (16 U.S.C. 472a(d)) for fireshed management projects
22 under section 106.

1 **SEC. 115. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PART-**
2 **nership Program.**

3 Section 40808 of the Infrastructure Investment and
4 Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592d) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

6 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or”
7 at the end;

8 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the
9 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
10 and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(D) to recover from wildfires; or

13 “(E) to enhance soil, water, and related
14 natural resources.”;

15 (2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the
16 following:

17 “(3) AGENCY COORDINATION.—In carrying out
18 the Program, the Chief of the Natural Resources
19 Conservation Service shall—

20 “(A) consider corresponding management
21 plans from the Chief of the Forest Service; and

22 “(B) collaborate with the Chief of the For-
23 est Service on forestry science and practice,
24 using the best available science.”;

25 (3) in subsection (d)(1)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
2 “and post-wildfire impacts” after “wildfire
3 risk”; and

4 (B) in subparagraph (F), by inserting “,
5 as identified in the corresponding State forest
6 action plan or similar priority plan (such as a
7 State wildlife or water plan)” before the semi-
8 colon;

9 (4) in subsection (f), by striking paragraph (2)
10 and inserting the following:

11 “(2) in a manner that is inconsistent with the
12 prohibitions under the rule of the Forest Service en-
13 titled ‘Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation’
14 (66 Fed. Reg. 3244 (January 12, 2001)), and sub-
15 parts C and D of part 294 of title 36, Code of Fed-
16 eral Regulations, as applicable;”; and

17 (5) in subsections (g)(2) and (h)(1), by striking
18 “and 2023” each place it appears and inserting
19 “through 2028”.

20 **SEC. 116. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORA-**
21 **TION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.**

22 Section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Manage-
23 ment Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (b)(3)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “spe-
2 cies;” and inserting “species or pathogens;”;

3 (B) in subparagraph (G), by striking
4 “and” at the end;

5 (C) in subparagraph (H), by adding “and”
6 after the semicolon at the end; and

7 (D) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(I) address standardized monitoring ques-
9 tions and indicators;”;

10 (2) in subsection (c)(3)(A)—

11 (A) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the
12 end;

13 (B) in clause (ii), by adding “and” at the
14 end; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(iii) include a Federal Government
17 staffing plan for providing support to
18 collaboratives established pursuant to sub-
19 section (b)(2);”;

20 (3) in subsection (d)—

21 (A) in paragraph (2)—

22 (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking
23 “and” at the end;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
2 the period at the end and inserting “;
3 and”; and

4 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(G) proposals that seek to use innovative
7 implementation mechanisms, including con-
8 servation finance agreements, good neighbor
9 agreements entered into under section 8206 of
10 the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C.
11 2113a), and similar implementation mecha-
12 nisms;

13 “(H) proposals that seek to reduce the risk
14 of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase ecologi-
15 cal restoration activities—

16 “(i) within areas across land owner-
17 ships, including State, Tribal, and private
18 land; and

19 “(ii) within the wildland-urban inter-
20 face (as defined in section 101 of the
21 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
22 (16 U.S.C. 6511)); and

23 “(I) proposals that seek to enhance water-
24 shed health and drinking water sources.”; and

25 (B) in paragraph (3)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
2 “10” and inserting “20”; and

3 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
4 “2” and inserting “4”;

5 (4) in subsection (e)(3), by inserting “conflict
6 resolution or collaborative governance,” before “and
7 woody”; and

8 (5) in subsection (f)—

9 (A) in paragraph (4)(B)(ii), by striking
10 “\$4,000,000” and inserting “\$8,000,000”; and

11 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking “2019
12 through 2023” and inserting “2023 through
13 2032”.

14 **TITLE II—PROTECTING COMMU-**
15 **NITIES IN THE WILDLAND-**
16 **URBAN INTERFACE**

17 **SEC. 201. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PRO-**
18 **GRAM.**

19 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
20 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall
21 jointly establish an interagency program to be known as
22 the “Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program” that
23 shall consist of at least one representative from each of
24 the following:

1 (1) The Office of Wildland Fire of the Depart-
2 ment of the Interior.

3 (2) The National Park Service.

4 (3) The Bureau of Land Management.

5 (4) The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
6 ice.

7 (5) The Bureau of Indian Affairs.

8 (6) The Forest Service.

9 (7) The Federal Emergency Management Agen-
10 cy.

11 (8) The United States Fire Administration.

12 (9) The National Institute of Standards and
13 Technology.

14 (10) The Environmental Protection Agency.

15 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program estab-
16 lished under subsection (a) is to support interagency co-
17 ordination in reducing the risk of, and the damages result-
18 ing from, wildfires in communities (including tribal com-
19 munities) in the wildland-urban interface through—

20 (1) advancing research and science in wildfire
21 resilience and land management, including support
22 for non-federal research partnerships;

23 (2) supporting adoption by Indian Tribes and
24 local governmental entities of fire-resistant building
25 methods, codes, and standards;

1 (3) supporting efforts by Indian Tribes or local
2 governmental entities to address the effects of
3 wildland fire on such communities, including prop-
4 erty damages, air quality, and water quality;

5 (4) encouraging public-private partnerships to
6 conduct hazardous fuels management activities in
7 the wildland-urban interface; and

8 (5) providing technical and financial assistance
9 targeted towards communities, including tribal com-
10 munities, including—

11 (A) through streamlined and unified tech-
12 nical assistance and grant management mecha-
13 nisms, including the portal and grant applica-
14 tion established under subsection (c), to encour-
15 age critical risk reduction measures on private
16 property with high wildfire risk exposure in
17 such communities and mitigate costs for and
18 improve capacity among such communities;

19 (B) financial incentives to encourage crit-
20 ical risk reduction measures to private prop-
21 erties most at risk;

22 (C) subsidies to offset mitigation costs for
23 economically disadvantaged residents;

24 (D) technical and financial assistance for
25 low-capacity communities;

1 (E) support for non-agency partners in re-
2 search and science; and

3 (F) support for partnerships with Indian
4 Tribes and Tribal organizations to advance
5 wildland fire risk reduction efforts on and adja-
6 cent to Indian lands.

7 (c) PORTAL AND UNIFORM GRANT APPLICATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program es-
9 tablished under subsection (a), the Secretaries and
10 the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Man-
11 agement Agency shall establish a portal through
12 which a person may submit a single, uniform appli-
13 cation for any of the following:

14 (A) A community wildfire defense grant
15 under section 40803(f) of the Infrastructure In-
16 vestment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(f)).

17 (B) An emergency management perform-
18 ance grant under section 662 of the Post-
19 Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of
20 2006 (6 U.S.C. 761).

21 (C) A grant under section 33 of the Fed-
22 eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
23 (15 U.S.C. 2229).

1 (D) A grant under section 34 of the Fed-
2 eral Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
3 (15 U.S.C. 2229a).

4 (E) Financial or technical assistance or a
5 grant under sections 203, 205, 404, 406, or
6 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
7 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
8 5133, 5135, 5170c, 5172, 5187).

9 (2) SIMPLIFICATION OF APPLICATION.—In es-
10 tablishing the portal and application under para-
11 graph (1), the Secretaries and the Administrator
12 shall seek to reduce the complexity and length of the
13 application process for the grants described in para-
14 graph (1).

15 (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretaries
16 shall provide technical assistance to communities or
17 persons seeking to apply for financial assistance
18 through the portal using the application established
19 under paragraph (1).

20 (d) SUNSET.—The program established under this
21 section shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after
22 the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 202. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE RESEARCH PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall, acting
4 jointly, expand the Joint Fire Science Program to include
5 performance-driven research and development program
6 known as the “Community Wildfire Defense Research
7 Program” for the purpose of testing and advancing inno-
8 vative designs to create or improve the wildfire-resistance
9 of structures and communities.

10 (b) PROGRAM PRIORITIES.—In carrying out the pro-
11 gram established under subsection (a), the Secretaries
12 shall evaluate opportunities to create wildfire-resistant
13 structures and communities through—

14 (1) different affordable building materials, in-
15 cluding mass timber;

16 (2) home hardening, including policies to
17 incentivize and incorporate defensible space;

18 (3) subdivision design and other land use plan-
19 ning and design;

20 (4) landscape architecture; and

21 (5) other wildfire-resistant designs, as deter-
22 mined by the Secretary.

23 (c) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE INNOVATION
24 PRIZE.—

25 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
26 appropriations made in advance for such purpose, in

1 carrying out the program established under sub-
2 section (a), the Secretaries shall carry out a com-
3 petition through which a person may submit to the
4 Secretaries innovative designs for the creation or im-
5 provement of an ignition-resistant structure or fire-
6 adapted communities.

7 (2) PRIZE.—Subject to the availability of ap-
8 propriations made in advance for such purpose, the
9 Secretaries may award a prize under the competition
10 described in paragraph (1), based on criteria estab-
11 lished by the Secretaries and in accordance with
12 paragraph (3).

13 (3) SCALE.—In awarding a prize under para-
14 graph (2), the Secretaries shall prioritize for an
15 award designs with the most potential to scale to ex-
16 isting infrastructure.

17 (d) SUNSET.—The program established under sub-
18 section (a) shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after
19 the date of enactment of this Act.

20 **SEC. 203. SEEDS OF SUCCESS.**

21 (a) STRATEGY ESTABLISHED.—Subject to the avail-
22 ability of appropriations made in advance of such purpose,
23 not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this
24 Act, the Secretaries and the Secretary of Defense shall
25 jointly develop and implement a strategy, to be known as

1 the “Seeds of Success strategy”, to enhance the domestic
2 supply chain of seeds.

3 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-
4 section (a) shall include a plan for each of the following:

5 (1) Facilitating sustained interagency coordina-
6 tion in, and a comprehensive approach to, native
7 plant materials development and restoration.

8 (2) Promoting the re-seeding of native or fire-
9 resistant vegetation post-wildfire, particularly in the
10 wildland-urban interface.

11 (3) Creating and consolidating information on
12 native or fire-resistant grasses and sharing such in-
13 formation with State governments, Indian Tribes,
14 and local governments.

15 (4) Building regional programs and partner-
16 ships to promote the development of materials made
17 from plants native to the United States and restore
18 such plants to the native habitat of each such plant
19 within the United States, giving priority to the
20 building of such programs and partnerships in re-
21 gions of the Bureau of Land Management where
22 such partnerships and programs do not already exist
23 as of the date of enactment of this Act.

24 (5) Expanding seed storage and seed-cleaning
25 infrastructure.

1 (6) Expanding the Warehouse System of the
2 Bureau of Land Management, particularly the cold
3 storage capacity of the Warehouse System.

4 (7) Shortening the timeline for the approval of
5 permits to collect seeds on public lands managed by
6 the Bureau of Land Management.

7 (c) EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out the
8 requirements of the Seeds of Success Strategy, the Secre-
9 taries may, to the extent practicable, coordinate through
10 existing inter-agency partnerships related to seed collec-
11 tion and national seed strategies.

12 (d) REPORT.—The Secretaries and the Secretary of
13 Defense shall submit to the relevant Congressional Com-
14 mittees the strategy developed under paragraph (1).

15 **TITLE III—TRANSPARENCY AND** 16 **TECHNOLOGY**

17 **SEC. 301. BIOCHAR INNOVATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES** 18 **FOR CONSERVATION, HEALTH, AND AD-** 19 **VANCEMENTS IN RESEARCH.**

20 (a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

21 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the avail-
23 ability of appropriations made in advance for
24 such purpose, not later than 2 years after the
25 date of enactment of this Act, the covered Sec-

1 retaries shall establish a program to enter into
2 partnerships with eligible entities to carry out
3 demonstration projects to support the develop-
4 ment and commercialization of biochar in ac-
5 cordance with this subsection.

6 (B) LOCATION OF DEMONSTRATION
7 PROJECTS.—In carrying out the program estab-
8 lished under subparagraph (A), the covered
9 Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent prac-
10 ticable, enter into partnerships with eligible en-
11 tities such that not fewer than one demonstra-
12 tion project is carried out in each region of the
13 Forest Service and each region of the Bureau
14 of Land Management.

15 (2) PROPOSALS.—To be eligible to enter into a
16 partnership to carry out a biochar demonstration
17 project under paragraph (1)(A), an eligible entity
18 shall submit to the covered Secretaries a proposal at
19 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
20 formation as the covered Secretaries may require.

21 (3) PRIORITY.—In selecting proposals under
22 paragraph (2), the covered Secretaries shall give pri-
23 ority to entering into partnerships with eligible enti-
24 ties that submit proposals to carry out biochar dem-
25 onstration projects that—

1 (A) have the most carbon sequestration po-
2 tential;

3 (B) have the most potential to create new
4 jobs and contribute to local economies, particu-
5 larly in rural areas;

6 (C) have the most potential to dem-
7 onstrate—

8 (i) new and innovative uses of biochar;

9 (ii) market viability for cost effective
10 biochar-based products;

11 (iii) the ecosystem services created or
12 supported by the use of biochar;

13 (iv) the restorative benefits of biochar
14 with respect to forest health and resiliency,
15 including forest soils and watersheds; or

16 (v) any combination of purposes speci-
17 fied in clauses (i) through (iv); and

18 (D) are located in areas that have a high
19 need for biochar production, as determined by
20 the covered Secretaries, due to—

21 (i) nearby lands identified as having
22 high or very high or extreme risk of wild-
23 fire;

24 (ii) availability of sufficient quantities
25 of feedstocks;

1 (iii) a high level of demand for
2 biochar or other commercial byproducts of
3 biochar; or

4 (iv) any combination of purposes spec-
5 ified in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

6 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the pro-
7 gram established under paragraph (1)(A), the cov-
8 ered Secretaries may enter into partnerships and
9 provide funding to such partnerships to carry out
10 demonstration projects to—

11 (A) acquire and test various feedstocks and
12 their efficacy;

13 (B) develop and optimize commercially and
14 technologically viable biochar production units,
15 including mobile and permanent units;

16 (C) demonstrate—

17 (i) the production of biochar from for-
18 est residue; and

19 (ii) the use of biochar to restore forest
20 health and resiliency;

21 (D) build, expand, or establish biochar fa-
22 cilities;

23 (E) conduct research on new and innova-
24 tive uses of biochar;

1 (F) demonstrate cost-effective market op-
2 portunities for biochar and biochar-based prod-
3 ucts;

4 (G) carry out any other activities the cov-
5 ered Secretaries determine appropriate; or

6 (H) any combination of the purposes speci-
7 fied in subparagraphs (A) through (F).

8 (5) FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS.—To the max-
9 imum extent practicable, an eligible entity that car-
10 ries out a biochar demonstration project under this
11 subsection shall, with respect to the feedstock used
12 under such project, derive at least 50 percent of
13 such feedstock from forest thinning and manage-
14 ment activities, including mill residues, conducted on
15 National Forest System lands or public lands.

16 (6) REVIEW OF BIOCHAR DEMONSTRATION.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The covered Secretaries
18 shall conduct regionally-specific research, in-
19 cluding economic analyses and life-cycle assess-
20 ments, on any biochar produced from a dem-
21 onstration project carried out under the pro-
22 gram established in paragraph (1)(A), includ-
23 ing—

24 (i) the effects of such biochar on—

25 (I) forest health and resiliency;

- 1 (II) carbon capture and seques-
2 tration, including increasing soil car-
3 bon in the short-term and long-term;
- 4 (III) productivity, reduced input
5 costs, and water retention in agricul-
6 tural practices;
- 7 (IV) the health of soil and grass-
8 lands used for grazing activities, in-
9 cluding grazing activities on National
10 Forest System land and public land;
- 11 (V) environmental remediation
12 activities, including abandoned mine
13 land remediation; and
- 14 (VI) other ecosystem services cre-
15 ated or supported by the use of
16 biochar;
- 17 (ii) the effectiveness of biochar as a
18 co-product of biofuels or in biochemicals;
19 and
- 20 (iii) the effectiveness of other poten-
21 tial uses of biochar to determine if any
22 such use is technologically and commer-
23 cially viable.
- 24 (B) COORDINATION.—The covered Secre-
25 taries shall, to the maximum extent practicable,

1 provide data, analyses, and other relevant infor-
2 mation collected under subparagraph (A) with
3 recipients of a grant under subsection (b).

4 (7) LIMITATION ON FUNDING FOR ESTAB-
5 LISHING BIOCHAR FACILITIES.—If the covered Sec-
6 retaries provide to an eligible entity that enters into
7 a partnership with the covered Secretaries under
8 paragraph (1)(A) funding for establishing a biochar
9 facility, such funding may not exceed 35 percent of
10 the total capital cost of establishing such biochar fa-
11 cility.

12 (b) BIOCHAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT
13 PROGRAM.—

14 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the In-
15 terior shall establish or expand an existing applied
16 biochar research and development grant program to
17 make competitive grants to eligible institutions to
18 carry out the activities described in paragraph (3).

19 (2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
20 grant under this subsection, an eligible institution
21 shall submit to the Secretary a proposal at such
22 time, in such manner, and containing such informa-
23 tion as the Secretary may require.

1 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution
2 that receives a grant under this subsection shall use
3 the grant funds to conduct applied research on—

4 (A) the effect of biochar on forest health
5 and resiliency, accounting for variations in
6 biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

7 (B) the effect of biochar on soil health and
8 water retention, accounting for variations in
9 biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

10 (C) the long-term carbon sequestration po-
11 tential of biochar;

12 (D) the best management practices with
13 respect to biochar and biochar based-products
14 that maximize—

15 (i) carbon sequestration benefits; and

16 (ii) the commercial viability and appli-
17 cation of such products in forestry, agri-
18 culture, environmental remediation, water
19 quality improvement, and any other similar
20 uses, as determined by the Secretary;

21 (E) the regional uses of biochar to increase
22 productivity and profitability, including—

23 (i) uses in agriculture and environ-
24 mental remediation; and

1 (ii) use as a co-product in fuel produc-
2 tion;

3 (F) new and innovative uses for biochar
4 byproducts; and

5 (G) opportunities to expand markets for
6 biochar and create related jobs, particularly in
7 rural areas.

8 (c) REPORTS.—

9 (1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2
10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the
11 covered Secretaries shall submit to Congress a re-
12 port that—

13 (A) includes policy and program rec-
14 ommendations to improve the widespread use of
15 biochar;

16 (B) identifies any area of research needed
17 to advance biochar commercialization; and

18 (C) identifies barriers to further biochar
19 commercialization, including permitting and
20 siting considerations.

21 (2) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF
22 THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—Beginning with the
23 second fiscal year that begins after the date of en-
24 actment of this Act and annually thereafter until the
25 date described in subsection (d), the covered Secre-

1 taries shall include in the materials submitted to
2 Congress in support of the President’s budget pursu-
3 ant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code,
4 a report describing, for the fiscal year covered by the
5 report, the status of each demonstration project car-
6 ried out under subsection (a) and each research and
7 development grant carried out under subsection (b).
8 (d) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section
9 shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date
10 of enactment of this Act.

11 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) BIOCHAR.—The term “biochar” means car-
13 bonized biomass produced by converting feedstock
14 through reductive thermal processing for non-fuel
15 uses.

16 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
17 ty” means—

18 (A) a State, local, or Tribal government;

19 (B) an eligible institution; or

20 (C) a private, non-private, or cooperative
21 entity.

22 (3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-
23 ble institution” means land-grant colleges and uni-
24 versities, including institutions eligible for funding
25 under the—

1 (A) Act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503,
2 chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

3 (B) Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 417,
4 chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including
5 Tuskegee University;

6 (C) Public Law 87–788 (commonly known
7 as the “McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962”); or

8 (D) Equity in Educational Land-Grant
9 Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public
10 Law 103–382).

11 (4) FEEDSTOCK.—The term “feedstock” means
12 excess biomass in the form of plant matter or mate-
13 rials that serves as the raw material for the produc-
14 tion of biochar.

15 (5) COVERED SECRETARIES.—The term “cov-
16 ered Secretaries” means—

17 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
18 through the Chief of the Forest Service;

19 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting
20 through the Director of the Bureau of Land
21 Management; and

22 (C) the Secretary of Energy, acting
23 through the Director of the Office of Science.

1 **SEC. 302. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**
2 **PORTS.**

3 (a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION
4 REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE
5 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fis-
7 cal year that begins after the date of enactment of
8 this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-
9 retary concerned shall include in the materials sub-
10 mitted to Congress in support of the President's
11 budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United
12 States Code, a report on the number of acres of
13 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned car-
14 ried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during
15 the preceding fiscal year.

16 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of the re-
17 port required under paragraph (1), the Secretary
18 concerned shall—

19 (A) in determining the number of acres of
20 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned
21 carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities
22 during the period covered by the report—

23 (i) record acres of Federal land on
24 which hazardous fuels reduction activities
25 were completed during such period; and

1 (ii) record each acre described in
2 clause (i) once in the report, regardless of
3 whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction
4 activities were carried out on such acre
5 during such period; and

6 (B) with respect to the acres of Federal
7 land recorded in the report, include information
8 on—

9 (i) which such acres are located in the
10 wildland-urban interface;

11 (ii) the level of wildfire risk (high,
12 moderate, or low) on the first and last day
13 of the period covered by the report;

14 (iii) the types of hazardous fuels ac-
15 tivities completed for such acres, delin-
16 eating between whether such activities
17 were conducted—

18 (I) in a wildfire managed for re-
19 source benefits; or

20 (II) through a planned project;

21 (iv) the cost per acre of hazardous
22 fuels activities carried out during the pe-
23 riod covered by the report;

24 (v) the region or system unit in which
25 the acres are located; and

1 (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous
2 fuels reduction activities on reducing the
3 risk of wildfire.

4 (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned
5 shall make each report submitted under paragraph
6 (1) publicly available on the websites of the Depart-
7 ment of Agriculture and the Department of the Inte-
8 rior, as applicable.

9 (b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
11 appropriations made in advance for such purpose,
12 not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
13 of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall implement
14 standardized procedures for tracking data related to
15 hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out by
16 the Secretary concerned.

17 (2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures
18 required under paragraph (1) shall include—

19 (A) regular, standardized data reviews of
20 the accuracy and timely input of data used to
21 track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

22 (B) verification methods that validate
23 whether such data accurately correlates to the
24 hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out
25 by the Secretary concerned;

1 (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term
2 effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction
3 activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

4 (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities
5 that occur partially within the wildland-urban
6 interface, methods to distinguish which acres
7 are located within the wildland-urban interface
8 and which acres are located outside the
9 wildland-urban interface.

10 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 weeks after im-
11 plementing the standardized procedures required
12 under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall
13 submit to Congress a report that describes—

14 (A) such standardized procedures; and

15 (B) program and policy recommendations
16 to Congress to address any limitations in track-
17 ing data related to hazardous fuels reduction
18 activities under this subsection.

19 (c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
21 of the United States shall—

22 (1) conduct a study on the implementation of
23 this section, including any limitations with respect
24 to—

1 (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-
2 tivities under subsection (a); or

3 (B) tracking data related to hazardous
4 fuels reduction activities under subsection (b);
5 and

6 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes
7 the results of the study under paragraph (1).

8 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIV-
10 ITY.—The term “hazardous fuels reduction activ-
11 ity”—

12 (A) means any vegetation management ac-
13 tivity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including
14 mechanical treatments and prescribed burning;
15 and

16 (B) does not include the awarding of con-
17 tracts to conduct hazardous fuels reduction ac-
18 tivities.

19 (2) FEDERAL LANDS.—The term “Federal
20 lands” means lands under the jurisdiction of the
21 Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agri-
22 culture.

23 (e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No addi-
24 tional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements
25 of this section, and the activities authorized by this section

1 are subject to the availability of appropriations made in
2 advance for such purposes.

3 **SEC. 303. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DE-**
4 **PLOYMENT AND TESTBED PARTNERSHIP.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered
7 agency” means—

8 (A) each Federal land management agency
9 (as such term is defined in the Federal Lands
10 Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C.
11 6801));

12 (B) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
13 Administration;

14 (C) the United States Fire Administration;

15 (D) the Federal Emergency Management
16 Agency;

17 (E) the National Aeronautics and Space
18 Administration;

19 (F) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

20 (G) the Department of Defense; and

21 (H) any other Federal agency involved in
22 wildfire response.

23 (2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
24 tity” means—

25 (A) a private entity;

1 (B) a nonprofit organization; or

2 (C) an institution of higher education (as
3 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
4 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

5 (b) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-
6 propriations made in advance for such purpose, not later
7 than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the
8 Secretaries, in coordination with the heads of the covered
9 agencies, shall establish a deployment and testbed pilot
10 program (in this section referred to as “Pilot Program”)
11 for new and innovative wildfire prevention, detection, com-
12 munication, and mitigation technologies.

13 (c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program,
14 the Secretaries shall—

15 (1) incorporate the Pilot Program into existing
16 interagency coordinating groups on wildfires;

17 (2) in consultation with the heads of covered
18 agencies, identify and advance key technology pri-
19 ority areas with respect to wildfire prevention, detec-
20 tion, communication, and mitigation technologies, in-
21 cluding—

22 (A) hazardous fuels reduction treatments
23 or activities;

24 (B) dispatch communications;

1 (C) remote sensing, detection, and track-
2 ing;

3 (D) safety equipment; and

4 (E) common operating pictures or oper-
5 ational dashboards; and

6 (3) connect each covered entity selected to par-
7 ticipate in the Pilot Program with the appropriate
8 covered agency to coordinate real-time and on-the-
9 ground testing of technology during wildland fire
10 mitigation activities and training.

11 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to be selected to
12 participate in the Pilot Program, a covered entity shall
13 submit to the Secretaries an application at such time, in
14 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
15 retaries may require, including a proposal to test tech-
16 nologies specific to the key technology priority areas iden-
17 tified pursuant to subsection (c)(2).

18 (e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECH-
19 NOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in
20 the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to
21 covered entities developing and applying emerging tech-
22 nologies, including artificial intelligence, quantum sensing,
23 computing and quantum-hybrid applications, augmented
24 reality, and 5G private networks and device-to-device com-

1 munications supporting nomadic mesh networks, for wild-
2 fire mitigation.

3 (f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination
4 with the heads of covered agencies, shall make public the
5 key technology priority areas identified pursuant to sub-
6 section (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply under
7 subsection (d) to test and demonstrate their technologies
8 to address such priority areas.

9 (g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later
10 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and
11 annually thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Program,
12 the Secretaries shall submit to the relevant Congressional
13 Committees, the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
14 nology of the House of Representatives, and the Com-
15 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
16 Senate a report that includes, with respect to the Pilot
17 Program, the following:

18 (1) A list of participating covered entities.

19 (2) A brief description of the technologies test-
20 ed by each such covered entity.

21 (3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring each
22 such technology and applying the technology at
23 scale.

24 (4) Outreach efforts by Federal agencies to cov-
25 ered entities developing wildfire technologies.

1 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-
2 ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and
3 application at-scale in Federal land management
4 agencies' wildfire prevention, detection, communica-
5 tion, and mitigation efforts.

6 (h) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section
7 shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date
8 of enactment of this Act.

9 **SEC. 304. GAO STUDY ON FOREST SERVICE POLICIES.**

10 Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment
11 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
12 shall—

13 (1) conduct a study evaluating—

14 (A) the effectiveness of Forest Service
15 wildland firefighting operations;

16 (B) transparency and accountability meas-
17 ures in the Forest Service's budget and ac-
18 counting process; and

19 (C) the suitability and feasibility of estab-
20 lishing a new Federal agency with the responsi-
21 bility of responding and suppressing wildland
22 fires on Federal lands; and

23 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes
24 the results of the study required under paragraph
25 (1).

1 **SEC. 305. FOREST SERVICE WESTERN HEADQUARTERS**

2 **STUDY.**

3 Subject to the availability of appropriations made in
4 advance for such purpose, not later than 5 years after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Chief of the Forest
6 Service shall—

7 (1) conduct a study evaluating—

8 (A) potential locations for a Western head-
9 quarters for the Forest Service, including po-
10 tential locations in at least 3 different States lo-
11 cated west of the Mississippi river; and

12 (B) the potential benefits and drawbacks
13 of creating a Western headquarters for the For-
14 est Service, including expected—

15 (i) improvements to customer service;

16 (ii) improvements to employee recruit-
17 ment and retention; and

18 (iii) operational efficiencies and cost
19 savings; and

20 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes
21 the results of the study required under paragraph

22 (1).

