

Amendment#1

Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 3922
Offered by Rep. Neguse

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Cross-Boundary Wildfire Solutions Act”.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act

(a) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered agency” means—

- (1) Federal land management agencies (as defined in section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801));
- (2) the U.S. Forest Service;
- (3) the Natural Resources Conservation Service;
- (4) the Environmental Protection Agency;
- (5) the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
- (6) the U.S. Fire Administration;
- (7) States;
- (8) Indian Tribes; and
- (9) local governments.

(b) COVERED AUTHORITY.—The term “covered authority” means the—

- (1) the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6513);
- (2) Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 16 U.S.C. 41;
- (3) Public Law 95-313 as amended, (16 USC 2101 et seq);
- (4) Good Neighbor Authority 16 U.S.C. § 2113a;
- (5) Tribal Forest Protection Act 25 U.S.C. § 3115a;
- (6) Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program 16 U.S.C. § 7303];
- (7) any other statutory authority that facilitates cross-boundary wildfire mitigation or forest health improvement activities, as determined by the Comptroller General of the United States.

SEC. 3. STUDY ON FOREST HEALTH AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION ACROSS LAND OWNERSHIP BOUNDARIES.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on—

(1) the existing Federal programs, rules, and authorities that enable or inhibit wildfire mitigation from being completed across land ownership boundaries on Federal and non-Federal land;

(2) whether changes to any program, rule, or authority (including changes to existing statutory definitions) identified pursuant to paragraph (1) would allow a covered agency increased capacity or access to funding to mitigate wildfires or improve forest health; and

(3) the activities carried out pursuant to a covered authority including—

(A) how to improve the efficacy of such activities with respect to mitigating wildfire; and

(B) whether the enactment of such covered authority has increased capacity or access to funding to mitigate wildfires for a covered agency.

(4) whether changes to any program, rule, or authority identified pursuant to paragraph (1) would enable better community protection and prevent the loss of structures due to wildfire.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that contains—

(1) the results of the study required under subsection (a); and

(2) recommendations to simplify cross-boundary wildfire mitigation between Federal land management agencies and State, local, and Tribal governments.