

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To require the establishment of a pilot program to monitor wildfires by satellite and to provide for the use by the Forest Service of funds from community partners.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 1462

To improve forest management activities on National Forest System land, public land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and Tribal land to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested land, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENTS intended to be proposed by Mr. BENNET to
the amendment (No. _____) proposed by

Viz:

1 In section 102, redesignate subsection (k) as sub-
2 section (l).

3 In section 102, after subsection (j), insert the fol-
4 lowing:

5 (k) PILOT PROGRAM TO MONITOR WILDFIRES BY
6 SATELLITE.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of
7 the Forest Service, in partnership with the Secretary of

1 the Interior, acting through the Director of the United
2 States Geological Survey, and with the Executive Director,
3 shall establish a pilot program—

4 (1) to purchase and integrate, through a public-
5 private partnership, data from the latest-generation
6 of wildfire monitoring satellites that provide moni-
7 toring of active fire behavior, including fire perim-
8 eters, burned area, intensity, severity, and the detec-
9 tion of fires with a low false-positive rate;

10 (2) to use the data acquired under paragraph
11 (1), and any analyses relating to that data—

12 (A) to detect, assess, respond to, and man-
13 age wildfires and rangeland fires; and

14 (B) to ensure the safety and effectiveness
15 of prescribed fire treatments;

16 (3) to develop information-sharing partnerships
17 with State, local, and Tribal emergency managers,
18 foresters, or other equivalent officials—

19 (A) to improve State, local, and Tribal
20 wildfire monitoring, response, and analysis; and

21 (B) to provide to the Executive Director an
22 operational plan for scaling the pilot program
23 across the United States; and

24 (4) under which the Secretary of the Interior
25 shall have the authority to enter into other trans-

1 actions to leverage satellite-based wildfire monitoring
2 capabilities.

3 At the end, add the following:

4 **TITLE V—USE OF FUNDS FROM**
5 **COOPERATIVE FUNDS AGREE-**
6 **MENTS**

7 **SEC. 501. USE OF FUNDS FROM COOPERATIVE FUNDS**
8 **AGREEMENTS.**

9 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

10 (1) **COOPERATIVE FUNDS AGREEMENT.**—The
11 term “cooperative funds agreement” means an
12 agreement under—

13 (A) the Act of June 30, 1914 (commonly
14 known as the “Cooperative Funds Act”) (16
15 U.S.C. 498); or

16 (B) section 1 of the Act of March 3, 1925
17 (16 U.S.C. 572).

18 (2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the For-
20 est Service.

21 (b) **TREATMENT.**—

22 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in para-
23 graph (2), notwithstanding any other provision of
24 law, regulation, or agency decision, the Secretary

1 shall fulfill the obligations of the Federal Govern-
2 ment with respect to each cooperative funds agree-
3 ment in effect on or after the date of enactment of
4 this Act.

5 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may waive
6 the applicability of paragraph (1) to a cooperative
7 funds agreement if—

8 (A) the Secretary determines that 1 or
9 more parties to the cooperative funds agree-
10 ment have not fulfilled the obligations of the
11 parties under the cooperative funds agreement;
12 or

13 (B) fulfilling the obligations of the Federal
14 Government with respect to the cooperative
15 funds agreement would violate section 1341 of
16 title 31, United States Code.

17 (c) LIMITATIONS.—

18 (1) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A Federal em-
19 ployee (including seasonal, permanent seasonal, and
20 temporary employees) hired using funds provided
21 under a cooperative funds agreement shall not, for
22 the duration of the cooperative funds agreement, be
23 subject to—

24 (A) any limitation on hiring (commonly re-
25 ferred to as a “hiring freeze”);

1 (B) any reduction in force; or

2 (C) any deferred resignation or voluntary
3 early retirement program.

4 (2) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—The non-Federal
5 funds provided to the Secretary pursuant to a coop-
6 erative funds agreement shall not be subject to any
7 limitation on spending.