

Purpose: To require a study on the impacts of fireshed management projects on wildfire risk to communities and wildlife habitat.

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.

Amendments intended to be proposed by _____

Viz:

Redesignate section 107 as section 108.

After section 106, insert the following:

SEC. 107. STUDY ON THE IMPACTS OF FIRESHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS ON WILDFIRE RISK TO COMMUNITIES AND WILDLIFE HABITAT.

(a) Study Requirement.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences, under which the National Academy of Sciences shall conduct 1 or more studies on the impacts of fireshed management projects, including—

(1) an evaluation of select, regionally varied fireshed management projects and approaches, including—

(A) methodologies used to assess fireshed management areas;

(B) the reduction in fuel hazards in fireshed management areas;

(C) the status of, and trends in, watershed conditions;

(D) the economic use of fireshed management project byproducts;

(E) local jobs and labor income supported by fireshed management projects; and

(F) coordinated approaches taken to plan and implement fireshed management projects;

(2) changes to wildfire risk within fireshed management areas, and to resources of an Indian Tribe, due to fireshed management projects;

(3)(A) a description of the cost of—

(i) the implementation of section 105; and

(ii) the development and implementation of fireshed management projects; and

(B) an estimate of the amount of the damages avoided as a result of that development and implementation;

1 (4) an evaluation of how fireshed management projects affect—

2 (A) critical habitat areas designated under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
3 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

4 (B) the conservation and recovery of species listed as threatened or endangered
5 under the that Act;

6 (5) an identification of fireshed management project best practices for minimizing harm
7 to critical habitat areas described in paragraph (4)(A) and the natural environment while
8 reducing wildfire risk; and

9 (6) recommendations for policy, regulatory, or operational changes to improve fireshed
10 management projects.

11 (b) Engagement.—In conducting the 1 or more studies under subsection (a), the National
12 Academy of Sciences shall—

13 (1) consult with relevant Federal, State, and Tribal agencies, including the United States
14 Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service; ~~and~~

15 (2) consult with the Deputy Chief of the Forest Service for Research and Development;

16 (3) to the extent practicable, maximize the use of existing data and research held by the
17 Secretaries and Executive Director, including data collected under section 103; and

18 ~~(42)~~ provide an opportunity for public comment and input during the 1 or more studies,
19 including from nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and other scientific
20 bodies.

21 (c) Submission of Report.—As soon as practicable after the conclusion of the 1 more studies
22 under subsection (a), but not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the
23 National Academy of Sciences shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress and the
24 Secretaries 1 or more reports containing the results of the 1 or more studies.