

# FIX OUR FORESTS ACT

This comprehensive, bipartisan legislation restores forest health, increases resiliency to catastrophic wildfires, and protects communities by expediting environmental analyses, reducing frivolous lawsuits, and increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration projects. Sponsored by House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR) and Congressman Scott Peters (D-CA), it will provide agencies with critical tools to implement the most vital forest management projects immediately.

## OVER 117 MILLION ACRES OF OUR NATION'S FORESTS ARE OVERGROWN, FIRE-PRONE AND NEED ACTIVE MANAGEMENT. THE FIX OUR FORESTS ACT WILL:

- **Simplify and expedite environmental reviews** to reduce costs and planning times for critical forest management projects while maintaining rigorous environmental standards.
- Make **communities more resilient** to wildfire by coordinating existing grant programs and furthering new research.
- **Promote federal, state, tribal, and local collaboration** by creating a new Fireshed Center and codifying the Shared Stewardship initiative.
- **Stop frivolous litigation and endless agency consultations** that delay needed forest management activities.
- **Give agencies new emergency tools** to restore watersheds, protect communities in the wildland-urban interface and prevent forest conversion.
- Utilize **state-of-the-art science** to prioritize the treatment of forests at the highest risk of wildfire.
- Incentivize forest management projects of up to 10,000 acres to **increase the pace and scale** of addressing wildfire, drought, insects and disease.
- **Revitalize rural economies** by strengthening tools such as Good Neighbor Authority and Stewardship Contracting.
- Adopt **new and innovative technologies** to address forest health threats and suppress wildfires quickly and more efficiently.
- Harden utility rights-of-way against wildfire by **encouraging more active management** and the removal of dangerous hazard trees.
- **Support wildland firefighters and their families** through the creation of a new Casualty Assistance Program.

## ADDRESSING THE WILDFIRE CRISIS



44 MILLION HOMES AT RISK IN THE WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE



8.9 MILLION ACRES BURNED LAST YEAR NATIONWIDE



82 PERCENT INCREASE IN FIRE SUPPRESSION COSTS OVER THE PAST DECADE