

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 91

To improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended to be proposed by _____

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Western Wildfire Support Act of 2026”.

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

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

TITLE I—PREPARATION

- Sec. 101. Firefighting account transparency.
- Sec. 102. Reimbursement for wildfires caused by military training.
- Sec. 103. Strategic wildland fire management planning.
- Sec. 104. Study and report on integrating local firefighters into wildfire response.

2

TITLE II—WILDFIRE DETECTION AND SUPPRESSION SUPPORT

Sec. 201. Wildfire detection equipment.

Sec. 202. Slip-on tanker units.

Sec. 203. Research and development of unmanned aircraft system fire applications.

Sec. 204. Study on drone incursions on wildfire suppression.

Sec. 205. Study on modernizing wildfire response technologies.

TITLE III—POST-FIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

Sec. 301. Funding for online guides for post-disaster assistance.

Sec. 302. Post-fire management and recovery.

Sec. 303. Burned area rehabilitation.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term
4 “congressional committees” means—

5 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
6 Resources and the Committee on Appropria-
7 tions of the Senate; and

8 (B) the Committee on Natural Resources
9 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
10 House of Representatives.

11 (2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
12 means—

13 (A) land under the jurisdiction of the Sec-
14 retary;

15 (B) land held in trust by the United States
16 for the benefit of an Indian Tribe or members
17 of an Indian Tribe; and

18 (C) National Forest System land.

1 (3) FIRESHED.—The term “fireshed” means a
2 geographically delineated landscape, within which a
3 fire ignition would threaten homes, communities, or
4 critical infrastructure.

5 (4) FOREST PLAN.—The term “forest plan”
6 means a land and resource management plan pre-
7 pared by the Secretary of Agriculture for a unit of
8 the National Forest System pursuant to section 6 of
9 the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources
10 Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

11 (5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
12 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
13 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
14 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

15 (6) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “National
17 Forest System” means land of the National
18 Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of
19 the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources
20 Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))) ad-
21 ministered by the Secretary of Agriculture.

22 (B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “National
23 Forest System” does not include—

24 (i) the national grasslands and land
25 utilization projects administered under title

1 III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant
2 Act (7 U.S.C. 1010 et seq.); or

3 (ii) any forest reserve not created
4 from the public domain.

5 (7) RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term
6 “resource management plan” means a land use plan
7 prepared for public lands under section 202 of the
8 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
9 (43 U.S.C. 1712).

10 (8) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
11 means—

12 (A) the Secretary; and

13 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

14 (9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of the Interior.

16 (10) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term
17 “Secretary concerned” means—

18 (A) the Secretary, in the case of Federal
19 land described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of
20 paragraph (2); and

21 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, in the
22 case of Federal land described in paragraph
23 (2)(C).

1 **TITLE I—PREPARATION**

2 **SEC. 101. FIREFIGHTING ACCOUNT TRANSPARENCY.**

3 (a) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Section 104(a) of division
4 O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (43
5 U.S.C. 1748a–2(a)), is amended—

6 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
7 striking “the fiscal year” and all that follows
8 through “this division,” and inserting “each fiscal
9 year,”; and

10 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “report with
11 respect to the additional new budget authority,” and
12 inserting “report on the amounts obligated and the
13 amounts expended from Wildland Fire Management
14 accounts, including any amounts obligated or ex-
15 pended using additional new budget authority under
16 section 251(b)(2)(F) of the Balanced Budget and
17 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C.
18 901(b)(2)(F)), in the preceding fiscal year;”.

19 (b) INCLUSIONS.—Section 104(b) of division O of the
20 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (43 U.S.C. 1748a–
21 2(b)), is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding
23 subparagraph (A), by striking “a statistically signifi-
24 cant sample of large fires, including an analysis for
25 each fire” and inserting “each catastrophic wildfire

1 described in subsection (c), including an analysis for
2 each such catastrophic wildfire”; and

3 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “by fire size”
4 and all that follows through the semicolon at the end
5 and inserting the following: “by—

6 “(A) the total ground-based operations
7 costs;

8 “(B) the total aircraft operations costs;

9 “(C) the total personnel costs;

10 “(D) the total on-incident and off-incident
11 support costs;

12 “(E) the total funding allocated from the
13 Wildland Fire Management account of the Sec-
14 retary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agri-
15 culture (as applicable) to pay for administrative
16 costs; and

17 “(F) any other relevant factors, as deter-
18 mined by the Secretary of the Interior or the
19 Secretary of Agriculture (as applicable);”.

20 (c) CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE DESCRIBED.—Section
21 104 of division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,
22 2018 (43 U.S.C. 1748a–2), is amended by adding at the
23 end the following:

1 “(c) CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE DESCRIBED.—A cat-
2 astrophic wildfire referred to in subsection (b)(3) is a wild-
3 fire incident or wildfire complex that—

4 “(1) requires the mobilization or use of Federal
5 firefighting resources;

6 “(2) burns at least—

7 “(A) 100,000 acres of land; or

8 “(B) 50,000 acres of land, with a 50 per-
9 cent or greater portion at high severity; and

10 “(3)(A) results in total suppression costs of
11 \$50,000,000 or more;

12 “(B) destroys 1 or more primary residences; or

13 “(C) directly results in the death of 1 or more
14 individuals.”.

15 **SEC. 102. REIMBURSEMENT FOR WILDFIRES CAUSED BY**
16 **MILITARY TRAINING.**

17 (a) MUTUAL AID.—In accordance with section 2 of
18 the Act of May 27, 1955 (42 U.S.C. 1856a) (commonly
19 known as the “Reciprocal Fire Protection Act”), the Sec-
20 retary of Defense shall seek to enter into reciprocal agree-
21 ments with State agencies for mutual aid in furnishing
22 fire suppression services.

23 (b) REIMBURSEMENTS.—Each reciprocal agreement
24 entered into under subsection (a) shall provide for the re-
25 imbursement of the State agency that is a party to the

1 agreement for fire suppression services provided by the
2 State agency as a result of a fire caused by military train-
3 ing or other planned actions carried out by the Depart-
4 ment of Defense in support of military operations.

5 (c) LIMITATION.—Services reimbursable under sub-
6 section (b) shall be limited to services directly attributable
7 to the fire for which reimbursement is sought.

8 (d) APPLICATION.—Each application from a State
9 agency for reimbursement for services under subsection
10 (b) shall provide an itemized request of the services cov-
11 ered by the application, including the costs of the services.

12 (e) FUNDS.—Reimbursements under subsection (b)
13 shall be made from amounts authorized to be appropriated
14 to the Department of Defense for operation and mainte-
15 nance.

16 (f) EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—An agreement in effect
17 as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be considered
18 an agreement entered into under subsection (a) if the
19 agreement otherwise meets the requirements of such an
20 agreement under this section.

21 **SEC. 103. STRATEGIC WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN-**
22 **NING.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30,
24 2027, the Secretary concerned shall review existing spatial
25 fire management policies for each fireshed on Federal land

1 and issue, as appropriate, new or revised policies that in-
2 corporate the best available science and planning tools.

3 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—Spatial fire management poli-
4 cies issued under subsection (a) shall—

5 (1) be routinely reviewed and updated as nec-
6 essary to reflect changes in the fireshed as a result
7 of forest or land management activities or wildfire
8 incidents that have occurred within the applicable
9 fireshed;

10 (2) identify potential wildfire and smoke risks
11 to first responders, communities, critical infrastruc-
12 ture, and high-value resources;

13 (3) be consistent with any resource manage-
14 ment plan or forest plan developed for the applicable
15 fireshed;

16 (4) in coordination with the local government,
17 State, or Indian Tribe that includes that fireshed,
18 delineate potential wildland fire operational deline-
19 ations that—

20 (A) identify potential wildfire control loca-
21 tions; and

22 (B) specify the places in which risk to
23 wildfire responders may be elevated as a result
24 of—

1 (i) exceeding a certain slope for the
2 landscape;

3 (ii) containing an excess of hazardous
4 fuels such that a threat would be posed
5 under severe fire weather conditions; or

6 (iii) containing other known hazards;

7 (5) include a description of the weather condi-
8 tions for the fireshed that would lead to severe fire
9 weather conditions, including the hot-dry-windy
10 index and other relevant factors; and

11 (6) include other prefire planning provisions rel-
12 evant to wildfire response.

13 (c) WILDFIRE CONSIDERATION DURING LAND MAN-
14 AGEMENT PLANNING.—To the maximum extent prac-
15 ticable, the Secretary concerned shall include in the devel-
16 opment or revision of a resource management plan or for-
17 est plan for Federal land containing 1 or more firesheds
18 an employee that was involved in the development of the
19 spatial fire management policies for that fireshed.

20 **SEC. 104. STUDY AND REPORT ON INTEGRATING LOCAL**
21 **FIREFIGHTERS INTO WILDFIRE RESPONSE.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
23 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland
24 Security, acting through the Administrator of the U.S.

1 Fire Administration and in coordination with the National
2 Wildfire Coordinating Group, shall—

3 (1) conduct a study on the gaps in training for
4 structural firefighters in high wildfire risk areas;
5 and

6 (2) submit to the congressional committees, the
7 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
8 Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on
9 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of
10 Representatives a report describing the results of the
11 study conducted under paragraph (1).

12 (b) INCLUSIONS.—The report submitted under sub-
13 section (a)(2) shall include—

14 (1) a summary of existing coordination prac-
15 tices between Federal wildland firefighters and
16 State, local, or Tribal firefighters;

17 (2) an analysis of the differences in best re-
18 sponse practices for State, local, or Tribal fire-
19 fighters when responding to a fire incident that
20 threatens a single structure as compared to a wild-
21 fire that threatens a community;

22 (3) existing training modules, or gaps in exist-
23 ing training modules, available through the National
24 Fire Academy to train State, local, or Tribal fire-

1 fighters on best response practices for a wildfire that
2 threatens a community;

3 (4) an estimated cost and spending plan to ad-
4 dress any gaps in existing training modules de-
5 scribed in paragraph (3);

6 (5) an examination of the costs to State, local,
7 and Tribal governments in integrating State, local,
8 and Tribal firefighters in wildfire response; and

9 (6) an examination of ways the Federal Govern-
10 ment may integrate State, local, and Tribal fire-
11 fighters in wildfire response while minimizing the
12 costs for State, local, and Tribal governments.

13 **TITLE II—WILDFIRE DETECTION** 14 **AND SUPPRESSION SUPPORT**

15 **SEC. 201. WILDFIRE DETECTION EQUIPMENT.**

16 To the extent practicable, the Secretary concerned
17 shall—

18 (1) expedite the placement of wildfire detection
19 equipment, such as sensors, cameras, and other rel-
20 evant equipment, in areas at high risk of wildfire;

21 (2) expand the use of satellite data to improve
22 wildfire detection and response;

23 (3) expedite any permitting required by the
24 Secretary concerned for the installation, mainte-
25 nance, or removal of wildfire detection equipment;

1 (4) use unmanned aerial vehicles to assess
2 wildland fires in their incipient stages to determine
3 the appropriate initial response actions; and

4 (5) review permitting described in paragraph
5 (3) and procurement requirements for wildfire detec-
6 tion equipment within the context of modern and in-
7 novative technology.

8 **SEC. 202. SLIP-ON TANKER UNITS.**

9 (a) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ACQUISITION OF
10 FIREFIGHTING SLIP-ON TANKER UNITS.—Section
11 40803(c)(5) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
12 Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(c)(5)) is amended by inserting “and
13 Indian Tribes” after “local governments”.

14 (b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit
16 to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
17 of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Re-
18 sources of the House of Representatives an annual
19 report on the implementation of section 40803(c)(5)
20 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16
21 U.S.C. 6592(c)(5)), including a description of—

22 (A) the total number of slip-on tanker
23 units purchased with financial assistance pro-
24 vided by the Secretary under that section in the
25 preceding year, by State;

1 (B) the number of requests received by the
2 Secretary for financial assistance under that
3 section to purchase slip-on tanker units in the
4 preceding year; and

5 (C) any barriers identified by the Secretary
6 to the ability of local governments and Indian
7 Tribes to participate in the pilot program estab-
8 lished under that section.

9 (2) TIMING.—

10 (A) INITIAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall
11 submit the first report required under para-
12 graph (1) not later than October 1, 2027.

13 (B) SUNSET.—The requirements of this
14 subsection shall expire on October 1, 2029.

15 (c) INTEGRATION INTO WILDFIRE RESPONSE.—The
16 Secretaries, in coordination with recipients of financial as-
17 sistance for slip-on tanker units provided under section
18 40803(c)(5) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
19 Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(c)(5)), shall—

20 (1) as practicable, incorporate mobilized slip-on
21 tanker units into resource tracking systems; and

22 (2) collaborate with the Administrator of the
23 U.S. Fire Administration regarding any necessary
24 training for operators of slip-on tanker units.

1 **SEC. 203. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNMANNED**
2 **AIRCRAFT SYSTEM FIRE APPLICATIONS.**

3 (a) DEFINITION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYS-
4 TEM.—In this section, the term “unmanned aircraft sys-
5 tem” has the meaning given the term in section 44801
6 of title 49, United States Code.

7 (b) RESEARCH.—The Secretaries shall, acting
8 through the Joint Fire Science Program, work with uni-
9 versities and other research institutions to carry out re-
10 search and development on the wildfire response applica-
11 tions of unmanned aircraft systems.

12 (c) TESTING.—The Secretaries may test an un-
13 manned aircraft system developed under this section at
14 an unmanned aircraft test range in accordance with sec-
15 tion 44803 of title 49, United States Code, in coordination
16 with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Adminis-
17 tration.

18 **SEC. 204. STUDY ON DRONE INCURSIONS ON WILDFIRE**
19 **SUPPRESSION.**

20 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “un-
21 manned aircraft” and “unmanned aircraft system” have
22 the meanings given those terms in section 44801 of title
23 49, United States Code.

24 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agri-
25 culture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service,
26 in consultation with the Secretary and the Administrator

1 of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall conduct a
2 study on the effects of unauthorized unmanned aircraft
3 on wildfire suppression with respect to land managed by
4 the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agri-
5 culture.

6 (c) STUDY CONTENTS.—In conducting the study re-
7 quired under subsection (b), the Secretary of Agriculture
8 shall—

9 (1) determine, for each of the 5 most recent
10 calendar years—

11 (A) the number of occurrences in which an
12 unauthorized unmanned aircraft interfered with
13 wildfire suppression; and

14 (B) the estimated effect of each occurrence
15 described in subparagraph (A) on—

16 (i) the length of time required to
17 achieve complete suppression;

18 (ii) any associated delay in the field-
19 ing of aerial firefighting response units;
20 and

21 (iii) the amounts expended by the
22 Federal Government; and

23 (2) evaluate the feasibility, effectiveness, and
24 safety impacts and results of various actions to pre-

1 vent unauthorized unmanned aircraft from inter-
2 fering with wildfire suppression, including—

3 (A) the deployment of nonkinetic counter-
4 UAS equipment;

5 (B) the seizure of an unmanned aircraft
6 system, including through the use of kinetic
7 counter-UAS equipment, such as a net; and

8 (C) the dissemination of educational mate-
9 rials relating to the effects of unauthorized un-
10 manned aircraft on wildfire suppression.

11 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
12 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall
13 submit to the congressional committees, the Committee on
14 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate,
15 and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
16 of the House of Representatives a report describing—

17 (1) the findings of the study required under
18 subsection (b); and

19 (2) any recommendations relating to those find-
20 ings.

21 **SEC. 205. STUDY ON MODERNIZING WILDFIRE RESPONSE**
22 **TECHNOLOGIES.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall conduct a
24 study on—

1 (1) necessary improvements to radio commu-
2 nications systems and infrastructure during wildland
3 fire or prescribed fire operations, including—

4 (A) an assessment of the quality and reli-
5 ability of existing radio infrastructure;

6 (B) for any instance in which existing
7 radio communications infrastructure has failed,
8 an assessment of the impacts on forest manage-
9 ment or wildfire response activities;

10 (C) a comparison of existing options to im-
11 prove on-the-ground communications; and

12 (D) a cost analysis and estimated timeline
13 to install the most feasible option identified
14 under subparagraph (C);

15 (2) real-time or near-real-time situational
16 awareness tools for operational firefighters, includ-
17 ing—

18 (A) standards and requirements for such
19 tools to ensure interoperability between Federal
20 firefighting entities and applicable State, local,
21 Tribal, or other partners;

22 (B) any requirements for additional remote
23 sensing and mapping capabilities to fully lever-
24 age such situational awareness tools; and

1 (C) a cost comparison between commer-
2 cially available systems and internally developed
3 systems; and

4 (3) wildland fire and smoke predictive modeling,
5 including—

6 (A) an analysis of the data required to re-
7 duce predictive error for existing or developing
8 models;

9 (B) an analysis of computing needs to
10 more swiftly or accurately model wildland fire
11 using existing or developing models;

12 (C) the feasibility of using artificial intel-
13 ligence for wildland fire and smoke modeling;
14 and

15 (D) existing or developing wildland fire
16 predictive models that could assist with estab-
17 lishing preferred conditions for igniting a pre-
18 scribed fire and predicting smoke impacts.

19 (b) SUBMISSION AND PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not
20 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act,
21 the Secretaries shall submit to the congressional commit-
22 tees and make publicly available the results of the study
23 conducted under subsection (a).

1 **TITLE III—POST-FIRE RECOVERY**
2 **SUPPORT**

3 **SEC. 301. FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR POST-DIS-**
4 **ASTER ASSISTANCE.**

5 (a) USE OF SERVICES OF OTHER AGENCIES.—Sec-
6 tion 201(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
7 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131(a)) is amend-
8 ed—

9 (1) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at
10 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

12 “(8) post-wildfire assistance.”.

13 (b) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-
14 ANCE.—Section 201 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
15 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131)
16 is amended by adding at the end the following:

17 “(e) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-
18 ANCE.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
20 Federal Emergency Management Agency may enter
21 into cooperative agreements to provide funding or
22 technical assistance to a State agency designated or
23 established under subsection (c) to establish, update,
24 or operate a website to provide information relating
25 to post-wildfire recovery funding and resources to a

1 community or an individual impacted by a cata-
2 strophic wildfire.

3 “(2) MANAGEMENT.—A website established, up-
4 dated, or operated under this subsection shall be—

5 “(A) managed by the State agency; and

6 “(B) suitable for the residents of the State
7 of the State agency.

8 “(3) CONTENT.—The Administrator may pro-
9 vide funding to a State agency under this subsection
10 to establish, update, or operate a website that pro-
11 vides 1 or more of the following:

12 “(A) A list of Federal, State, and local
13 sources of post-wildfire recovery funding or as-
14 sistance that may be available to a community
15 after a catastrophic wildfire.

16 “(B) A list of Federal, State, and local
17 sources of post-wildfire recovery funding or as-
18 sistance that may be available to an individual
19 impacted by a catastrophic wildfire.

20 “(C) A technical guide that lists and ex-
21 plains the costs and benefits of alternatives
22 available to a community to mitigate the im-
23 pacts of a catastrophic wildfire and prepare for
24 sequential hazards, such as flooding after a
25 wildfire.

1 “(4) COOPERATION.—A State agency that re-
2 ceives funding or technical assistance to establish,
3 update, or operate a website under this subsection
4 shall cooperate with the Secretary of the Interior,
5 the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Hous-
6 ing and Urban Development, the Administrator of
7 the Small Business Administration, and the Admin-
8 istrator of the Federal Emergency Management
9 Agency in establishing, updating, or operating the
10 website under this subsection.

11 “(5) UPDATES.—A State agency that receives
12 funding to establish, update, or operate a website
13 under this subsection shall update the website as
14 necessary to ensure the content is accurate.”.

15 **SEC. 302. POST-FIRE MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
17 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned
18 shall, to the maximum extent practicable, establish 1 or
19 more permanent Burned Area Emergency Response
20 Teams (referred to in this section as a “BAER Team”)
21 to coordinate immediate post-fire emergency response and
22 stabilization efforts.

23 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—A BAER Team shall—

24 (1) survey the landscape affected by a wildfire
25 to determine burn severity;

1 (2) carry out risk assessments—

2 (A) to determine risks to critical values;

3 and

4 (B) to identify post-fire emergency situa-
5 tions; and

6 (3) mitigate risks to critical values, including—

7 (A) identifying and removing, as necessary,
8 dead or dying trees that may pose an imme-
9 diate hazard;

10 (B) stabilizing or removing hazardous ma-
11 terials resulting from a wildfire that may pose
12 an immediate hazard;

13 (C) conducting emergency landscape sta-
14 bilization and erosion prevention work,
15 prioritizing efforts that ensure public safety;

16 (D) preventing the proliferation and spread
17 of invasive species;

18 (E) assisting with informing the public of
19 post-wildfire hazards;

20 (F) collaborating, as necessary, with activi-
21 ties under section 303; and

22 (G) conducting such other work as the
23 Secretary concerned determines to be necessary
24 to identify and address imminent post-wildfire

1 threats to human life and safety, property, and
2 critical natural or cultural resources.

3 (c) DURATION.—A BAER Team—

4 (1) to the maximum extent practicable, shall co-
5 ordinate post-fire emergency response and stabiliza-
6 tion efforts for a period of not more than 1 year
7 after the date of containment of a wildfire; and

8 (2) may monitor and maintain post-fire emer-
9 gency response and stabilization efforts for a period
10 of not more than 5 years after the date of contain-
11 ment of a wildfire.

12 **SEC. 303. BURNED AREA REHABILITATION.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT.—There is estab-
14 lished in the Treasury of the United States the Long-
15 Term Burned Area Rehabilitation account under the
16 Wildland Fire Management account for the Department
17 of Agriculture, which shall be available to the Secretaries.

18 (b) PRESIDENTIAL BUDGET REQUESTS.—For fiscal
19 year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary
20 concerned shall submit through the budget request of the
21 President a request for amounts in the National Forest
22 System appropriation account to carry out the activities
23 described in subsection (c).

24 (c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary con-
25 cerned shall carry out rehabilitation projects located at

1 sites impacted by a wildfire or post-wildfire flooding pri-
2 marily on Federal land, but may include areas on non-
3 Federal land (with the express consent of the landowner),
4 that—

5 (1) restore the functions of an ecosystem, in-
6 cluding—

7 (A) identifying areas where natural regen-
8 eration is unlikely to occur;

9 (B) revegetation and reforestation, includ-
10 ing coordinating any necessary site preparation,
11 salvage harvesting, and replanting;

12 (C) watershed restoration;

13 (D) invasive species mitigation and re-
14 moval; and

15 (E) wildlife habitat restoration; or

16 (2) repair or replace infrastructure or facilities
17 critical for land management activities.

18 (d) DURATION OF ACTIVITIES.—A rehabilitation
19 project under subsection (c) shall—

20 (1) begin not earlier than the date on which the
21 wildfire was contained; and

22 (2) be completed, to the extent practicable, not
23 later than 5 years after the date on which the wild-
24 fire was contained.

25 (e) AGREEMENT AUTHORITY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned
2 may enter into agreements with States, local govern-
3 ments, Indian Tribes, and other non-Federal entities
4 to carry out activities described in subsection (c).

5 (2) COST SHARE.—The non-Federal share of
6 the costs of implementing activities under an agree-
7 ment entered into under paragraph (1)—

8 (A) shall be not more than 20 percent; and

9 (B) may include in-kind contributions.

10 (3) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this sub-
11 section—

12 (A) requires the Secretary of Agriculture
13 to enter into agreements with non-Federal enti-
14 ties to carry out activities described in sub-
15 section (c); or

16 (B) limits the effect of the prioritization
17 requirements under subsection (f).

18 (f) PRIORITIZATION OF FUNDING.—The Secretary
19 concerned shall prioritize, on a nationwide basis, projects
20 for which funding requests are submitted under this sec-
21 tion based on landscape and watershed benefits.