

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4920

To provide for cost-share waivers for projects carried out in response to wildland fires caused by certain Government actions, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2023

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To provide for cost-share waivers for projects carried out in response to wildland fires caused by certain Government actions, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Responsible Wildland  
5 Fire Recovery Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to ensure that victims of  
8 wildland fires resulting from management activities con-

1 ducted by the Department of Agriculture on National For-  
2 est System land are eligible to receive 100 percent funding  
3 for the cost of remediating direct and indirect damages  
4 under authorized Federal recovery programs.

5 **SEC. 3. COST-SHARE WAIVER FOR REHABILITATION FROM**  
6 **WILDLAND FIRES.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) COVERED MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The  
9 term “covered matching requirement” means a re-  
10 quirement under a program of the Secretary for  
11 wildland fire recovery for a State, Indian Tribe, lo-  
12 cality, or individual to provide matching funds, in  
13 cash, for a project.

14 (2) COVERED WILDLAND FIRE.—The term  
15 “covered wildland fire” means a wildland fire that  
16 the Secretary determines to be a result of manage-  
17 ment activities conducted by the Secretary on Na-  
18 tional Forest System land.

19 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
20 the Secretary of Agriculture.

21 (4) WILDLAND FIRE.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “wildland  
23 fire” means any non-structure fire that occurs  
24 in vegetation or natural fuels.

1                   (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “wildland  
2                   fire” includes wildfire, prescribed fire, and any  
3                   direct or indirect damage resulting in watershed  
4                   impairment.

5                   (b) WAIVER.—Notwithstanding any other provision  
6 of law, the Secretary may waive any covered matching re-  
7 quirement for a project in response to a covered wildland  
8 fire that is in an area affected by that covered wildland  
9 fire.

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