

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6525

To provide mandatory funding for hazardous fuels reduction projects on certain Federal land, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon (for herself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. STANSBURY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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

---

## A BILL

To provide mandatory funding for hazardous fuels reduction projects on certain Federal land, 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 “Wildfire Resilient  
5 Communities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION**

7 **PROJECTS ON CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND.**

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

1           (1) AGENCY HEAD.—The term “agency head”  
2 means—

3           (A) the Director of the National Park  
4 Service;

5           (B) the Chief of the Forest Service;

6           (C) the Director of the Bureau of Land  
7 Management;

8           (D) the Director of the United States Fish  
9 and Wildlife Service; and

10          (E) the Director of the Bureau of Indian  
11 Affairs.

12          (2) AT-RISK COMMUNITY; FIRE REGIME I; FIRE  
13 REGIME II; FIRE REGIME III.—The terms “at-risk  
14 community”, “fire regime I”, “fire regime II”, and  
15 “fire regime III” have the meanings given those  
16 terms in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Res-  
17 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

18          (3) COVERED LAND.—The term “covered land”  
19 means Federal land under the jurisdiction of the ap-  
20 plicable agency head.

21          (4) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION  
22 PROJECT.—The term “hazardous fuels reduction  
23 project” means the removal or modification of flam-  
24 mable vegetation or woody debris through prescribed  
25 fire, thinning, brush removal, mastication, pruning,

1 slash treatment, or a combination of those methods,  
2 on the condition that the method is ecologically ap-  
3 propriate, cost-effective, and selected on a site-spe-  
4 cific basis.

5 (b) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION PROJECTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The agency heads shall  
7 carry out hazardous fuels reduction projects on cov-  
8 ered land.

9 (2) PROJECT PRIORITIES.—In carrying out  
10 paragraph (1), the agency heads shall prioritize haz-  
11 ardous fuels reduction projects that are—

12 (A) conducted in areas that—

13 (i) are within or adjacent to—

14 (I) at-risk communities; or

15 (II) high-value watersheds;

16 (ii) have very high wildfire hazard po-  
17 tential; or

18 (iii) are in fire regime I, fire regime

19 II, or fire regime III; or

20 (B) designed to integrate and simulta-

21 neously advance 2 or more of the goals estab-

22 lished in the report of the Secretary of Agri-

23 culture and the Secretary of the Interior enti-

24 tled “The National Strategy: the Final Phase of

25 the Development of the National Cohesive

1 Wildland Fire Management Strategy” and  
2 dated April 2014 and the update entitled “Na-  
3 tional Cohesive Wildland Fire Management  
4 Strategy Addendum Update” and dated Janu-  
5 ary 2023—

- 6 (i) to create fire-adapted communities;  
7 (ii) to restore and maintain resilient  
8 landscapes; and  
9 (iii) to achieve safe, effective fire re-  
10 sponse.

11 (c) FUNDING.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—On the first October 1 fol-  
13 lowing the date of enactment of this Act, out of any  
14 funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,  
15 the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the  
16 agency heads, in accordance with an allocation for-  
17 mula established by the Secretary of the Treasury,  
18 \$30,000,000,000, to remain available until ex-  
19 pended.

20 (2) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—The agency  
21 heads shall be entitled to receive, shall accept, and  
22 shall use to carry out this section the funds trans-  
23 ferred under paragraph (1), without further appro-  
24 priation.

1           (3) ADMINISTRATIVE AND PLANNING COSTS.—  
2           Not more than 10 percent of funding made available  
3           under paragraph (1) may be used for administrative  
4           and planning costs.

5 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS FOR COMMUNITY WILDFIRE**  
6                                   **DEFENSE GRANT PROGRAM.**

7           In addition to amounts made available to the Sec-  
8           retary of Agriculture under section 40803(c)(12) of the  
9           Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C.  
10          6592(c)(12)), there is authorized to be appropriated to the  
11          Secretary of Agriculture to carry out section 40803(f) of  
12          the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C.  
13          6592(f)) \$3,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years  
14          2027 through 2031.

15 **SEC. 4. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORA-**  
16                                   **TION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.**

17          Section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Manage-  
18          ment Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303) is amended—

19                   (1) in subsection (b)(3)—

20                           (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “spe-  
21                           cies;” and inserting “species or pathogens;”;

22                           (B) in subparagraph (G), by striking  
23                           “and” at the end;

24                           (C) in subparagraph (H), by adding “and”  
25                           after the semicolon at the end; and

1 (D) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(I) address standardized monitoring ques-  
3 tions and indicators;”;

4 (2) in subsection (c)(3)(A)—

5 (A) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the  
6 end;

7 (B) in clause (ii), by adding “and” at the  
8 end; and

9 (C) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(iii) include a Federal Government  
11 staffing plan for providing support to col-  
12 laborative processes established pursuant  
13 to subsection (b)(2);”;

14 (3) in subsection (d)—

15 (A) in paragraph (2)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
17 “and” at the end;

18 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
19 the period at the end and inserting a semi-  
20 colon; and

21 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
22 lowing:

23 “(G) whether the proposal seeks to use in-  
24 novative implementation mechanisms, including  
25 conservation finance agreements, good neighbor

1 agreements entered into under section 8206 of  
2 the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C.  
3 2113a), and similar implementation mecha-  
4 nisms;

5 “(H) whether the proposal seeks to reduce  
6 the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase  
7 ecological restoration activities—

8 “(i) within areas across land owner-  
9 ships, including State, Tribal, and private  
10 land; and

11 “(ii) within the wildland-urban inter-  
12 face; and

13 “(I) whether the proposal seeks to enhance  
14 watershed health and drinking water sources.”;  
15 and

16 (B) in paragraph (3)—

17 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
18 “10” and inserting “20”; and

19 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
20 “2” and inserting “4”;

21 (4) in subsection (e)(3), by inserting “conflict  
22 resolution or collaborative governance,” before “and  
23 woody”; and

24 (5) in subsection (f)(6), by striking  
25 “\$80,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through

1 2023” and inserting “\$100,000,000 for fiscal year  
2 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter”.

3 **SEC. 5. COUNTY STEWARDSHIP FUND.**

4 Section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act  
5 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subsection (j) as sub-  
7 section (k); and

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (i) the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 “(j) COUNTY STEWARDSHIP FUND.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the  
12 Treasury of the United States a fund to be known  
13 as the ‘County Stewardship Fund’ (referred to in  
14 this section as the ‘Fund’), to be administered by  
15 the Secretary.

16 “(2) DEPOSITS.—Each fiscal year, an amount  
17 equal to 25 percent of the amounts collected as re-  
18 ceipts under subsection (e) during the preceding fis-  
19 cal year shall be deposited in the Fund.

20 “(3) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts in the Fund  
21 shall—

22 “(A) be used only for purposes described  
23 in paragraph (4); and

24 “(B) remain available until expended.

25 “(4) PURPOSES.—



1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each fiscal year, the  
2 Chief or the Director, as applicable, shall dis-  
3 tribute from amounts in the Fund to each  
4 county in which a contract under subsection (b)  
5 was carried out on Federal land in the county  
6 during the preceding fiscal year a payment of  
7 an amount equal to 25 percent of the receipts  
8 generated from that contract.

9           “(B) USE OF FUNDS.—A county receiving  
10 a payment under subparagraph (A) may use  
11 the payment for any governmental purposes.”.

○