



TEAM: WILDFIRE & FOREST HEALTH

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SUBJECT: ADVANCING WILDFIRE RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, INNOVATIONS AND EFFICIENCIES

STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR RESPONSE, RECOVERY, RESILIENCE

To support healthy and fire-resistant forests, specific and strategic actions can be taken. These actions are vital to supporting wildfire response, recovery, and resilience. These actions are embodied in the report of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission (Commission), completed in September 2023, which provided a comprehensive set of priority policies derived from the work of the bipartisan Commission. The requested action set forth in this paper aligns with the recommendations of the Commission, specifically the recommendations noted below:



Community Resilience and Interagency Coordination

Promoting partnerships, co-management, and streamlined coordination across federal, state, local, and tribal entities to reduce regulatory barriers, improve permitting efficiency, and accelerate wildfire preparedness and response.

Commission Recommendations:

#1, 29, 51, 52, 53, 56, 57, 58, 66, 67, 90, 126, 129, 132



Data, Planning & Workforce Development

Investing in integrated data systems, modern planning tools, and workforce pipelines that support government efficiency, technology adoption, and career connected training in wildfire response, forest management, infrastructure, and clean energy sectors.

Commission Recommendations:

#4, 32, 33, 34, 42, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 66, 67, 90, 104, 132



Forest Management, Fuels Reduction & Innovation

Scaling prescribed fire, fuels treatment, and restoration while advancing innovation in biomass, wood products, and alternative energy commercialization to reduce wildfire risk and strengthen the region’s applied innovation ecosystem.

*Commission Recommendations:
#12, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 33, 42, 77, 126*

Together, these actions position the Capital Region as a national model for wildfire resilience that aligns public safety, economic competitiveness, innovation, and efficient governance.

Commission recommendations referenced above are provided on the following page. The Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission Report can be found here: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/wfmmc-final-report-09-2023.pdf>

CITED RECOMMENDATIONS	
1	Establish a Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program via an interagency coordinating partnership including the U.S. Forest Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the United States Fire Administration, the Office of Wildland Fire on behalf of the Department of the Interior’s land management agencies, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology as principal agencies, to proactively address wildfire risk reduction actions and increase ignition resistance of the built environment.
4	Provide dedicated funding to evaluate, build and maintain existing federal, state, and local wildfire hazard data sets and identify a use case to refine and, if necessary, expand national datasets.
12	Work with Tribes, states, and local partners to develop a strategic plan for implementing prescribed fire at a national scale.
14	Instruct agencies to develop the necessary administrative systems to allow resource ordering for prescribed fire to be as seamless as it is for wildfire response.
17	Invest in fuels reduction treatments.
18	Support and expand the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.
19	Invest in wood processing facilities and the wood utilization sector more generally.
20	Fund more research and pilot projects for biofuels and biomass utilization technologies and opportunities through a new collaboration between the Forest Service Research & Development and the Department of Energy.
21	Incentivize adoption of new technologies and processing systems to produce value added and demand-driven innovative wood products.
29	Ensure that federal agencies have the directive, capacity, and authority to enter into equitable and meaningful co-stewardship and co-management agreements for multi-jurisdictional lands, and to support Tribal self-governance in order to address wildfire risk reduction, management, and recovery, and to enable beneficial fire practices.
32	Expand funding and staffing for planning and Interdisciplinary Teams of federal land management agencies.
33	Explore mechanisms to make planning more effective and efficient, such as improved information gathering, training, staffing, collaboration, and programmatic analyses for restoration and hazardous fuels reduction activities.
34	Expedite funding to support water utilities in both immediate and long-term wildland fire recovery to maintain water delivery to consumers.
42	Direct the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to work together to expeditiously evaluate current federal regulations and guidance around the treatment of smoke from wildland fire in air quality management programs with the intent of ensuring the programs can accommodate increased use of beneficial fire. Such an evaluation includes the exceptional events pathway and making any necessary changes to enhance programmatic and procedural ease and clarity while ensuring protection of public health, in a manner consistent with the Clean Air Act. Further, Congress should provide resources to ensure federal, state, and local authorities can expand their capacity to document and exclude wildfire and beneficial fire smoke from regulatory significance.
51	In order to facilitate the prioritization of public safety in response resource ordering, establish a task force of relevant entities to review eligible costs for the purposes of expedited resource deployment and reimbursements processes.



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52	Some locations offer positive examples of more effective resource mobilization and should serve as models for other areas.
53	Direct a task force to explore the potential to improve the national resource ordering and status system and ensure that it is more accessible to qualified entities and individuals.
54	Increase access to qualifications and training opportunities for all partners.
55	Create and fund more training opportunities for the mitigation and management response workforce.
56	Increase support for the U.S. Fire Administration to provide expanded community-based wildfire training and engagement of the nation's non-federal fire service; promote fire-adapted communities to build community resilience; and improve coordination with wildland fire management as a critical and necessary partner in wildfire risk reduction.
57	Expand support for the further development and utilization of pre-fire response planning, such as the Potential Operational Delineations methodology, as a science based, collaborative, and interdisciplinary framework for improving wildfire management and mitigation, integration of land management objectives with wildfire management objectives, and collaborative engagement.
58	Increase and foster local participation in collaborative pre-fire planning and management through pre-fire planning initiatives like the Potential Operational Delineations process.
66	Authorize funding for integrated planning and management across all phases of fire management.
67	Provide funding to local entities to proactively complete assessments of values at risk susceptible to post-fire impacts.
77	Increase authorizations and appropriations for watershed rehabilitation programs post-wildfire.
90	Improve the contracts, grants and agreements process and expand investments in the non-federal workforce.
104	Establish an interagency joint office with dedicated and separate funding to fulfill the mission of comprehensive assessment and prediction of fire in the wildland and built environment interface through data aggregation and science-based decision support services.
126	Authorize and appropriate funds to support new and existing partnership programs to reduce wildfire threats, support landscape-scale, multi-jurisdictional mitigation, and post-fire recovery efforts on all lands impacted by wildfire.
129	Ensure that the U.S. Fire Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have the resources necessary to support efforts to reduce wildfire risks to communities and the threat of urban conflagrations related to wildfire and provide post wildfire mitigation and recovery in communities.
132	Ensure that agencies have sustained funding to maintain wildfire risk and resilience improvements.