March 27, 2020

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
1124 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

As researchers, extension unit leaders, and practitioners who work with the federal land management agencies on wildland fire, we urge you to appropriate full funding for the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) of \$16 million for FY2021, with \$8 million in the US Department of Interior Wildland Fire Management budget and \$8 million in the USDA Forest Service Wildland Fire Management budget (not in the Forest Service Research and Development budget). The President's FY 2021 budget proposal allows for \$3 million through the Department of the Interior, which is a fraction of what is needed to address the complexities of wildland fire in the US, and greatly minimizes the program's overall effectiveness.

Wildfire is a rapidly growing threat to communities, ecosystems, and families across the nation, as fire seasons grow longer and increasingly severe. Now more than ever, our nation needs to increase investment in high-quality fire science and science delivery to support policy makers, managers, and practitioners in addressing the complex challenges of wildland fire.

The JFSP is a major source of funding for wildland fire science and science delivery. It is unique among federal research programs in its focus on applied fire science through inter-agency partnerships. Fire and land managers from the USDA Forest Service and US Department of Interior together identify, with additional stakeholder input, the most urgent research needs around fire management. The JFSP then competitively solicits the best proposals from researchers at universities, nongovernmental organizations, and federal agencies. Research findings are then delivered into the hands of fire and land managers and practitioners through the JFSP-funded Fire Science Exchange Network.

With its focus on science-management interaction and competitive solicitation for the best-qualified researchers to address the most critical scientific questions in fire management, the Joint Fire Science Program, with a very modest budget, is highly efficient and effective at meeting the needs of the fire practitioner community.

We thank Congress for its past support of the Joint Fire Science Program, and urge full funding of \$16 million through the Wildland Fire Management budgets at USDA Forest Service and the US Department of the Interior for FY 2021.

National/International Organizations

Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) Forest Stewards Guild

Institute for Applied Ecology

International Association of Wildland Fire (IAWF)

Intertribal Timber Council

Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission

Northeast Regional Cohesive Strategy Committee

Simtable

Society for Range Management

Tall Timbers Research Station

The Institute for Bird Populations

The Longleaf Alliance

The National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative

The Nature Conservancy

Union of Concerned Scientists

Watershed Research & Training Center

Western Environmental Law Center

Western Region Strategy Committee

Wildfire Adapted Partnership

State/Regional/Local Organizations

Alabama Chapter- Association of Consulting Foresters

Alabama Dept of Conservation Wildlife Section District 2: 14 counties in NE Al.

Alabama Prescribed Fire Council

Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission

Alaska Department of Fish & Game

ABR, Inc.—Environmental Research & Services (AK)

Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership, Inc. (AZ)

Jenness Enterprises (AZ)

Adam F. Snider DBA Snider Construction & Logging (CA)

Bonny Doon Fire Safe Council, Inc. (CA)

Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services (CA)

ForEverGreen Forestry (CA)

Irvine Ranch Conservancy (CA)

Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center (CA)

Mattole Restoration Council (CA)

M-bar Technologies and Consulting, LLC (CA)

Napa Communities Firewise Foundation (CA)

Oakland Landscape Committee (CA)

Prometheus Fire Consulting LLC (CA)

Sierra Forest Legacy (CA)

Technosylva (CA)

Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CO)

Colorado Prescribed Fire Council

Foothill Conservancy (CO)

Fire Adapted Colorado

Florida Society of Geographers

Florida Wildlife Federation

ProForest (FL)

The Georgia Prescribed Fire Council

Gill Ewa Lands, LLC (HI)

Hawaii Forest Industry Association

Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization

Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership (HI)

Laukahi: The Hawaii Plant Conservation Network (HI)

Native Ecosystem Services LLC (HI)

College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho

Michigan Prescribed Fire Council

Missouri Botanical Garden

FireTree Wildland Fire Sciences (MT)

Jocko Valley Consulting LLC (MT)

Montana Forest & Conservation Experiment Station, University of Montana

Spyder Environmental LLC (MT)

Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Junaluska Fire Dept (NC)

NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, NC Forest Service

NC Prescribed Fire Council

NC Wildlife Resources Commission

North Carolina State Parks

State Climate Office of Ohio

Blue Mountains Forest Partners (OR)

Friends of Hart Mountain (OR)

South Carolina Forestry Commission

Southern Regional Extension Forestry

Darden Consulting (TN)

Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Grand Staircase Escalante Partners (UT)

Prescribed Burn Alliance of Texas

South Texas Prescribed Burn Association (TX)

Okanogan Conservation District (WA)

San Juan Citizens Alliance (WA)

BetterFinds LLC (WI)

Conservation Media, LLC (WI)

Karhu Wildfire Management Inc. (WI)

Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council

Wyoming PRescribed Fire Council

Signatories by State

Alabama

Raien Emery, Graduate Student, University of Alabama

Davis Goode, University of Alabama

James Mitchell, REA, ACES

John Stivers, Consulting Forester, ACF, RF, CF, Alabama Prescribed Fire Council Board

Douglass W McConnell, Forest Manager, Consulting Forester, and Prescribed Fire Manager

Jason Martin, Forester, Private Citizen

Nathan Hatch, Forester, Private Consultant

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Dale Woitas, Concerned Citizen

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Graham Worley-Hood, Alaska Fire management community

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GaBriella Branson, Intelligence Coordinator, State of Alaska Division of Forestry

Lisa Slepetski, firefighter

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Mary Jo Hill, Wildlife Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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Heidi Strader

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NASF, USDA Forest Service and US DOI

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Carrie Levine, Lead Scientist, Conservation Science Partners Inc.

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Jeffrey Shelton, Fire Captain, Federal Incident Management Team

Jeff Kane, Associate Professor of Fire Ecology and Fuels Management, Humboldt State University

Marc Meyer, Concerned Citizen

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Stephen C. Hart, Professor of Ecology, University of California

Mary Newman, Citizen

Aaron Thode, Research Scientist, University of California San Diego

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Melissa Jaffe, UC Berkeley

Hugh Safford, PhD, Private Citizen

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John Benoit, Computer scientist

Greg Suba, Conservation Biologist, Sierra Forest Legacy

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Wade Martin, Professor & Director, CSULB Institute for Innovation & Entrepreneurship

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Michael Johnson, Fire Chief, Fire District

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Nick Goulette, Executive Director, Watershed Research & Training Center

Joe Christy, President, Bonny Doon Fire Safe Council, Inc.

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Chris Lenfert, Citizen

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Former SRFSN intern

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James Fischer, Manager, Trinchera Ranch

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Washington DC

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Lia Biondo, DC Liaison, Society for Range Management

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Alan Long, Professor Emeritus, University of Florida

Daniel Johnson, Assistant Professor, University of Florida

Greg Seamon, Fire Training Specialist, Tall Timbers

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Jean McCollom, Land Management Biologist, Natural Ecosystems

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Cinnamon Dixon, Fire Ecologist, Tall Timbers

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Grace Burmester, Concerned Citizen

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Charles Chimera, Weed Risk Assessment Specialist, Hawaii Invasive Species Council

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Robert Westerman, Fire Chief, Kauai Fire Department

Will Weaver, Natural Resource Management Specialist, Collaborator

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Charles Mark, Concerned Citizen

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Stefano Potter, Research Assistant, Woods Hole Research Center
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Sara Giacomini, Research Associate, Woods Hole Research Center
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Michigan

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Shawn, Duke, We. Staff Ecologist, Cardno

Daniel Kashuan, Professor, Wayne State University

John Norton-Jensen, Firefighter

Mary Dunham, Concerned Citizen

Andrew Vander Yacht, Doctor, Michigan State University

Michael, Kiefer, Assistant Professor, Michigan State University

Steve Cross, Concerned Citizen

Michael Billmire, Research Scientist, Michigan Technological University

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Nathan Emery, Research Associate, Michigan State University

Christopher Bobryk, Educator / Practitioner, Private Consultant

Lynnette Fouch Bugenske, Concerned Citizen

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