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)
Laukah: 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
Steve Bryant, Supervising Wildlife Biologist D-2, Alabama Department of Conservation
Alaska
Alison York, Coordinator, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Dale Woitas, Concerned Citizen
Christine Everett, Ecologist, CJ Everett LLC
Graham Worley-Hood, Alaska Fire management community
Jennifer Schmidt, Assistant Professor of Natural Resource Management and Policy, UAA
Cecilia Borries-Strigle, Graduate Research Assistant, University of Alaska Fairbanks
William Putman, Forestry Director, Tanana Chiefs Conference
GaBriella Branson, Intelligence Coordinator, State of Alaska Division of Forestry
Lisa Slepetski, firefighter
Jill Johnstone, Affiliate research scientist, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Sue Rodman, Program Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Mary JoHill, Wildlife Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
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Heidi Strader
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Ryan Diener, Citizen

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Jeff Prevey, Concerned Citizen
Carolyn Sieg, Citizen
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Ellen S. Soles, Researcher, Northern Arizona University
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Jeff Jenness, GIS Analyst, Jenness Enterprises

California
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Tony Marks-Block, PhD Candidate, Stanford University
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Susan Holper, Amador/Calaveras Consensus Group
Bethany Hannah, Director, American Wildfire Experience (501c3)
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Michael Johnson, Fire Chief, Fire District
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Joe Christy, President, Bonny Doon Fire Safe Council, Inc.
Randy Striplin, Fire Ecologist, AFE
Edmund Hayes, Vice President, Fire Safe Council Santa Cruz County and South Skyline Fire Safe Council
Linda George
Mike McLaughlin, Chair, Western Fire Chiefs Wildfire Policy Committee
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Peter Lecourt, Member, Board of Directors, Napa Communities Firewise Foundation
Kerri Kisko, Environmental Scientist, State of California
Jeremy Cawn, Fire Prevention Inspector, Glendale Fire Department
Phil Nemir, Consulting Forester, Home Landowner
Lawrence Ruth, Principal, Consultant, Wildland Fire & Environ. Policy
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Phil Perkins, Proud American, Wildland firefighter
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Gretchen Fitzgerald, Forester
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Terry Birdsong, Friends of Lory State Park
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Preston Robertson, President and CEO, Florida Wildlife Federation
Catherine Ricketts, Wildlife Biologist, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
William Palmer, President and CEO, Tall Timbers Research Station
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Dannielle Lacouture
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Ryan Kennelly, Wildland firefighter
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Hannah Rusch, University of Florida
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Georgia
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Wayne Bell, Certified Forester, Private Landowner
Randy Tate, Fort Stewart/Altamaha Longleaf Partnership Coordinator, The Longleaf Alliance
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Randy Tate, Fort Stewart/Altamaha Longleaf Partnership Coordinator, The Longleaf Alliance
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Haley Ritger, PhD candidate, University of Georgia

Hawaii
Melissa Chimera, Pacific Fire Exchange Coordinator, Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization
Carson Magoon, Community Education Coordinator, Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization
Michael Walker, Fire Protection Forester, State of HI-DLNR-DOFAW
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Carolyn Wong, Member/Manager/Grazing Specialist, Paahana Livestock LLC
Andrea Gill, Manager, Gill Ewa Lands, LLC
Zen Grenci, Sustained Climate Assessment Specialist, East-West Center
James Friday, Doctor, University of Hawaii Cooperative Extension Service
Adrian Klasovsky, Arborist/Land Manager
Emily Grave, Laukahi Network Coordinator, Laukahi: The Hawaii Plant Conservation Network
Charles Chimera, Weed Risk Assessment Specialist, Hawaii Invasive Species Council
Willie Rice, Forester, Forest Solutions, Inc.
Jeff Farris, County Fire Service
Robert Westerman, Fire Chief, Kauai Fire Department
Will Weaver, Natural Resource Management Specialist, Collaborator
Nicholas Koch, President, Hawaii Forest Industry Association
Tova Callender, West Maui Watershed Coordinator, West Maui Ridge to Reef Initiative
Zoe Hastings, NSF Graduate Research Fellow, University of Hawaii at Manoa
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Jason Ornellas, Battalion Chief, Kauai Fire Department

Idaho
Heather Heward, Senior Instructor, University of Idaho
Michael Struhs, Type 2 Engine Crew, IDL/CNR Fire Ecology Major
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John Cissel, Former Program Director Joint Fire Science Program (Retired)
Barry Callenberger, Forest Service (Retired)
Jacob Von Bargen, Student, Student Association for Fire Ecology
William Elliot, P.E., PhD (Retired)
Penny Morgan, Professor, University of Idaho
Josh Hyde, Fire Research Scientist, University of Idaho
Lynn Wells, FRAMES Program Manager, University of Idaho
Josh Switzer, Member, Association for Fire Ecology
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Andy Hudak, Research Forester, USFS-RMRS
Krystal McCreary, Student, University of Idaho
Nancy Glenn, Professor, Boise State University
Heath Hockenberry, Meteorologist
Aaron Murdock, Firefighter, University of Idaho
Georgia Hart-Fredeluces, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Idaho State University
Jennifer Pierce, Associate Professor, Boise State University
Tom Zimmerman, Past-President, International Association of Wildland Fire
William Elliot, P.E., PhD (Retired)
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Charles Mark, Concerned Citizen
Dale Hamilton, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Department Chair, Northwest Nazarene University
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Charles Goebel, Department Head and Professor, Department of Forest, Rangeland and Fire Sciences, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho
Erika Mittermaier, Concerned Citizen
Julie Simpson, Air Quality Program Coordinator, Tribe
Donna Kreiensieck, Wildland Fire Management (Retired), Forest Service, BLM, NPS, FWS
Dillon Alexander, Student, University of Idaho
Ashley Leavell, Student, Boise State University
Jessie Dodge, Research Specialist, University of Idaho
Mark Boyle, Concerned Citizen
Susan Seber, USFS (Retired)

Illinois
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Cynthia Talmadge, Concerned Citizen
Paul Brewer, Certified Wildlife Biologist
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Andrew Furman, FOLLY
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Edward Warden, Conservation Coordinator
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Jacob Worley-Hood, Concerned Citizen

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Erin Skaggs, Administrative Assistant, National Park Service
Joy O'Keefe, Associate Professor, Indiana State University
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Kansas
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Devine Black, Forester
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Maine
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Cameron Balog, Firefighter
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Wayne Walker, Associate Scientist, Woods Hole Research Center
Sara Giacomini, Research Associate, Woods Hole Research Center
Jennifer Francis, Senior Scientist, Woods Hole Research Center
Peter Frumhoff, Director of Science and Policy, Chief Climate Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists
Virginia Dautreuil, Natural Resources Analyst, Land Management
Owen Sholes, Professor of Biology (Retired), Assumption College
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Larry Nooden, Professor emeritus, University of Michigan
McGregor Wright, GVSU
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Todd Aschenbach, Associate Professor of Natural Resources Management, Grand Valley State University
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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
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Steve Cross, Concerned Citizen
Michael Billmire, Research Scientist, Michigan Technological University
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**Minnesota**

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Paul Ojanen, Concerned Citizen
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Rebecca Montgomery, Professor, University of Minnesota
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Jodie Provost, Forest Team member, Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Ken Graeve, Botanist, State Government
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Paul Klockow, Doctor, University of Minnesota
Eunice Slager, Parent of Hotshot crew member
Lane Johnson, Research Forester, University of Minnesota
Todd Armbruster, Firewise Coordinator, Lake and Cook County Minnesota
Elizabeth McGowan, Concerned Citizen
Peder Yurista, PhD (Retired)
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**Mississippi**

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Gary Jarvis, Owner of private business
Randy Cannon, Concerned Citizen
Alison Paulson, Forest Ecologist, Mississippi State University

**Missouri**

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Michael Stambaugh, Professor, University of Missouri
Dr. Robin Verble, Associate Professor, Missouri University of Science and Technology
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Susan Farrington, Natural History Biologist, MDC
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David Shanholzer, Private Landowner
Hannah Hemmelgarn, Education Coordinator, University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry
Eva Colberg, PhD student, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Robert Kipfer, Doctor, Master Naturalist
James Faupel, Restoration Ecology Coordinator, Missouri Botanical Garden
Quinn Long, Director, Shaw Nature Reserve, Missouri Botanical Garden
Matthew Albrecht, Conservation Scientist, Missouri Botanical Garden
Bruce Palmer, Manager, Mission Critical Consulting, LLC
David C Ashley, Professor Emeritus, Missouri Western State University
Matthew Cruise, Land Owner, University of Missouri, Missouri Prairie Foundation
Erin Abadir, Research Specialist, University of Missouri
Richard Guyette, Research Professor, The University of Missouri
Zachariah Sachs, Prescribed Burn Crew, The Nature Conservancy

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