# March 27, 2020

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
190 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

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

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

Allen Molina, PhD, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Christine Waigl, PhD, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Gerald Frost, Senior Scientist, ABR Inc.—Environmental Research & Services

Heidi Strader

Peter Talus, Fire Management Officer, Tok Area

#### **Arkansas**

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Leslie Fowler, Arkansas Monarch and Pollinator Coordinator, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Ryan Diener, Citizen

## Arizona

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Kristen Waring, PhD, Northern Arizona University

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Melissa Merrick, Assistant Research Scientist, the University of Arizona

Lisa Floyd-Hanna, Professor Emeritus, Prescott College

Alek Mendoza, Biologist, Museum of Northern Arizona

Brianna Mann, Data Specialist, Museum of Northern Arizona

Karen Malis-Clark, Public Information Officer, US Forest Service (Retired)

Anne Mottek, Coordinator, Board of Directors' Treasurer, Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership Inc.

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Alan Wolfson, LLC Manager, Biomass Options, LLC

Jeff Prevey, Concerned Citizen

Carolyn Sieg, Citizen

Erik Nielsen, Associate Professor, Northern Arizona University

Ellen S. Soles, Researcher, Northern Arizona University

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NASF, USDA Forest Service and US DOI

Carol Chambers, Professor, Northern Arizona University

Ann Youberg, Research Scientist, University of Arizona

Jeff Gicklhorn, Ecological Monitoring Program Coordinator, Pima County Office of Sustainability and Conservation

Kira Hefty, Research Assistant, University of Arizona

Jeff Jenness, GIS Analyst, Jenness Enterprises

### California

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Zac Steel, Ecologist, UC Berkeley

Rodney Siegel, Executive Director, The Institute for Bird Populations

Carrie Levine, Lead Scientist, Conservation Science Partners Inc.

Morgan Tingley, Associate Professor, University of California

Tony Marks-Block, PhD Candidate, Stanford University

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**Rangeland Conservation Science** 

Michael O'Connell, President & CEO, Irvine Ranch Conservancy

John Brennan, Conservation

LizAnne Jensen, Concerned Resident

Michael Gollner, Assistant Professor, University of California

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Phillip Dye, Owner/CEO, Prometheus Fire Consulting LLC

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Bill Sparkes, Photojournalist, NPPA

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Susan Holper, Amador/Calaveras Consensus Group

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Jose Sanchez, Economist

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Janet Franklin, Distinguished professor, University of California

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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Sarah Otterstrom, Executive Director, Paso Pacifico

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

Mary Newman, Citizen

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David Scott,

Melissa Jaffe, UC Berkeley

Hugh Safford, PhD, Private Citizen

Pat McGreevy, Forest Restoration Manager, Calaveras Amador Forestry Team

Sherry Pease, Executive Director, Foothill Conservancy

Rebecca Wayman, Associate Specialist, University of California

Hannah Hepner, Coordinator, Plumas County Fire Safe Council

Keith Lombardo, PhD, Climate Science Alliance

Nicholas Bartlett, Fire Protection Engineer, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

John Benoit, Computer scientist

Greg Suba, Conservation Biologist, Sierra Forest Legacy

Carmen Tubbesing, PhD Candidate, UC Berkeley

Kate Wilkin, Fire scientist, Consultant

Amy JB Wagner, Forestry Technician, USFS

Lauren Ponisio, Assistant Professor, UC Riverside

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

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Andrzej Ytnerowicz, Senior Scientist Emeritus, USDA Forest Service

Crystal Danheiser, Citizen

Robert W Eisele, Retired

Michael Palmer, Curator, Bates & Harvey Mudd Aeronautics Heritage Library, Harvey Mudd College

Christopher Giesige, Researcher, Westcats

Patrick Doyle, Fuels Planner, Association of Fire Ecology

Annette Krammer, Owner, Forty-two Pacific, LLC

John Osbourn, Director, Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services

Michael Johnson, Fire Chief, Fire District

Gordon Piper, Chair, Oakland Landscape Committee

Tracy Katelman, Consulting Forester, ForEverGreen Forestry

Nick Goulette, Executive Director, Watershed Research & Training Center

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

Adam Snider, Contractor, Snider Construction & Logging

Peter Carlson, Research Associate, Colorado State University (based in California)

Peter Lecourt, Member, Board of Directors, Napa Communities Firewise Foundation

Kerri Kisko, Environmental Scientist, State of California

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Linda Nagel, Professor and Department Head, Colorado State University

Paul Langowski, Owner, Icebox Wildland Fire LLC

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Paula Fornwalt, Private Citizen

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Chris Lenfert, Citizen

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Former SRFSN intern

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Jimbo Buickerood, Lands and Forest Protection Program Manager, San Juan Citizens Alliance

John Geerdes, Executive Director, Coalition for the Upper South Platte

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Rebecca Gilmore, Marketer, Contractor/marketing consultant

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Katherine Mattor, Research Scientist, Colorado State University

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Paul Mintier, Wildland Fire Manager, Grand County Sheriff's Department

Terry Birdsong, Friends of Lory State Park

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Annie Oxarart, Administrative Director, Association for Fire Ecology

Marin Chambers, Research Associate, Colorado State University

Eric Lovgren, Wildfire Mitigation Officer, Eagle County

Wendy Fischer, Executive Director, Upper Arkansas Valley Wildfire Foundation

James Fischer, Manager, Trinchera Ranch

Camille Stevens-Rumann, Forest and Rangeland Stewardship, Colorado State University

Tony Cheng, Forestry Professor, Colorado State University

#### Connecticut

Helen Poulos, Professor, Wesleyan University Peter Pogozelski, Mechanical Engineer, ASME

## **Washington DC**

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### **Florida**

Alan Long, Professor Emeritus, University of Florida

Daniel Johnson, Assistant Professor, University of Florida

Greg Seamon, Fire Training Specialist, Tall Timbers

James Smith, TNC LANDFIRE Program Lead, The Nature Conservancy

Scott Markwith, Associate Professor, Florida Atlantic University

Jean McCollom, Land Management Biologist, Natural Ecosystems

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Gavin Jones, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Florida

Matt Snider, Wildland Fire Specialist, Tall Timbers Research Station

J. Morgan Varner, Director of Fire Research & Senior Scientist, Tall Timbers Research Station

Cinnamon Dixon, Fire Ecologist, Tall Timbers

Ludie Bond, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, Florida Forest Service

Cliff Leonard

David Godwin, PhD / Fire Ecologist

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Jason Vogel, Assistant Professor, University of Florida

Wally Esser, Supervising Regulatory Scientist

Mary Nell Armstrong, Masters Student, University of Florida

Stephanie Bohlman, Associate Professor, University of Florida

Christine Slowiak, UF Student & Wildland Firefighter

Kim Scotto-Kelley, Communications Specialist, UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation

Michael Andreu, Assoc. Professor - Forest Systems, University of Florida

Grace Burmester, Concerned Citizen

Marcus Lashley, Assistant Professor, University of Florida

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

Marlyn Kallau, University of Florida

Caitlin Snyder, Stewardship Coordinator, State of Florida

Geraldine Klarenberg, Lecturer, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida

Lynn Proenza, Wildlife Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife

Danielle Lacouture

Laura Greeno, Prescribed Fire Manager, County Employment

Ryan Kennelly, Wildland firefighter

Ad Platt, Vice President for Operations, The Longleaf Alliance

Ajay Sharma, Assistant Professor, University of Florida

Hannah Rusch, University of Florida

Chuck Cichra, Professor and Extension Fisheries Specialist, University of Florida, Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences

Kevin Robertson, Fire Ecology Program Director, Tall Timbers Research, Inc.

Shannon Carnevale, Natural Resources and Conservation Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Polk County

**Dylan Scott** 

Paloma Carton de Grammont, Research Coordinator, University of Florida

Jon Robinson, Natural Areas and Trails Division Manager, Sarasota County, Florida

Sairandhri Lapalikar, University of Florida

**Shiala Morales** 

Gabriel Prata, Post-Doctoral Associate, University of Florida

Joe Noble, Geospatial Program Director, Tall Timbers

Andres Susaeta, Assistant Research Scientist, School of Forest Resources and Conservation

## Georgia

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Joseph Colbert, Wildlife Biologist, State Agency

Georgina Deweese, Professor of Geosciences, University of West Georgia

Jeffery B. Cannon, Forest Management Scientist, The Jones Center at Ichauway

Grant Snitker, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Georgia

James Barnett, Georgia RF# 1634, Fall Line Forestry Consultants

LuAnn Craighton, Private Landowner, ValleyView Farm

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Jeremy Green, Faculty, Southern Regional Technical College

Rachel Fonvielle, Wildland Firefighter

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Randy Tate, Fort Stewart/Altamaha Longleaf Partnership Coordinator, The Longleaf Alliance

Michael O'Reilly, Director of Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy of Georgia

Mark Melvin, Chairman, Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils, Inc.

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## Hawaii

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Michael Walker, Fire Protection Forester, State of HI -DLNR-DOFAW

Mark Thorne, Range and Livestock Extension Specialist, University of Hawaii

Carolyn Wong, Member/Manager/Grazing Specialist, Paahana Livestock LLC

Andrea Gill, Manager, Gill Ewa Lands, LLC

Zen Grecni, 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

Neal Fujii, Hawaii State Drought and Water Conservation Coordinator, State of Hawaii Commission on

Water Resource Management

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

Taylor Marsh, Owner / Manager, Native Ecosystem Services LLC

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

Katelyn Conery, Student, University of Idaho

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

Mojtaba Sadegh, Assistant Professor, Boise State University

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

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Tom Zimmerman, Past-President, International Association of Wildland Fire

William Elliot, P.E., PhD (Retired)

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Michele Crist, Concerned Citizen

Charles Mark, Concerned Citizen

Dale Hamilton, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Department Chair, Northwest Nazarene University

Richard C. McCrea, Wildland Fire Consultant, Wildland Fire Associates

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Eva Strand, Associate Professor, University of Idaho

Kenneth Gabriel, Fire Chief, Coeur d'Alene Fire Department

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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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Paul Brewer, Certified Wildlife Biologist

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Andrew Furman, FOLLY

Ken Schaal, Restoration chair, Bremer Sanctuary of IL Audubon Society

Edward Warden, Conservation Coordinator

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Jacob Worley-Hood, Concerned Citizen

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## Kansas

Sam Fox, PhD Candidate, Kansas State University Tyler Warner, Wildlife Biologist, The Wildlife Society

## Kentucky

Jordan Winkenbach, Teaching Assistant, University of Kentucky Josh Lillpop, Branch Manager, Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves Mary Arthur, Professor, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Kentucky Devine Black, Forester James Gavitt, Concerned Citizen

### Louisiana

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### Maine

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# Maryland

Mark A. Cochrane, Professor, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Evan Ellicott, Associate Research Professor, University of Maryland Jim Douglas, Director of Wildland Fire (Retired), Department of the Interior

# Massachusetts

Tim Simmons, Simmons Stewardship Ecology William Patterson, Emeritus Professor of Forestry, University of Massachusetts Brendan Rogers, Assistant Scientist, Woods Hole Research Center Carly Phillips, Kendall Science Fellow, Union of Concerned Scientists Stefano Potter, Research Assistant, Woods Hole Research Center 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 Susan Natali, Doctor / Scientist, Woods Hole Research Center

# Michigan

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Laura Bourgeau-Chavez, Senior Research Scientist, Michigan Technological University Todd Aschenbach, Associate Professor of Natural Resources Management, Grand Valley State University Nancy HF French, Senior Scientist, Michigan Tech Research Institute 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

Jessica Simons, VP for Conservation Stewardship, Kalamazoo Nature Center

Nathan Emery, Research Associate, Michigan State University

Christopher Bobryk, Educator / Practitioner, Private Consultant

Lynnette Fouch Bugenske, Concerned Citizen

Peter Hood, Retired

Paul Mayer, Administrator / Treasurer, Michigan Prescribed Fire Council

Jessica Miesel, Assistant Professor, Michigan State University, Association for Fire Ecology and Lake

States Fire Science Consortium

#### Minnesota

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