

The Honorable Deb Haaland  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20250

January 30, 2023

Dear Secretary Haaland and Secretary Vilsack:

The Wildfire Resilience Coalition (WRC), made up of the undersigned organizations, seeks to help federal, Tribal, state, local, and private partners realize transformational change in how wildfire risk is managed in the United States. A critical component of this work will be to leverage the investments and authorities for wildfire resilience in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to that end.

We are grateful that both USDA and DOI recognize that a bold paradigm shift is needed to change the trajectory of the wildland fire crisis the nation faces. Effectively building resilience to the inevitable wildfire will require close partnership with local communities, states, Tribal governments, and actors across both the public and private sectors to restore forests at a scale not previously contemplated. To achieve that needed scale, the WRC supports increasing the pace of scientifically informed management, including thinning and controlled burning, with corresponding investments in community preparedness.

Our members include key stakeholders, partners, and implementers who are critical to successful implementation across all lands and is intended to offer a focal point for engagement among diverse interests within the administration, Congress, and policy and opinion leaders.

The members of the WRC aim to both support the leaders of federal land and fire management agencies as they implement this surge in funding in a way that breaks from the status quo and offer a platform for shared accountability. Improving implementation of these investments requires better coordination with partners on shared outcomes, more transparency in prioritization of investments, and expedited implementation of science-based mitigation measures. Timely, but ultimately effective, implementation of key IIJA and IRA provisions are necessary to ensure continued Congressional and public support for the long-term investments required to protect communities, restore healthy forests and rangelands, maintain important source watershed functions, sustain abundant fish and wildlife populations, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from unnaturally large and severe wildfires.

We urge you to encourage key agency leaders to leverage our collective interest and experience for the successful implementation of these new and additional resources and use the Coalition as a barometer to gauge progress towards that needed paradigm shift. We look forward to working with you and your staff to achieve our mutual goal of landscape resilience.

Sincerely

American Forest Resource Council  
American Forests  
Federal Forest Resource Coalition  
Forest Stewards Guild  
Intertribal Timber Council  
Megafire Action  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Forest Service Retirees  
National Association of State Foresters  
Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Watershed Research and Training Center  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Western Environmental Law Center

*For more information regarding this letter or members of the Wildfire Resilience Coalition, please contact Tom Fry, [wildfireresilience@gmail.com](mailto:wildfireresilience@gmail.com)*

cc:

Joan Mooney, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Management and Budget, Department of the Interior  
Homer Wilkes, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Agriculture  
Meryl Harrell, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Agriculture  
Randy Moore, Chief, USDA Forest Service  
Brian Ferebee, Chief Executive of Intergovernmental Relations, USDA Forest Service  
Jaelith Hall-Rivera, Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry, USDA Forest Service  
Chris French, Deputy Chief for National Forest System, USDA Forest Service  
Jeff Rupert, Director of the Office of Wildland Fire, Department of the Interior