

TRANSFORMATIVE PARADIGM SHIFT

The Wildfire Resilience Coalition is a group of non-governmental organizations seeking to help federal, tribal, state, local, and private partners realize transformational change in wildfire risk management across the United States. We seek systemic change to achieve landscape and community wildfire resilience, which requires concentrated and sustained investment in both preparation for, and recovery from, wildfire. Investing in wildfire resilience will save lives, protect homes, boost the economy, create jobs, reduce firefighting costs, improve wildlife habitat, and protect clean drinking water.

The Wildfire Resilience Coalition's goals align with the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission (the Commission or WC) and the Roadmap for Wildfire Resilience: Solutions for a Paradigm Shift (RM) from The Nature Conservancy and Aspen Institute.

Investment should be paired with accountability.

The Wildfire Resilience Coalition supports expansion of agency performance metrics beyond acres treated and timber volume output to measure success. New performance measures based on outcomes—such as the number of protected assets, values, and resources, and increases in landscape resilience—are necessary for enhanced accountability.

Long-term wildfire resilience depends on the wildland fire workforce before, during, and after wildfires.



We ask that Congress invest in these professionals to do the critically necessary mitigation work before a wildfire starts, the demanding work of suppressing and managing wildfires as they burn, and the recovery work essential to restoring our communities and treasured landscapes post-fire. Building this resilience workforce will require investment to train and provide the equipment necessary for prescribed fire practitioners and retain experienced wildland fire personnel in the system. Additionally, expanding recruitment strategies and streamlining hiring processes will help develop a larger, more diverse, and inclusive workforce. To further promote the use of prescribed fire across the nation, we recommend establishing a compensation fund or program to cover third-party damages in cases where burn practitioners follow best practices.





Wildfire resilience requires partnership with the forest products industry and skilled stewards.

To achieve the pace and scale of fuels treatments necessary to build resilience, we must reduce barriers to and incentivize hazardous fuels byproduct use and processing infrastructure. Congress can achieve these goals by authorizing both (1) a new integrated grant and loan program that supports business development through sustainable supply and markets and (2) a new contracting mechanism for fuels treatments that incentivizes the use of byproducts not suitable for existing markets as an alternative to piling and burning. Additionally, the coalition advocates for an increase in resources to help private landowners dispose of woody biomass.



Policy Recommendations

INVEST in... INITIATIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

- Provide advanced appropriations for wildland fire mitigation and management on a multi-year, rather than annual, cycle (WC#120).
- Make the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund permanent (WC#121).
- Invest in federal land management agencies and programs needed to successfully and proactively reduce growing wildfire risk (WC#130).
- Support and expand the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (WC#18).
- Reauthorize, modify, and expand dedicated funding for hazardous fuels treatment and related activities authorized under the Departments of Interior and Agriculture in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Forestry Subtitle of the Inflation Reduction Act (RM#1C1).

FUELS TREATMENT BYPRODUCT UTILIZATION:

- Invest in wood processing facilities and the wood utilization sector (WC#19).
- Incentivize the adoption of new technologies and processing systems to produce value added and demand driven innovative wood products (WC#21).
- Increase resources for programs to help private landowners dispose of woody biomass (WC#27).
- Incentivize innovation and investment in forest products and processing infrastructure to ensure use of hazardous fuels byproducts (RM#4).
 - Authorize a new integrated grant and loan program that supports business development for both existing and emerging markets.
 - Authorize a new contracting mechanism for fuels treatments that incentivizes the use of byproducts not suitable for existing markets.

WILDLAND FIRE WORKFORCE:

- Invest in retention to stop the loss of personnel from the system (WC#84 & #100).
- Expand recruitment strategies and create efficient hiring pathways that support the development of a larger, more diverse, and inclusive workforce (WC#85 & #88).
- Create and fund interagency training and development opportunities for federal, state, tribal, local, and volunteer fire workforce leadership roles and higher experience levels and qualifications (WC#95).
- Develop a resilience and restoration workforce focused on land stewardship and community wildfire mitigation (WC#89).
- Increase the provision of housing, including permanent, temporary, and seasonal options for the wildfire and mitigation workforce (WC#102 & #103).
- Invest in the development of prescribed fire practitioners through training and providing them with all necessary equipment (RM#2A2).
- Provide solutions to encourage the use of prescribed fire (RM#2B2).