

Support the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act

The Honorable John A. Boehner
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell

October 27, 2015

Dear Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader McCarthy, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Reid,

Wildfire seasons are getting longer across the nation and major wildfires are becoming more costly to suppress. This creates a crippling burden on the Department of the Interior and the USDA Forest Service's land management functions as they shift resources to fund essential suppression activities – effectively delaying and terminating projects that improve forest resilience and help to reduce wildfire risk. For the first time, more than fifty percent of the Forest Service's budget is now consumed by fighting wildfires.

We applaud inclusion of \$700 million in emergency funding as part of the Continuing Resolution (HJ Res. 61) to repay the Forest Service programs that were forced to transfer funds to pay for the FY 2015 fire season. This vital step, however, is a temporary correction to what has become a chronic problem. The following organizations agree the current *ad hoc* process of funding wildfire is inefficient and ineffective in delivering on nationwide agency land management priorities set by Congress and we urge you to enact a solution.

A solution to fire funding should: 1) allow access to disaster funding; 2) eliminate the negative impacts of transfers; and 3) address the increasing costs of suppression over time. The Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (WDFA) (S. 235, H.R. 167) is a bipartisan proposal that achieves these three goals. We urge Congress to incorporate WDFA language in the FY 2016 appropriations or other legislative vehicle to ensure this critical budgetary issue is addressed this year.

The Partner Caucus came together in 2009, representing a diverse set of international, national and local organizations committed to sustainable forest management on private, tribal, municipal, state and federal lands. Our purpose is to seek and support a new wildfire suppression funding framework. We recognize that Congress is considering other proposals, but it is imperative that leaders move forward and enact meaningful wildfire funding reform this year.

We urge your support for Wildfire Disaster Funding Act language in the FY 2016 appropriations omnibus.

Sincerely,

American Forest Foundation	National
American Forests	National
American Hiking Society	National
American Whitewater	National
Appalachian Mountain Club	Boston, MA--regional
Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council	Southern Oregon
Arizona Conservation Corps	Arizona
Arizona Conservation Corps	Arizona
Arizona Wildfire Council	Arizona
Association of Consulting Foresters of America	National
Association of Partners for Public Lands	National
Black Hills Forest Resource Association	South Dakota & Wyoming
Black Hills Regional Multiple Use Coalition	South Dakota
Blue Goose Alliance	New Mexico
Blue Mountains Forest Partners	Oregon
Boone and Crockett Club	National
Boulder County	Colorado

California Association of Local Conservation Corps	California
California Farm Bureau Federation	California
Choose Outdoors	Colorado
Clearwater Resource Council	Montana
Colorado Timber Industry Association	Colorado
Colorado Wildlife Federation	Colorado
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation	National
Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa	Minnesota & Iowa
Conservation Corps North Bay	California
Conservation Corps of Long Beach	California
Conservation Legacy	National (HQ in Colorado)
Conservation Northwest	Washington
Defenders of Wildlife	National
Eastern Sierra Audubon Society	California
Environmental and Energy Study Institute	National
Flathead Economic Policy Center	Montana
Foothill Conservancy	California
Forest Business Network	National
Forest Stewards Guild	MA, NJ, NM, WI
Framing Our Community	Idaho
Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership	Arizona
Greater Yellowstone Coalition	Montana/Idaho/Wyoming
Headwaters Montana	Montana
Idaho Conservation League	Idaho
Idaho Forest Owners Association	Idaho
Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership	Idaho
Idaho Wildlife Federation	Idaho
Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association	Indiana

Intermountain Forest Association	South Dakota
Intermountain Roundwood Association	CO, ID, MT, SD, WY
International Association of Wildland Fire	Montana
Lange Tree Farm	Ohio
Lassen Forest Preservation Group	California
Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D	Arizona
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Oregon
Los Angeles Conservation Corps	California
Maine Audubon	Maine
Mainland Planning Inc	Colorado
Montana Conservation Corps	Montana
Montana Wilderness Association	Montana
Montana Wildlife Federation	Montana
Mottek Consulting	Arizona
Mt. Taylor Manufacturing	New Mexico
National Alliance of Forest Owners	National
National Association of Conservation Districts	National
National Association of Forest Service Retirees	National
National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds	Colorado
National Association of State Foresters	National
National Association of University Forest Resources Programs	National
National Federation of Federal Employees	National
National Forest Homeowners	National
National Outdoor Leadership School	National
National Parks Conservation Association	National
National Ski Areas Association	National
National Trust for Historic Preservation	National
National Volunteer Fire Council	National

National Wild Turkey Federation	National
National Wildfire Institute	California
National Wildlife Federation	National
National Wildlife Refuge Association	National
National Woodland Owners Association	National
New Mexico Forest Industry Association	New Mexico
Northwest Youth Corps	ID, OR, WA
Outdoor Alliance	National
Outdoor Industry Association	National
Partnership for the National Trails System	49 States
Pellet Fuels Institute	Virginia
Pinchot Institute for Conservation	National
Ponderosa Fire Advisory Council	Arizona
Public Lands Foundation	National
Public Lands Service Coalition	National
Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation	National
Red River Forests, LLC	California
Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research	Colorado
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps	Colorado
Ruffed Grouse Society	Pennsylvania
Rural County Representatives of California	California
Salmon Valley Stewardship	Idaho
San Francisco Conservation Corps	California
Shasta Forest Timberlands, LLC	California
Sierra Forest Legacy	California
Sitka Conservation Society	Alaska
Siuslaw Institute	Oregon
Society of American Foresters	National

South Central Oregon Economic Development District	Oregon
South Dakota ATV/UTV Association	South Dakota
Southeast Conservation Corps	Tennessee
Southern Environmental Law Center	AL, GA, NC, SC, TN, VA,
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now	Southern Oregon
Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative	Oregon
Southern Oregon Prescribed Fire Network	Southern Oregon
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance	Utah
Southwest Conservation Corps	Colorado
Southwest Forests Sustainable Partnership	Arizona
Spatial Interest , LLC	Idaho
Spearfish Livestock Association	South Dakota
Sustainable Northwest	Oregon
Swan Ecosystem Center	Montana
Texas Forestry Association	Texas
The Conservation Fund	National
The Corps Network	National
The Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc	Florida
The Mountain Pact	Western
The Nature Conservancy	National
The Trust for Public Land	National
The Wilderness Society	National
The Wildlife Society	National
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	National
Tribal Environmental Policy Center	New Mexico
Trout Unlimited	National
Tuleyome	California
Utah Conservation Corps	Utah

Vail Resorts	CA, CO, MI, MN, NV, UT, WY
Vermont Woodlands Association	Vermont
Wallowa Resources	Oregon
Watershed Research & Training Center	California
Western Environmental Law Center	Northwest
Wild South	AL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN
Winter Wildlands Alliance	National (HQ in Idaho)
Wood Industries Network	New Mexico
Wyoming Farm Bureau	Wyoming
Wyoming Outdoor Council	Wyoming