

Support the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
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
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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 (WDFFA) (S. 235, H.R. 167) is a bipartisan proposal that achieves these three goals. We urge Congress to incorporate WDFFA 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,

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| 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 |

For information regarding this letter or groups signing this letter, please contact Cecilia Clavet, cclavet@tnc.org, 703-841-7429.

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| 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 |

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| 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
Tuleyome
Utah Conservation Corps
Vail Resorts
Vermont Woodlands Association
Wallowa Resources
Watershed Research & Training Center
Western Environmental Law Center
Wild South
Winter Wildlands Alliance
Wood Industries Network
Wyoming Farm Bureau
Wyoming Outdoor Council

National
California
Utah
CA, CO, MI, MN, NV, UT, WY
Vermont
Oregon
California
Northwest
AL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN
National (HQ in Idaho)
New Mexico
Wyoming
Wyoming