



# NATIONAL WILDFIRE INSTITUTE

Supporting Healthy Forests That Resist Catastrophic Fire

## To The Honorable:

### Salud Carbajal [D-CA-24<sup>th</sup> District]

Sydney Kamlager-Dove [D-CA-37<sup>th</sup> District]

Teresa Leger Fernandez [D-NM-3<sup>rd</sup> District]

Ruben Gallego [D-AR-3<sup>rd</sup> District]

Jared Huffman [D-CA-2<sup>nd</sup> District]

Doug LaMalfa [R-CA-1<sup>st</sup> District]

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Grace Napolitano [D-CA-31<sup>st</sup> District]

Mary Peltola [D-AK-At-Large District]

Marie Gluesenkamp Perez [D-WA-3<sup>rd</sup> District]

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Jill Tokuda [D-HI-2<sup>nd</sup> District]

Today the Nation's forested landscapes, especially our National Forests, are being destroyed by unplanned wildfires. The dominant contributing factor has been decades of inadequate forest maintenance. The reasons for this lack of forest maintenance includes low funding levels; a lack of properly skilled employees to carry out land stewardship actions; ambiguous direction; and a plethora of legal challenges by special interest groups. We know what to do. We need your help to do it.

The National Wildfire Institute and many others are pleased to endorse a document entitled, *A Call to Action* and the continued passage of H.R. 934 legislation design to codify and augment the forces behind the *A Call to Action*. We strongly believe your review of this material will assist your committees and subcommittees in finding very pragmatic solutions to this National Emergency of catastrophic unplanned wildfires due to the extreme lack of forest maintenance, especially on public lands.

The "*America's Forests in the Balance, A National Emergency: A Call to Action* [known simply as, *A Call to Action*]" has been crafted by seventy-two [72], and counting, contributors. It is gaining momentum as a logical means to address the National Emergency we are facing. Conclusions by learned professionals suggest that the great American forests of the west may be brushfields by 2045 if nothing changes. The *A Call for Action* is about change. Just click on the links on page 4 to see the full document and its summary. The latest revision [rev. 17.4] of *A Call to Action* calls for a National Emergency to be declared; adequate funding to be secured; forest maintenance to be greatly expanded; and, outdated tactics such as the concept of *beneficial* or *managed fire* to be stopped, while land conditions remain so volatile for unplanned wildland fires.

We ask that you focus your support on three fundamental propositions:

1. **Understand that we are faced with a National Emergency.** That is, horrific damages to property and lives lost due to catastrophic unplanned wildfires.
2. **Forest maintenance, especially on the National Forests, needs to be enhanced.** This is the primary cause of the destructive wildfires. Our forestlands are clogged up with vegetation. Hazardous fuel buildups must be removed. Sometimes we take the power of healthy forests for granted. In addition to their role in helping reduce the intensity of wildfires, healthy forests reduce the impacts of a changing climate by offsetting as much as 20 percent of the country's annual greenhouse gas emissions. The cost for expanded forest maintenance on public lands is \$3.72 billion per year for 5-7 years [including a 3.18 percent inflation adjustment] to show real change in forestland resiliency.
3. **Unplanned wildfires must be put out as quickly as possible.** The concept of "backing off to the next best ridge" or "managed fire" or "beneficial fire" or "let it burn" must be stopped. For now, prescribed fire is the only truly planned fire that can be carefully managed. Perhaps it is now time for a new, contemporary "10 AM" Policy. See page 166 of *A Call to Action* [rev. 17.4].

And, we urge you to please become more aware of the specifics in *A Call to Action* and the new proposed Amendment by the United States Department of Agriculture regarding old-growth forests:

4. **Be more aware of the foundational document known as *A Call to Action*.** This document, started almost three years ago, now has 72 contributors that are professionals advancing landscape scale conservation. Several outside the current contributors have concluded that it is one of the most comprehensive documents about forests and fire that is available today.
5. **The proposed National Forest Plan Amendment designed to conserve old-growth forests.** We believe this proposed amendment is extremely short-sighted. America's forests are already clogged up. The futility of trying to save or emphasize late successional and old-growth forests is only going to succeed if [a] the adverse effects of unplanned wildfires are minimized through expanded forest maintenance and [b] knowing the way to accomplish this requires implementation of *A Call to Action* – including the declaration of a national emergency. Review again, proposition No. 2, above. We believe the basic principles of *A Call to Action* should be part of any proposed legislation, including a more contemporary Organic Act, addressing unplanned wildfires and forest maintenance. We can help.

We strongly recommend Congress hold Hearings on this critical subject. We can provide knowledgeable witnesses and other related material that support the need for an even stronger Congressional role, especially for the 8 critical actions listed in *A Call to Action*. Please see the "Critical Links" on page 4 for additional information.

Please know that we fully acknowledge and appreciate your on-going attention helping to ensure that our Nation's forests, especially America's National Forests, are protected and maintained in a manner that ensures the continued delivery of valuable goods and services -- along a rural to urban land gradient -- to the American people, forever.

Very respectfully,



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Michael T. Rains  
National Wildfire Institute

**National Wildfire Institute and Other Supporters [Alphabetical Order]:**

#	Name	#	Name	#	Name
1	Larry Alexander Executive Director Northern California Resource Center	20	John E. Gould President and CEO, 10 Tanker Air Carrier, LLC	40	Pat Monahan, Assistant Fire Chief, Sacramento County [ret.] Vice President, Firefighters Union [ret.]
2	Michael Archer Publisher, <i>Firebomber Publications</i> URL: <a href="https://www.firebomberpublications.com/">https://www.firebomberpublications.com/</a>	21	Rachel Lee Hall Forest Under Stress (FUS)	41	David Moore Associate Director Software Development @ SIG
3	Steve Arney USDA Forest Service [ret.]	22	Ray A. Haupt National Wildfire Institute [NWI] Board, Science Chair Siskiyou County Supervisor, District 5 CA Registered Professional Forester: #2938 USDA Forest Service [ret.]	42	Mack Moore USDA Forest Service [ret.]
4	David L. Auchterlonie, Chairman Crowbar Research Insights, LLC ® Co-Author of: <i>Running Out of Time - Wildfires and Our Imperiled Forests</i>	23	John R. Hawkins Fire Chief, CALFIRE [ret.]	43	Kevin Murphy Agency Principal Gallo and Murphy Allstate
5	Phil Aune Research Program Manager, Pacific Southwest Research Station USDA Forest Service [ret.]	24	Grant Ingram CALFIRE [ret.]	44	National Woodland Owners Association
6	Nadine Bailey Family Water Alliance, Inc.	25	Roger Jaegel USDA Forest Service [ret.] Trinity County Supervisor [ret.]	45	Sharon R. Norrish Forestland Activist Placerville, California
7	Hal Barker, Sheriff El Dorado County, CA [ret.]	26	Wayne Knauf, President K2 Consulting [Resource and recycle]	46	George Osborne Calfire, Unit Chief [ret.] Director, El Dorado Irrigation District, CA [Public Utility, Elected Official]
8	Larry Boggs USDA Forest Service [ret.]	27	Jim Klump, Division Chief USDA Forest Service [ret.]	47	Frank Packwood, Special Agent USDA Forest Service [ret.]
9	Court Boice State Representative Oregon District 1	28	Michael H. Kuehn Alaska Regional Hydrologist USDA Forest Service (ret.) American Institute of Hydrology Certified Professional Hydrologist #722 American Geophysical Union, Life Member	48	Nathaniel Parks Fellow, Truman National Security
10	Thomas M. Bonnicksen, PhD Professor Emeritus of Forest Science, Texas A&M University	29	Amos S. Eno President LandCAN.org	49	Carl Pence USDA Forest Service [ret.]
11	Royal Burnett, Peace Officer California Department of Forestry [ret.]	30	Federal Forest Resource Coalition	50	James D. Petersen Founder and President Evergreen Foundation Author of: <i>First Put Out the Fire</i>
12	Steve Cannon, Director, Amador RC&D RPF, State of California [#2316] USDA Forest Service [ret.]	31	Edward W. Few Deputy Director, Law Enforcement USDA Forest Service [ret.]	51	Roger J. Poff USDA Forest Service (ret)
13	Frank Carroll PFMc Wildfire Pros	32	Jack Lane USDA Forest Service [ret.]	52	Joe Reddan RPF, State of California [#3187]
14	Bill Connelly District 1 Supervisor Butte County, California	33	Lyle Laverty USDA Forest Service [ret.] USDOI, Undersecretary [ret.]	53	Quentin Rhoades Attorney Partner, Rhoades and Erickson, PLLC
15	John Culbertson, USDA Forest Service [ret.] Author: <i>Interviews with Smokejumpers that left the Program</i>	34	Brett L'Esperance CEO Dauntless Air	54	F. Dale Robertson Chief USDA Forest Service [ret.]
16	John D'Agostini, Sheriff El Dorado County, CA [ret.]	35	Jeff Lehman Co-Author of: <i>Running Out of Time - Wildfires and Our Imperiled Forests</i>	55	Annie Robinson USDA Forest Service [ret.]
17	William A Derr Special Agent in Charge California Region, USDA Forest Service [ret.]	36	Douglas R. "Doug" Leisz Associate Chief, USDA Forest Service [ret.]	56	Dave Rosgen <i>Wildland Hydrology</i>
18	Dale A. Dunshie, USDA Forest Service [ret.] USDA Forest Service [ret.]	37	James A. Marsh, e-PEAK LLC, "A Service- Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business"	57	Donna Schied Educator in Science
19	Michael Frenn California Office of Emergency Services [ret.]	38	Babs McDonald, Ph.D. USDA Forest Service [ret.]	58	Charles N. Sheley Editor Smokejumper Magazine National Smokejumper Association
		39	Guy McMahan Curry Wildfire Prevention	59	Phoebe Simmington Educator in Mathematics

#	Name	#	Name	#	Name
60	Matthew Spradlin Write and Co-Producer: <i>American Forest Fires: The Untold Story</i>	67	Bruce E. Van Zee USDA Forest Supervisor [ret.]	74	
61	Nick Smith Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities	68	Brian K. Veerkamp <i>Past</i> El Dorado County Board of Supervisor; Fire Chief [ret.] <i>Current</i> Board President El Dorado Irrigation District		
62	Ted (“Stub”) Stubblefield USDA Forest Supervisor [ret.]	69	Curt Weidmer, MD, MPH County Health Officer, El Dorado County [EDC], CA [ret.] Member, Board of Directors, EDC, Fire Protection District, CA [ret.]		
63	Jack Sweeney El Dorado County, CA Board of Supervisors [ret.]	70	Allan J. West Deputy Chief USDA Forest Service [ret.]		
64	Murry Taylor Smokejumper [ret.] and Author: <i>Too Steep and Too Rough</i>	71	Robert Williams Pine Creek Forestry, NJ		
65	George Turnboo District 2 Supervisor El Dorado County, California	72	Richard Williamson USDA Forest Service [ret.]		
66	Scott Vail Fire and Aviation Staff Officer Eldorado National Forest [ret.] Deputy Chief CalOES Fire and Rescue [ret.]	73	Bob Zybach, PhD President, NW Maps Co.		

## Critical Links

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1. [1-Page Summary \[rev. 17.4\]](#)
  2. [A Call to Action \[Rev. 17.4\]](#) FULL DOCUMENT
  3. [A Call to Action \[Rev. 17.4\]](#) SUMMARY
  4. [H.R. 934 – 118<sup>th</sup> Congress \[2023-2024\]](#); and, it’s [continued passage](#)
  5. [8 Critical Actions](#)
  6. [The Concept of “Managed Fire”: NOT NOW!](#)
  7. [First Put Out the Fire: A Critical, Instructional Interview.](#)
  8. [The “10 AM” Policy.](#) See also, Appendix A.40, page 161, *A Call to Action*.
  9. [Keeping the Pinelands of New Jersey.](#) This is a *National* Emergency.
  10. [National Forest Plan Amendment to Conserve and Steward Old Growth Forests.](#)