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Comments: Some deny the fire science because it conflicts with their ideology. They deny that these fires are actually catastrophic, or they point to climate change to deny that fuel buildup plays any role in fire intensification. Climate change is certainly NOT a factor. Overstocked, stressed, kindling-like forests create firestorms that outpace anything the country has seen in living memory. It is no coincidence that over 90% of the burned acres in Oregon this year were on Forest Service lands which comprise just over 50% of Oregon's forestland and where active management is nearly at a standstill. The state and federal government have about equal amounts of land in Oregon, and experience equal numbers of fire starts. But burned areas are overwhelmingly concentrated on Forest Service lands. Active management will make these federal forests more resilient to these extreme events. Environmental activist must not get the way of Forest Service. Sell timber, build Sawmills, Unfortunately, there are too many bureaucratic and legislative roadblocks tying land managers' hands. Because of these roadblocks, forests have been burning before they have been treated. At least three major projects have been planned in recent years which burned before implementation. The 2014 Johnson Bar Fire in Idaho burned the area of an in-progress collaborative restoration project; when the Forest Service attempted to build on that work to conduct post-fire work. Yet a fringe group sued and obtained an injunction- resulting in the closure of a sawmill in Orofino, Idaho. In 2016, the Pioneer Fire destroyed the area of the Becker Project on the Boise National Forest, putting a whole year's timber volume for southern Idaho at risk and resulting in severe environmental and recreational impacts. To its credit, the Forest Service used all available tools and put two post-fire projects together in only nine months. projects are the subject of MANY threatened litigation . but people, wildlife, and property are at risk. We need common-sense reforms to lighten the burden of redundant administrative process and continuous litigation. Forestry is traditionally an area of bipartisan progress, and it still can be. Should take quick action to advance forestry reform legislation to give us the best chance to mitigate future wildfire seasons. Give Forest Service additional tools to remove dead trees after wildfires, creating new revenue to replant and rehabilitate burned forests. It would also enhance the ability to create young and mixed-age forest habitat to support wildlife. It would incentivize and fast-track forest projects developed by local collaboratives, usually consisting of conservationists, timber industry and elected officials. And it would provide an alternative to costly and obstructive litigation from special interest groups. would reduce project planning times and lower costs to American taxpayers. The RFFA provides Categorical Exclusions (CEs) under the National Environmental Policy Act will allow needed forest management projects to be more quickly prepared, analyzed, and implemented. Specifically, it authorizes a CE of to remove hazard trees and salvage timber to protect public safety, water supply or public infrastructure where forest management activities are permitted. The Act will also allow forest recovery projects to proceed more quickly, addressing a dire need created by recent wildfire seasons. The Forest Service has long experience with management techniques to reduce forest pests, thin hazardous fuels, create and maintain habitat for species, recover damaged timber and protect water quality. These projects mitigate risk and help create early successional forest habitat which is good for wildlife. Another provision that is crucial to forest health is the "Eastside Screens" fix in section 905 of the RFFA. The "Eastside Screens" were put in place administratively in 1995 to forbid harvest of trees above 21 inches in diameter in six National Forests in eastern Washington and Oregon. After more than 20 years, these screens have become a hindrance to effective forest management. Many forests in these areas have too little Ponderosa pine, the historically dominant and most resilient species. Instead, younger larger lodgepole pine is crowding them out. Good forestry and wildfire protection weighs in favor of selectively removing these lodgepoles, but the screens' blunt instrument prevents that. Courts have blocked efforts to relax the screens even in the context of well-designed forest management. As a result, Congressional action is needed to ensure the health of these Eastside forests. Forest Service can mitigate the horrific effects of catastrophic fire and restore the health of forests and rural communities. Now is the time for Congress to make effective active management a reality for the Forest Service to protect the lands and people and wildlife by timber sales and cutting old growth.