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Comments: The four federal land management agencies (the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and the FWS) are responsible for managing over 600 million acres of land or nearly one-third of the United States. Decades of failed federal forest management have created unhealthy and overstocked forests, placing 73 million acres of National Forest lands and 397 million acres of forest land nationwide at risk of severe wildfire. Fires are destroying species habitat and ESA itself is creating obstacles that are counter-productive to fighting wildfires, including use of heavily mechanized equipment, use of aerial retardant and restricted use of water due to concerns about potential impacts to other ESA-listed species, such as spruce goose, salmon and others. State and tribal lands adjoining federal forest lands are increasingly at risk of wildfires partly because of ESA.The United States is currently 100 percent reliant on foreign sources for 20 mineral commodities and imports the majority of its supply of more than 50 mineral commodities. Mineral commodities that have important uses and face potential supply disruption are critical to American economic and national security. However, a mineral commodity's importance and the nature of its supply chain can change with time; a mineral commodity that may not have been considered critical 25 years ago may be critical today, and one considered critical today may not be so in the future. Mineral commodities are vital for economic growth, improving the quality of life, providing for national defense, and the overall functioning of modern society. Minerals are being used in larger quantities than ever before and in an increasingly diverse range of applications from telecommunications (cell phones and computers), to renewable-energy generation (wind turbines, solar photovoltaics, and fuel cells), to clean forms of transportation (electric and hybrid cars). Until the mid-20th century, only about 15 metallic elements had much practical use.For many, the United States currently has no mine production or any significant identified resources and is largely dependent on imports to meet its needs. As a result, the emphasis in this volume is on the global distribution and availability of each mineral commodity. The environmental issues related to production of each mineral commodity, including current mitigation and remediation approaches to deal with these challenges,since 1973, the United States has continued to become increasingly dependent on imports to meet its demands for an increasing number of mineral commodities. The global demand for mineral commodities is at an all time high and is expected to continue to increase, and the development of new technologies and products has led to the use of a greater number of mineral commodities in increasing quantities to the point that, today, essentially all naturally occurring elements have several significant industrial uses. Today, nearly all the natural elements in the periodic table of elements have several significant uses. production of many mineral commodities has become concentrated in relatively few countries (for example, tungsten, rare-earth elements, and antimony in China; niobium in Brazil; and platinum-group elements in South Africa and Russia), thus increasing the risk for supply disruption owing to political, social, or other factors. 23 mineral commodities currently among those viewed as important to the national economy and national security of the United States: antimony (Sb), barite (barium, Ba), beryllium (Be), cobalt (Co), fluorite or fluorspar (fluorine, F), gallium (Ga), germanium (Ge), graphite (carbon, C), hafnium (Hf), indium (In), lithium (Li), manganese (Mn), niobium (Nb), platinum-group elements (PGE), rare-earth elements (REE), rhenium (Re), selenium (Se), tantalum (Ta), tellurium (Te), tin (Sn), titanium (Ti), vanadium (V), and zirconium (Zr). For a number of these commodities-for example, graphite, manganese, niobium, and tantalumthe United States is currently wholly dependent on imports to meet its needs.