

PARTNER CAUCUS on FIRE SUPPRESSION FUNDING SOLUTIONS

MARCH 19, 2009

FIRE SUPPRESSION FUNDING SOLUTIONS COALITION ISSUE STATEMENT

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Upward trends in fire suppression funding costs increasingly prevent the USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) land management agencies from implementing critical programs and fulfilling their missions.

THE SOLUTION

The Fire Suppression Funding Solutions Coalition (FSFSC) believes that Congress must identify a new mechanism for funding emergency fire suppression activities. The following principles and recommendations are critical to any legislation proposing a real and lasting solution for the funding crisis currently facing federal land management agencies.

PRINCIPLES

Two principles are essential counter-parts to the recommendations that follow:

Investment

1. Investment of funds into the range of agency programs that have been impacted by increasing suppression costs must occur for agencies to accomplish their missions; and

Cost-containment

2. The USFS and DOI must continue developing and implementing a rigorous set of measures for linking fire management to fire costs in order to more effectively achieve cost-containment

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Create a partitioned wildfire suppression account to fund emergency fires.
2. The creation of this separate account must be accompanied by the following:
 - a. Non-emergency agency budgets (USFS and DOI) shall not be impacted by emergency fire spending; and
 - b. Replace the 10-year rolling average with a more predictive statistical modeling approach that utilizes current weather, drought, fuel load as well as fire history and other data to project the extent of wildland fire on the landscape and economic modeling to predict the funding needed to address it.

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114 SUPPORTING GROUPS

American Forest Foundation
Alliance of Forest Workers and Harvesters
American Forests
American Forest and Paper Association
American Hiking Society
American Lands Alliance
Appalachian Mountain Club
Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council
Archery Trade Association
Association of Consulting Foresters
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Biodiversity Conservation Alliance
Black Hills Forest Resource Association
Black Hills Regional Multiple Use Coalition
Boone & Crockett Club
California Ski Industry Association
Center for Biological Diversity
Choose Outdoors Coalition
Colorado Timber Industry Association
Colorado Wild
Communities Committee
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Conservation Northwest
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
Ecosystem Workforce Program
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Protection Information Center
Federated Women in Timber
Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology
Flathead Economic Policy Center
Forest Guild
Forest Landowners Association
Framing Our Community
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Idaho Conservation League
Intermountain Forest Association
Intermountain Forest Association – Rocky Mountain Division

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International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Code Council
InterTribal Timber Council
Klamath Forest Alliance
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Malheur Lumber Company
Mid Klamath Watershed Council
Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Counties
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils
National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds
National Association of State Foresters
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Ski Areas Association
National Volunteer Fire Council
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Woodland Owners Association
Natural Resource Defense Council
New Mexico Forest Industry Association
North American Bear Foundation
North American Grouse Partnership
Northern Forest Alliance
Olympic Forest Coalition
Oregon Wild
Outdoor Industry Association
Pacific Rivers Council
Public Lands Council
Quality Deer Management Association
Regional Council of Rural Counties
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Ruffed Grouse Society
Safari Club International
Salmon Valley Stewardship
Sand County Foundation
SBS Wood Shavings

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Sierra Club
Siskiyou Project
Siuslaw Institute
Society of American Foresters
Sustainable Northwest
Swan Ecosystem Center
Texas Wildlife Association
The Clearwater Resource Council
The Institute for Business and Home Safety
The Nature Conservancy
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
The Watershed Research and Training Center
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlife Society
Trout Unlimited
Vail Resorts
Wallowa Resources
Watershed Council
Western States Land Commissioners' Association
Whitetails Unlimited
Wilderness Workshop
Wildlands CPR
WildLaw
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute
WildWest Institute