

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6903

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out activities to suppress wildfires, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 2, 2022

Mr. MCCLINTOCK (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out activities to suppress wildfires, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SUPPRESSION OF WILDFIRES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, act-
5 ing through the Chief of the Forest Service—

6 (1) shall—

7 (A) to the maximum extent practicable—

8 (i) use all available resources to carry
9 out wildfire suppression with the purpose

1 of extinguishing wildfires detected on Na-
2 tional Forest System lands not later than
3 24 hours after such a wildfire is detected;
4 and

5 (ii) immediately suppress any pre-
6 scribed fire that exceeds prescription;

7 (B) not inhibit the suppression efforts of
8 State or local firefighting agencies that are au-
9 thorized to respond to wildfire on National For-
10 est System lands;

11 (2) may only use fire as a resource manage-
12 ment tool if the fire is a prescribed fire that com-
13 plies with applicable law and regulations;

14 (3) may only initiate a backfire or burnout dur-
15 ing a wildfire by order of the responsible incident
16 commander; and

17 (4) shall control any such initiated backfire or
18 burnout until extinguished.

19 (b) PENALTY.—Any person aggrieved by a violation
20 of paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (a) may bring a civil
21 action against the United States in the appropriate Fed-
22 eral district court for actual damages.

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