

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2353

To provide for cost-share waivers for projects carried out in response to wildland fires caused by certain Government actions, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 18, 2023

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To provide for cost-share waivers for projects carried out in response to wildland fires caused by certain Government actions, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Responsible Wildland
5 Fire Recovery Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to ensure that victims of
8 wildland fires resulting from management activities con-
9 ducted by the Department of Agriculture on National For-

1 est System land are eligible to receive 100 percent funding
2 for the cost of remediating direct and indirect damages
3 under authorized Federal recovery programs.

4 **SEC. 3. COST-SHARE WAIVER FOR REHABILITATION FROM**
5 **WILDLAND FIRES.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) COVERED MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The
8 term “covered matching requirement” means a re-
9 quirement under a program of the Secretary for
10 wildland fire recovery for a State, Indian Tribe, lo-
11 cality, or individual to provide matching funds, in
12 cash, for a project.

13 (2) COVERED WILDLAND FIRE.—The term
14 “covered wildland fire” means a wildland fire that
15 the Secretary determines to be a result of manage-
16 ment activities conducted by the Secretary on Na-
17 tional Forest System land.

18 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of Agriculture.

20 (4) WILDLAND FIRE.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “wildland
22 fire” means any non-structure fire that occurs
23 in vegetation or natural fuels.

24 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “wildland
25 fire” includes wildfire, prescribed fire, and any

1 direct or indirect damage resulting in watershed
2 impairment.

3 (b) WAIVER.—Notwithstanding any other provision
4 of law, the Secretary may waive any covered matching re-
5 quirement for a project in response to a covered wildland
6 fire that is in an area affected by that covered wildland
7 fire.

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