

S 2286

Catastrophic Wildfire Prevention Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Nov 17, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (Nov 17, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2286>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]

Party: Republican • **State:** UT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|----------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY] | R · WY | | Nov 17, 2015 |
| Sen. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ] | R · AZ | | Nov 17, 2015 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|--|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Energy and Natural Resources Committee | Senate | Referred To | Nov 17, 2015 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Catastrophic Wildfire Prevention Act of 2015

Directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA), with respect to National Forest System lands, and the Department of the Interior, with respect to public lands, to implement authorized wildfire prevention projects in at-risk forests and on threatened and endangered species habitat in a manner that focuses on surface, ladder, and canopy fuels reduction activities.

Requires projects carried out on threatened and endangered species habitat to: (1) provide enhanced protection from wildfire, including catastrophic wildfire, for the endangered species, threatened species, or their habitat; and (2) comply with applicable recovery plan guidelines.

Requires projects carried out in at-risk forests to move the federal land from condition class II or III toward condition class I, as those classes were developed by the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station in a specified general technical report.

Permits use in a project of: (1) domestic livestock grazing to reduce surface fuel loads and to recover burned areas; and (2) timber harvesting and thinning to reduce ladder and canopy fuel loads for the prevention of wildfire, including catastrophic wildfires.

Directs USDA and Interior to review public petitions for, and make determinations with respect to, the designation of federal lands as at-risk forests or as threatened and endangered species habitats.

Requires notice in the Federal Register of proposed projects and final designated projects and permits public comment on projects as specified.

Instructs USDA and Interior to prepare an environmental assessment for projects that include timber harvesting or grazing.

Instructs USDA and Interior to research what impact any listing of a species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 would have on both forage and timber forest fuel loads. Requires endangered species recovery plans and critical habitat determinations to include a wildfire risk assessment analysis.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 17, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 17, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.