

## S 3085

### Emergency Wildfire and Forest Management Act of 2016

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Public Lands and Natural Resources

**Introduced:** Jun 22, 2016

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (Jun 22, 2016)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/3085>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]

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

## Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 22, 2016

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 2647	Related bill	Sep 19, 2016: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 634.

## **Emergency Wildfire and Forest Management Act of 2016**

This bill sets forth a procedure for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to request declarations for major wildfire disasters on federal land.

This bill shall apply whenever the appropriate department prepares an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) for a forest management activity whose primary purpose is to:

- reduce hazardous fuel loads,
- reduce fuel connectivity through the installation of fuel and fire breaks,
- restore forest health and resilience,
- protect a municipal water supply, or
- perform a combination of two or more such activities.

In an EA or EIS, the department concerned shall develop only these two alternatives:

- the forest management activity proposed, or
- the alternative of no action.

A categorical exclusion shall be available to the department concerned to: (1) expedite specified critical response actions, (2) expedite salvage operations in response to catastrophic events, (3) meet forest plan goals for early successional forests, and (4) improve and restore forest health and reduce the risk of wildfire.

(A "categorical exclusion" under NEPA is a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which have been found to have no such effect in procedures adopted by a federal agency in implementing environmental regulations and for which, therefore, neither an Environmental Assessment nor an Environmental Impact Statement is required.)

The bill establishes the State-Supported Forest Management Fund to cover the cost of certain forest management activities on National Forest System (NFS) or public land.

The Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 is amended regarding protection of tribal forest assets and management of Indian forest land authorized to include NFS and public land.

USDA shall issue grants for a state and private forest landscape-scale restoration program.

USDA shall establish an NFS:

- pilot arbitration program to designate projects for an alternative dispute resolution process replacing judicial review, and
- accelerated landscape restoration pilot program for the restoration or maintenance of designated landscapes.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jun 22, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 22, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.