

S 1734

National Prescribed Fire Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: May 20, 2021

Current Status: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held.

Latest Action: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. (Oct 21, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1734>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]

Party: Democratic • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		May 20, 2021
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		May 20, 2021
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		May 20, 2021
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 14, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Oct 21, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 3442	Related bill	Jul 9, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.

National Prescribed Fire Act of 2021

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of the Interior to significantly increase the number and size of prescribed fires conducted on federal lands.

Before the end of FY2023, Interior and USDA shall each have carried out a minimum of one prescribed fire on each unit of the National Forest System (with exceptions), unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, unit of the National Park System, and Bureau of Land Management district (1) that includes an area that has a historical low-severity fire regime, has a historical fire-return interval of not more than 35 years, and is larger than 100 acres; and (2) less than half of which was burned by a wildland fire during the previous 10-year period.

Interior shall establish a collaborative prescribed fire program to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to conduct prescribed fires in priority landscapes.

Interior shall establish an incentive program to encourage the implementation of large, cross-boundary prescribed fires.

Interior and USDA shall hire additional employees and provide training to increase the number of skilled and qualified prescribed fire practitioners in the departments and other organizations.

To address the public health and safety risk of the expanded use of prescribed fire, USDA and Interior shall conduct research to improve or develop, among other things, cost-effective, and consistent mitigation strategies for communities impacted adversely by smoke from prescribed fire.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 21, 2021:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held.
- **May 20, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 20, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.