

HR 6903

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

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Mar 2, 2022

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. (Mar 8, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/6903>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. McClintock, Tom [R-CA-4]

Party: Republican • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]	R · CA		Mar 2, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 8, 2022
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 8, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

This bill sets out requirements for wildfire suppression and management activities carried out by the Forest Service.

Within 24 hours of detecting a wildfire on Forest Service land, the service must use (to the maximum extent practicable) all available resources to extinguish the wildfire. Additionally, the service may not inhibit the firefighting activities of state and local agencies that are authorized to respond to wildfires on Forest Service land.

Further, the service may not initiate a backfire or burnout as part of a fire suppression strategy unless ordered by the responsible incident commander and must control any initiated fire until it is extinguished. An individual who is harmed by an improperly initiated or controlled backfire or burnout may sue the United States.

The bill also limits the service's use of prescribed fires (i.e., the controlled application of fire by a team of experts under specified weather conditions to restore health to ecosystems that depend on fire). The service must comply with all applicable laws and regulations concerning prescribed fires and must immediately suppress (to the maximum extent practicable) a prescribed fire that exceeds its prescription.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 8, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.
- **Mar 8, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.
- **Mar 2, 2022:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 2, 2022:** 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.