

National Prescribed Fire Act of 2025

Section by Section Summary

Section 1 **Short Title; Table of Contents**

Section 2 **Definitions**

TITLE I—USE OF FUNDS

Section 101 **Definition of Prescribed Fire:** Defines the term “prescribed fire” as used in Title I to emphasize broadcast burning by excluding fire ignited for the primary purpose of pile burning.

Section 102 **Prescribed Fire Funding:** Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to use up to 15 percent of appropriated hazardous fuels funding for eligible activities on federal land, or non-federal land (with permission) when there is a benefit to federal land, including site preparation, pre-ignition surveys, post-fire monitoring, cooperative agreements, and training. Directs each Secretary, in consultation with the other, to establish prioritization criteria for use of the funding.

Section 103 **Policies and Practices:** Directs USDA and DOI to annually increase by ten percent the total number and combined size of prescribed fires on Federal land over the next decade and establish a prescribed fire operational strategy for each region.

Section 104 **Collaborative Prescribed Fire Program:** Establishes a \$20 million collaborative prescribed fire program from existing appropriations to select and fund prescribed fire projects for restoration that identify and prioritize treatments over a 10 year period on priority landscapes.

TITLE II—FACILITATING IMPLEMENTATION AND OUTREACH

Section 201 **Cooperative Agreements and Contracts:** Authorizes USDA and DOI to enter into long-term cooperative agreements and contracts to allow non-federal entities to coordinate, plan or conduct a prescribed fire on federal land.

Section 202 **Human Resources:** Provides USDA and DOI with authorities to provide greater parity in pay and benefits between employees implementing prescribed fire and employees engaged in wildfire suppression.

Establishes multiparty prescribed fire task forces in each Geographic Area Coordination Center to plan, lead and support prescribed fire across ownership boundaries.

Establishes employment programs for tribes, veterans, underutilized employees, seasonal employees and formerly incarcerated individuals.

U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Ted Budd

U.S. Representatives Kim Schrier and David Valadao

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Establishes a collaborative process to create mechanisms for non-Federal agency fire practitioners to be included in prescribed fire and wildfire resource ordering and reimbursement processes.

Section 203 Liability of Certified Prescribed Fire Managers: Clarified liability standards for individuals and entities involved in a prescribed fire and indemnifies non-federal entities conducting prescribed fire in accordance with an agreement on federal land.

Section 204 Environmental Review: Directs USDA and DOI to ensure that policies, training, and programs facilitate greater use of prescribed fire and address public health and safety, including from smoke from wildfires and prescribed fires.

Directs the Environmental Protection Agency, in cooperation with federal and state land management agencies, to coordinate with state, tribal and local air quality agencies to facilitate the use of prescribed fire through the development of new tools and technical assistance to facilitate the permitting of prescribed fire and mitigate the impacts of associated smoke.

Clarifies the eligibility of prescribed fire for exceptional events demonstrations under the Clean Air Act and directs the EPA to concur with a submission by applicable air quality agency if the prescribed fire was conducted in accordance with smoke and resource management plans.

Directs USDA and DOI to develop and update landscape-scale prescribed fire plans that consider the site-specific environmental consequences of the landscape-scale prescribed fire decisions to aid the permitting of future actions under the plan.

Section 205 Prescribed Fire Education Program: Directs USDA and DOI to carry out a national prescribed fire education program focused on fire ecology and prescribed fire planning and implementation.

TITLE III—REPORTING

Section 301 Annual Reports to the National Fire Planning and Operations Database: Requires reporting of annual prescribed fire accomplishments and provides cost-sharing authority to assist states with reporting.

Section 302 Annual Implementation Report: Requires a report to Congress on activities carried out under the National Prescribed Fire Act of 2025.