Support the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act

The Honorable John A. Boehner
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

October 27, 2015

Dear Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader McCarthy, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Reid,

Wildfire seasons are getting longer across the nation and major wildfires are becoming more costly to suppress. This creates a crippling burden on the Department of the Interior and the USDA Forest Service’s land management functions as they shift resources to fund essential suppression activities – effectively delaying and terminating projects that improve forest resilience and help to reduce wildfire risk. For the first time, more than fifty percent of the Forest Service’s budget is now consumed by fighting wildfires.

We applaud inclusion of $700 million in emergency funding as part of the Continuing Resolution (HJ Res. 61) to repay the Forest Service programs that were forced to transfer funds to pay for the FY 2015 fire season. This vital step, however, is a temporary correction to what has become a chronic problem. The following organizations agree the current ad hoc process of funding wildfire is inefficient and ineffective in delivering on nationwide agency land management priorities set by Congress and we urge you to enact a solution.

A solution to fire funding should: 1) allow access to disaster funding; 2) eliminate the negative impacts of transfers; and 3) address the increasing costs of suppression over time. The Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (WDFA) (S. 235, H.R. 167) is a bipartisan proposal that achieves these three goals. We urge Congress to incorporate WDFA language in the FY 2016 appropriations or other legislative vehicle to ensure this critical budgetary issue is addressed this year.
The Partner Caucus came together in 2009, representing a diverse set of international, national and local organizations committed to sustainable forest management on private, tribal, municipal, state and federal lands. Our purpose is to seek and support a new wildfire suppression funding framework. We recognize that Congress is considering other proposals, but it is imperative that leaders move forward and enact meaningful wildfire funding reform this year.

**We urge your support for Wildfire Disaster Funding Act language in the FY 2016 appropriations omnibus.**

Sincerely,

American Forest Foundation
American Forests
American Hiking Society
American Whitewater
Appalachian Mountain Club
Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council
Arizona Conservation Corps
Arizona Conservation Corps
Arizona Wildfire Council
Association of Consulting Foresters of America
Association of Partners for Public Lands
Black Hills Forest Resource Association
Black Hills Regional Multiple Use Coalition
Blue Goose Alliance
Blue Mountains Forest Partners
Boone and Crockett Club
Boulder County
California Association of Local Conservation Corps
California Farm Bureau Federation
Choose Outdoors
Clearwater Resource Council
Colorado Timber Industry Association
Colorado Wildlife Federation
Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation
Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa
Conservation Corps North Bay
Conservation Corps of Long Beach
Conservation Legacy
Conservation Northwest
Defenders of Wildlife
Eastern Sierra Audubon Society
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Flathead Economic Policy Center
Foothill Conservancy

For information regarding this letter or groups signing this letter, please contact Cecilia Clavet, cclavet@tnc.org, 703-841-7429.
Forest Business Network
Forest Stewards Guild
Framing Our Community
Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Headwaters Montana
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Forest Owners Association
Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership
Idaho Wildlife Federation
Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association
Intermountain Forest Association
Intermountain Roundwood Association
International Association of Wildland Fire
Lange Tree Farm
Lassen Forest Preservation Group
Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D
Lomakatsi Restoration Project
Los Angeles Conservation Corps
Maine Audubon
Mainland Planning Inc
Montana Conservation Corps
Montana Wilderness Association
Montana Wildlife Federation
Mottek Consulting
Mt. Taylor Manufacturing
National Alliance of Forest Owners
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds
National Association of State Foresters
National Association of University Forest Resources Programs
National Federation of Federal Employees
National Forest Homeowners
National Outdoor Leadership School
National Parks Conservation Association
National Ski Areas Association
National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Volunteer Fire Council
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildfire Institute
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
National Woodland Owners Association
New Mexico Forest Industry Association
Northwest Youth Corps

National
MA, NJ, NM, WI
Idaho
Arizona
Montana/Idaho/Wyoming
Montana
Idaho
Indiana
South Dakota
CO, ID, MT, SD, WY
Montana
Ohio
California
Arizona
Oregon
California
Maine
Colorado
Montana
Montana
Arizona
New Mexico
National
National
National
National
Colorado
National
National
National
National
National
National
California
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
N
Outdoor Alliance
Outdoor Industry Association
Partnership for the National Trails System
Pellet Fuels Institute
Pinchot Institute for Conservation
Ponderosa Fire Advisory Council
Public Lands Foundation
Public Lands Service Coalition
Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation
Red River Forests, LLC
Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Ruffed Grouse Society
Rural County Representatives of California
Salmon Valley Stewardship
San Francisco Conservation Corps
Shasta Forest Timberlands, LLC
Sierra Forest Legacy
Sitka Conservation Society
Siuslaw Institute
Society of American Foresters
South Central Oregon Economic Development District
South Dakota ATV/UTV Association
Southeast Conservation Corps
Southern Environmental Law Center
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative
Southern Oregon Prescribed Fire Network
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Southwest Conservation Corps
Southwest Forests Sustainable Partnership
Spatial Interest, LLC
Spearfish Livestock Association
Sustainable Northwest
Swan Ecosystem Center
Texas Forestry Association
The Conservation Fund
The Corps Network
The Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc
The Mountain Pact
The Nature Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlife Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Tribal Environmental Policy Center

49 States
Virginia
Arizona
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
California
Colorado
California
Arizona
National
California
National
National
National
Pennsylvania
California
Idaho
California
California
California
Alaska
Oregon
National
Oregon
South Dakota
Tennessee
AL, GA, NC, SC, TN, VA,
Southern Oregon
Oregon
Idaho
South Dakota
Oregon

National
Western
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
National
New Mexico
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trout Unlimited</td>
<td>National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuleyome</td>
<td>California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah Conservation Corps</td>
<td>Utah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vail Resorts</td>
<td>CA, CO, MI, MN, NV, UT, WY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont Woodlands Association</td>
<td>Vermont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallowa Resources</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watershed Research &amp; Training Center</td>
<td>California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Environmental Law Center</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild South</td>
<td>AL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Wildlands Alliance</td>
<td>National (HQ in Idaho)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Industries Network</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming Farm Bureau</td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming Outdoor Council</td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>