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14 Wildfires in California last month must re thing the fire science programs of active management, current ideology of no cutting is NOT working, Catastrophic fires are the result of decades of fire suppression, coupled with unprecedented fuel buildups due to a lack of forest management activity. 58 million acres of national forest are at high or very high risk of severe wildfire, and over 4.5 million homes are at risk. Over 1.1 million acres of national forest need reforestation. On year, Portland and Seattle have both been covered in smoke for days on end, with ash falling in the streets, schools cancelled, children huddled inside, and health-sensitive individuals suffering distress. The more than 40,000-acre Eagle Creek Fire devastated many treasured recreational sites in the Columbia River Gorge and closed a key Interstate highway for weeks. Wildfires Toxic Carbon releases can be as high as 4 to 8 kg C-m-2 per fire event. These emissions significantly affect concentrations far downwind. California should be part of cross state Emission standards and should be fined for not cleaning the forest.. fuel buildup plays the major role in fire intensification. Overstocked, stressed, kindling-like forests create firestorms that outpace anything the country has seen in living memory. It is no coincidence that over 90% of the burned acres in Oregon this year were on Forest Service lands which comprise just over 50% of Oregons forestland and where active management is nearly at a standstill. The state and federal government have about equal amounts of land in Oregon, and experience equal numbers of fire starts. But burned areas are overwhelmingly concentrated on Forest Service lands. Active management will make these federal forests more resilient to these extreme events. Environmental activist must not get the way of Forest Service. Sell timber, build Sawmills, In 2016, the Pioneer Fire destroyed the area of the Becker Project on the Boise National Forest, putting a whole years timber volume for southern Idaho at risk and resulting in severe environmental and recreational impacts. To its credit, the Forest Service used all available tools and put two post-fire projects together in only nine months. projects are the subject of MANY threatened litigation . but people, wildlife, and property are at risk. We need common-sense reforms to lighten the burden of redundant administrative process and continuous litigation. Forestry is traditionally an area of bipartisan progress, and it still can be. Should take quick action to advance forestry reform legislation to give us the best chance to mitigate future wildfire seasons. Give Forest Service additional tools to remove dead trees after wildfires, creating new revenue to replant and rehabilitate burned forests. It would also enhance the ability to create young and mixed-age forest habitat to support wildlife. It would incentivize and fast-track forest projects developed by local collaboratives, usually consisting of conservationists, timber industry and elected officials. And it would provide an alternative to costly and obstructive litigation from special interest groups. would reduce project planning times and lower costs to American taxpayers. The RFFA provides Categorical Exclusions (CEs) under the National Environmental Policy Act will allow needed forest management projects to be more quickly prepared, analyzed, and implemented. Specifically, it authorizes a CE of to remove hazard trees and salvage timber to protect public safety, water supply or public infrastructure where forest management

activities are permitted. The Act will also allow forest recovery projects to proceed more quickly, addressing a dire need created by recent wildfire seasons. The Forest Service has long experience with management techniques to reduce forest pests, thin hazardous fuels, create and maintain habitat for species, recover damaged timber and protect water quality. These projects mitigate risk and help create early successional forest habitat which is good for wildlife. Another provision that is crucial to forest health is the Eastside Screens fix in section 905 of the RFFA. The Eastside Screens were put in place administratively in 1995 to forbid harvest of trees above 21 inches in diameter in six National Forests in eastern Washington and Oregon. After more than 20 years, these screens have become a hindrance to effective forest management. Many forests in these areas have too little Ponderosa pine, the historically dominant and most resilient species. Instead, younger larger lodgepole pine is crowding them out. Good forestry and wildfire protection weighs in favor of selectively removing these lodgepoles, but the screens blunt instrument prevents that. Courts have blocked efforts to relax the screens even in the context of well-designed forest  

First Name: Anonymous

Last Name: Anonymous

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