



Wildfire, Outdoors, Local Montana Leaders Praise Daines' Leadership on Bipartisan Forest Management Bill

“The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) applauds the introduction of the bipartisan Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020 for addressing forestry management and wildfire prevention as wildfires continue to grow in size and severity. This legislation will provide natural resource managers with the common sense tools they need to succeed, including targeted categorical exclusions, allowing them to make the best local determinations for managing the landscape to prevent future wildfires.” - **Tim Palmer, President, The National Association of Conservation Districts**

“We would like to thank Senator Daines for this major breakthrough on bipartisan forest management reform. Frivolous litigation must end and we need to be able to help prevent catastrophic wildfires. This legislation addresses both important issues and our members stand ready to assist.” - **Bryan Lorengo, Southwest Regional Representative, Montana Logging Association**

“We applaud the work of Senators Feinstein and Daines on crafting the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020. It is a uniquely bipartisan approach to tackling tough, but desperately needed relief for resource managers across the West. Critical to Montana is ‘Cottonwood’ related language authorizing the Forest Service to not have to reinitiate plan-level consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service following the finding of “new information”, thus allowing for the agency to conduct informal, formal, or no consultation as appropriate and allows projects to continue during plan-level consultation. The Forest Service has been plagued by lawsuits citing a decades-old court decision that has gone all the way to the Supreme court. It is time to fix a wrong and right-size the Forest Service again,” said **Julia Altemus, Executive Director, Montana Wood Products Association.**

“NorthWestern Energy applauds the “Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020,” introduced by U.S. Senators Daines and Feinstein. Wildfires in Montana have and can be devastating to people, property, land, and the environment, and that the ‘Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020’ is a very important tool in reducing wildfire risks for NorthWestern Energy’s Montana customers.” - **Heather Grahame, General Counsel and Vice President – Regulatory and Federal Government Affairs, NorthWestern Energy**

“Since entering public service, Senator Daines has worked non-stop to protect our natural resources by advocating sound forest management as the solution. The Emergency Wildfire &

Public Safety Act is yet another important tool to achieve healthier forests while protecting human life. Reaching across the aisle demonstrates that our Senator Daines is leading on this issue.” - **Edward Regan, Resource Manager, RY Timber**

“We applaud Senator Daines for working to forge a bipartisan bill to address the pressing need for better management of our National Forests. Montanans have endured job losses from mill closures, and then endured many summers filled with wildfire smoke as our unmanaged forests have gone up in flames. This bill would represent a positive step to address the chronic forest health problems on our National Forests. We believe the bill can be part of the badly needed solution to the forest health and wildfire crisis on our National Forests. We look forward to working with Sen. Daines and others in a good faith effort to find common ground that will achieve the results all Montanans want.” - **Chuck Roady, President & General Manager, F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber and President, Federal Forest Resource Coalition**

“The Montana Telecommunications Association applauds Senator Daines for introducing with Senator Feinstein the bipartisan Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act. As we are learning from the Covid pandemic, broadband is more essential than ever for full participation in today’s society. This important legislation, among other things, will make it easier for broadband providers like MTA’s members to maintain critical infrastructure on public lands and to be able to use disaster relief and emergency assistance to install fire-resistant infrastructure. MTA appreciates the efforts of Senators Daines and Feinstein to facilitate broadband deployment.” - **The Montana Telecommunications Association**

"Many thanks to Senator Daines & Feinstein for teaming up to introduce the Emergency Wildfire & Public Safety Act. This legislation will help ensure that our public lands in Montana continue to provide world-class recreational opportunities, protect at-risk communities and their water supplies, plus help to enhance wildlife habitat. I am hopeful that Gov. Bullock, or our next Governor, will have the opportunity to advance implementation of this landmark legislation.” - **Rich Lane, Forester & Log Buyer, Willis Enterprises**

“We thank Sen. Steve Daines and Sen. Dianne Feinstein for introducing bipartisan legislation to accelerate management activities on our national forests. Members of both parties agree on the urgent need to reduce the risks of wildfires and toxic smoke that are threatening our public lands, wildlife habitat and water resources, as well as our health and safety of our citizens. This legislation, including provisions to address one aspect of the disastrous ‘Cottonwood’ decision, will remove barriers to making our forests healthier and more resilient for all Americans. We urge Congress to pass this bipartisan solution without delay.” - **Travis Joseph, President and CEO, American Forest Resource Council**

“The National Wild Turkey Federation thanks Senator Daines and Senator Feinstein for introducing this important bipartisan legislation. Forest health and wildfire prevention are important to all Americans and we need well thought out solutions that everyone can support. This legislation provides those solutions and will result in more efficient and effective forest management where it is needed most. The NWTF looks forward to working with the Senators to enact this legislation into law so we can put it to work on the ground.” - **Becky Humphries, CEO, National Wild Turkey Federation.**

“Senators Feinstein and Daines are to be commended for their leadership on this bipartisan effort to address perhaps the most pressing environmental issues of our time – unabated threats to communities from catastrophic wildfires and the forest health crisis in our western national forests. Eighty million acres of national forestland are at risk of catastrophic wildfire and 25 percent of the forests in the Intermountain West are at risk of mortality from insects and disease within the next 15 years. This legislation provides tools for the Forest Service to mitigate risks [through active management] from wildfire on public lands before fires start, while also encouraging expedited post-fire restoration of lands impacted by wildland fire. Additionally, this legislation also facilitates the removal of biomass from high risk national forest areas, which will further mitigate wildfire risks and encourage alternate sustainable uses for material that would otherwise burn.” - **Tom Schultz, VP Resources, Idaho Forest Group**

“Reducing the threat of wildfire to communities and watersheds is a critical issue for our public lands counties. The Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act would help advance necessary forest management projects in a timely and collaborative manner while preventing catastrophic wildfires. We thank Senators Feinstein and Daines for introducing this important legislation to safeguard landscape and watershed health. We hope Congress passes this bill as soon as possible.”- **Matthew Chase, Executive Director, National Association of Counties**

“With wildfires currently destroying areas in California, Colorado, Montana, Oregon, and other locations throughout the United States, we highly welcome the introduction of The Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020 by Senators Feinstein (CA-D) and Daines (MT-R). As evangelicals Christians, we are commanded to tend and care for God’s creation. Unfortunately, we have not been the best stewards in caring for our forests. Rising temperatures and prolonged drought conditions spurred by climate change place new stresses on most of our National Forests and put surrounding communities at increased risk. Poor forest management and other causes further exacerbate these new threats. Reforesting and increase preventive actions in wildfire-affected areas restores our national forest system while building resilience for our communities and drawing down heat-trapping carbon emissions all at the same time. The Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020 provides a start to addressing some of these immediate concerns. We look forward to seeing it move and improved as part of the legislative process.” - **The Rev. Mitch Hescox, President and CEO, The Evangelical Environmental Network**

“RMEF strongly supports active management of federal lands to create and enhance habitat for elk and other wildlife as well as improving overall forest health. Approval of the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act would allow federal land managers to complete wildfire mitigation and habitat conservation projects at the landscape level, greatly benefiting communities and wildlife alike. RMEF appreciates Senators Daines and Feinstein for sponsoring this important legislation.” - **R. Kyle Weaver, President & CEO, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation**

“Forests and fire have been in the center of the American conservation story since it’s beginning,” said Tim Brady, president of the Boone and Crockett Club. “As a dedicated group of hunter conservationists, improving forest health is a priority for the Boone and Crockett Club. Our nation has struggled to agree on a forest policy that works ecologically and economically

and this bill attempts to do that while promoting wildlife and protecting human life. The Club appreciates Senator Daines and Senator Feinstein's leadership on this issue." - **Tony A. Schoonen, Chief Executive Officer, Boone and Crockett Club**

"I am excited about implementation of this act. The Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act is about results. Effective forest management requires action, and this bill encourages action through the use of Collaboratives, risk reduction pre-fire mitigation work, and post fire restoration initiatives. This act is about reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfires to our communities." - **Greg Chilcott, Chairman, Montana Coalition of Forest Counties**

"EEI thanks Senators Feinstein and Daines for their leadership in introducing this bipartisan wildfire mitigation legislation. This bill will enable more effective industry-government coordination on land management policies, technology development and deployment, hazard mitigation, and workforce training. Electric companies across the country are committed to working with our government partners and other stakeholders on preparation and mitigation efforts that combat the wildfire threat and on the rapid deployment of technology solutions that address wildfire risks, while still maintaining the safe, reliable, and affordable energy we all need." - **Edison Electric Institute**

"The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation applauds the introduction of this bipartisan legislation that would improve forest health and wildlife habitat. Collaboratively developed forest management projects that minimize wildfire risk are a benefit to local communities, including hunters and anglers, and this legislation seeks to do just that." - **Jeff Crane, President, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation**

"We applaud Senator Daines for his work in introducing the bipartisan Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020. While providing aerial support to combat wildfires is the backbone of Neptune Aviation's business, we strongly support a multi-pronged approach in waging this nearly year-round battle. Increasing active forest management and deploying additional wildfire detection equipment are critical and commonsense measures to protect the communities most at risk from catastrophic wildfires. We encourage Congress to pass this legislation and provide the tools needed to prevent the spread of wildfires across Montana and the West." - **Dan Snyder, Senior Vice President, Neptune Aviation Services**