

# Special Legislative Commission to Evaluate and Provide Recommendations on Proper Forest Management for Fire Prevention

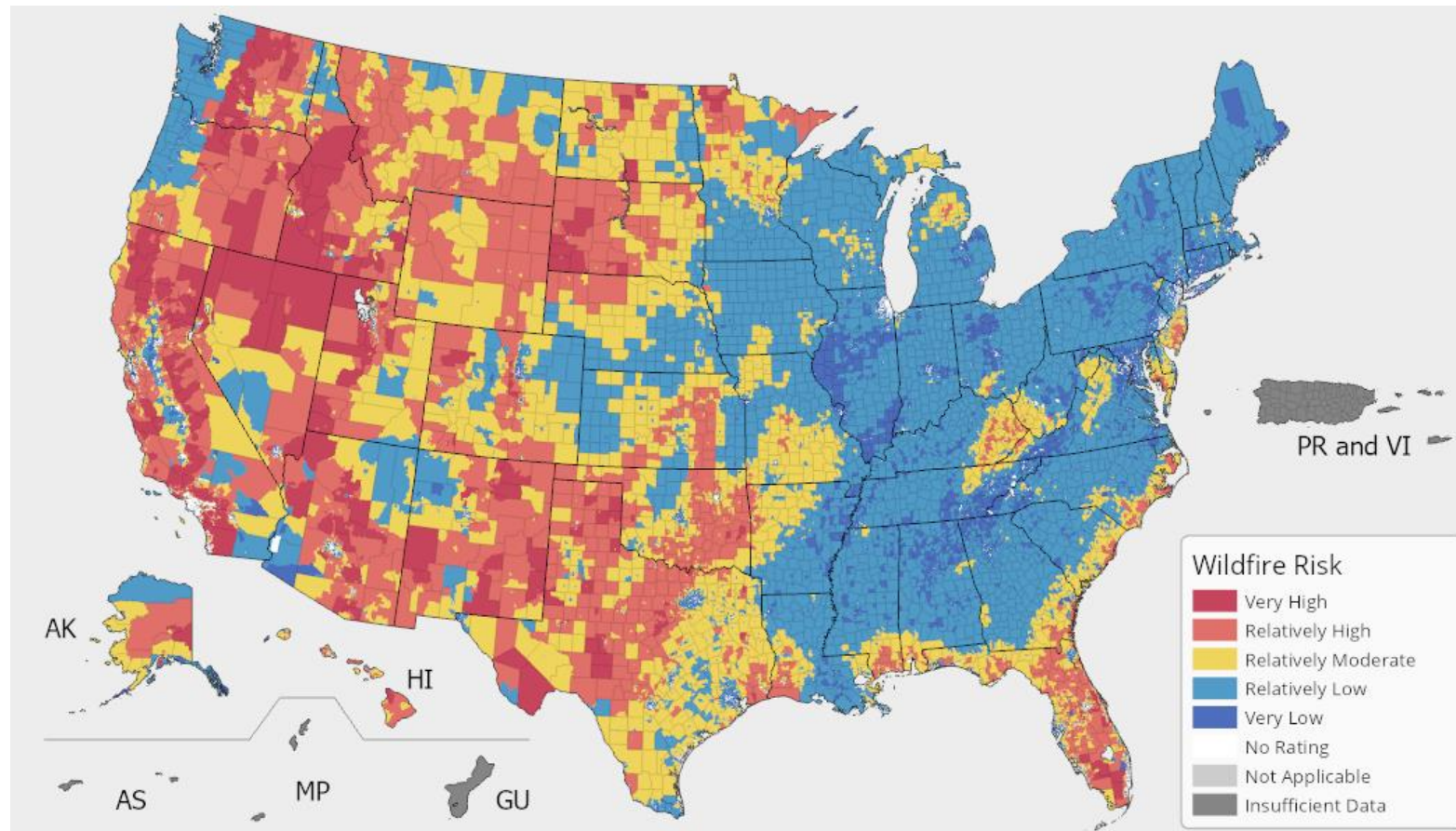


# **Special Legislative Commission to Evaluate and Provide Recommendations on Proper Forest Management for Fire Prevention**





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1. Current and Proposed State and Federal Laws and Regulations regarding Forest Management and Forest Fire Prevention
2. Research regarding Forest Management and Forest Fire Prevention
3. Funding available for Forest Management and Forest Fire Prevention

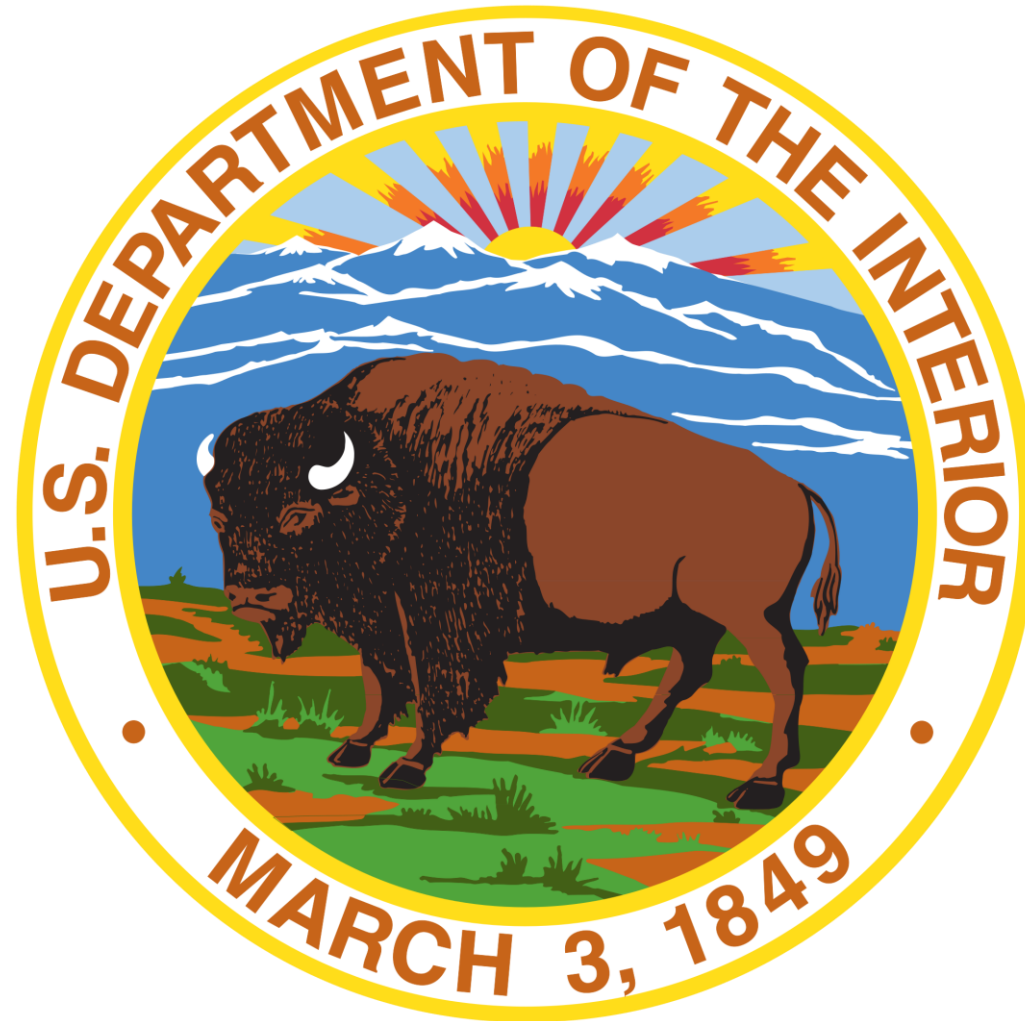
# Current Federal Laws and Regulations



John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019:

- Wildfire technology modernization to promote the use of the best available technology to enhance the effective and cost-efficient response to wildfires
- Empowers the Secretary of the Interior to improve fire resiliency and forest health, including the conduct of wildfire prevention and response activities, as appropriate.

# Current Federal Laws and Regulations



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Four bureaus manage wildland fire on behalf of the Department of the Interior:

- The Bureau of Indian Affairs
- The Bureau of Land Management
- The National Park Service, and
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

# Current Federal Laws and Regulations



The U.S. Department of the Interior Office of the Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs publishes Handbooks and Guides regarding:

- Interagency Fire Program Management Qualifications Standards and Guide
- Interagency Ground Ignition Guide
- National Incident Management System Wild/and Fire Qualification System Guide
- National Interagency Mobilization Guide
- Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook
- Wild/and Fire Incident Management Field Guide
- Agency Administrator Ignition Authorization
- Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide
- Interagency Standards for Wild/and Fire Module Operations
- Interagency Transportation Guide for Gasoline, Mixed Gas, Drip-Torch Fuel, and Diesel
- Interagency Wild/and Fire Weather Station
- Prescribed Fire Complexity Analysis
- Prescribed Fire Go/No-Go Checklist



# Current and Proposed State and Federal Laws and Regulations



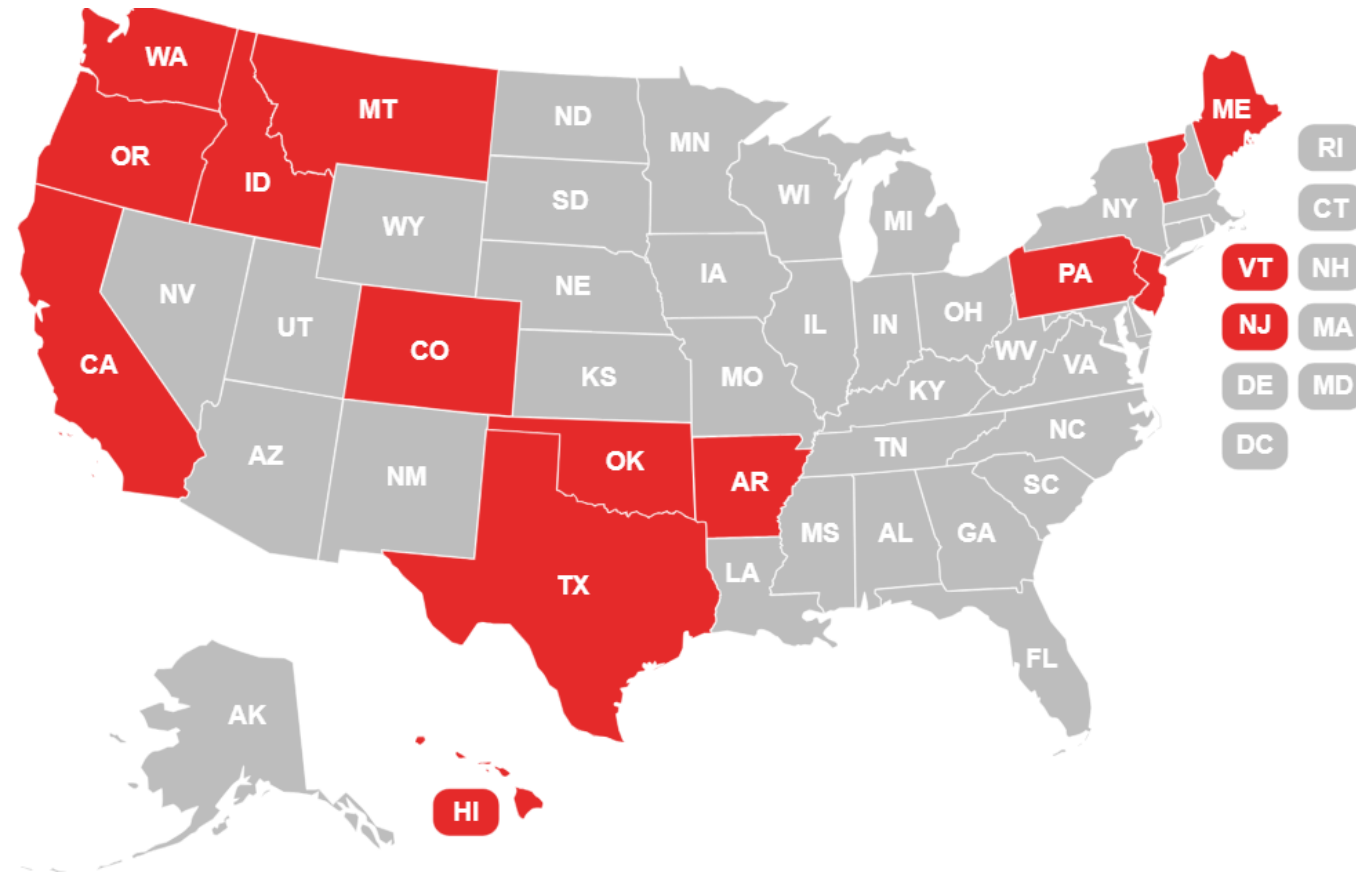
In 2023, 16 States have proposed or enacted legislation concerning.

- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Maine
- Montana
- New Jersey
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Texas
- Vermont
- Washington

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# Forest Management and Forest Fire Prevention Research



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# Forest Management and Forest Fire Prevention Research



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Pew's research found that:

- States most commonly draw on general fund revenue for wildfire activities, which means
  - Upfront costs while awaiting reimbursement
  - States primarily use backward-looking estimates for allocation



# Forest Management and Forest Fire Prevention Research



In 2022, the Pew Charitable Trusts researchers examined the intergovernmental system involved in paying for wildfire management to bring the state role into focus.

Pew's research found that:

- Wildfire activities budgeting practices are under strain
  - Wildfire budgets have frequently proved insufficient
  - States are forced to cover spending gaps using after-the-fact budgeting tools

# Forest Management and Forest Fire Prevention Research



In 2022, the Pew Charitable Trusts researchers examined the intergovernmental system involved in paying for wildfire management to bring the state role into focus.

Pew's research found that:

- Federal and state investments in cost-saving mitigation activities are growing, both to manage forests and to make homes, buildings, and other infrastructure less susceptible to fires

# Forest Management and Forest Fire Prevention Research



Based on these findings, Pew developed three recommendations for policymakers who are tasked with managing the growing risks and spending associated with wildfire:

1. States should evaluate and strengthen current budgeting practices to account for growing risk.
2. States should maximize investments in evidence-based mitigation activities.
3. States should explore opportunities to better track and share data on wildfire spending.

# Forest Management and Forest Fire Prevention Research



In May 2023, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) hosted legislators from Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Washington and Wyoming for a Wildfire Management Workshop.

Six key takeaways emerged from the wide-ranging discussion, presenting opportunities for future information sharing and policy solutions to develop across states.



# Forest Management and Forest Fire Prevention Research



## Key Takeaways

1. Mitigation efforts are more difficult to fund and implement than suppression efforts
2. Intergovernmental and interagency regulations can create barriers to mitigation policies
3. Some states use innovative funding and finance mechanisms to support localities

# Forest Management and Forest Fire Prevention Research



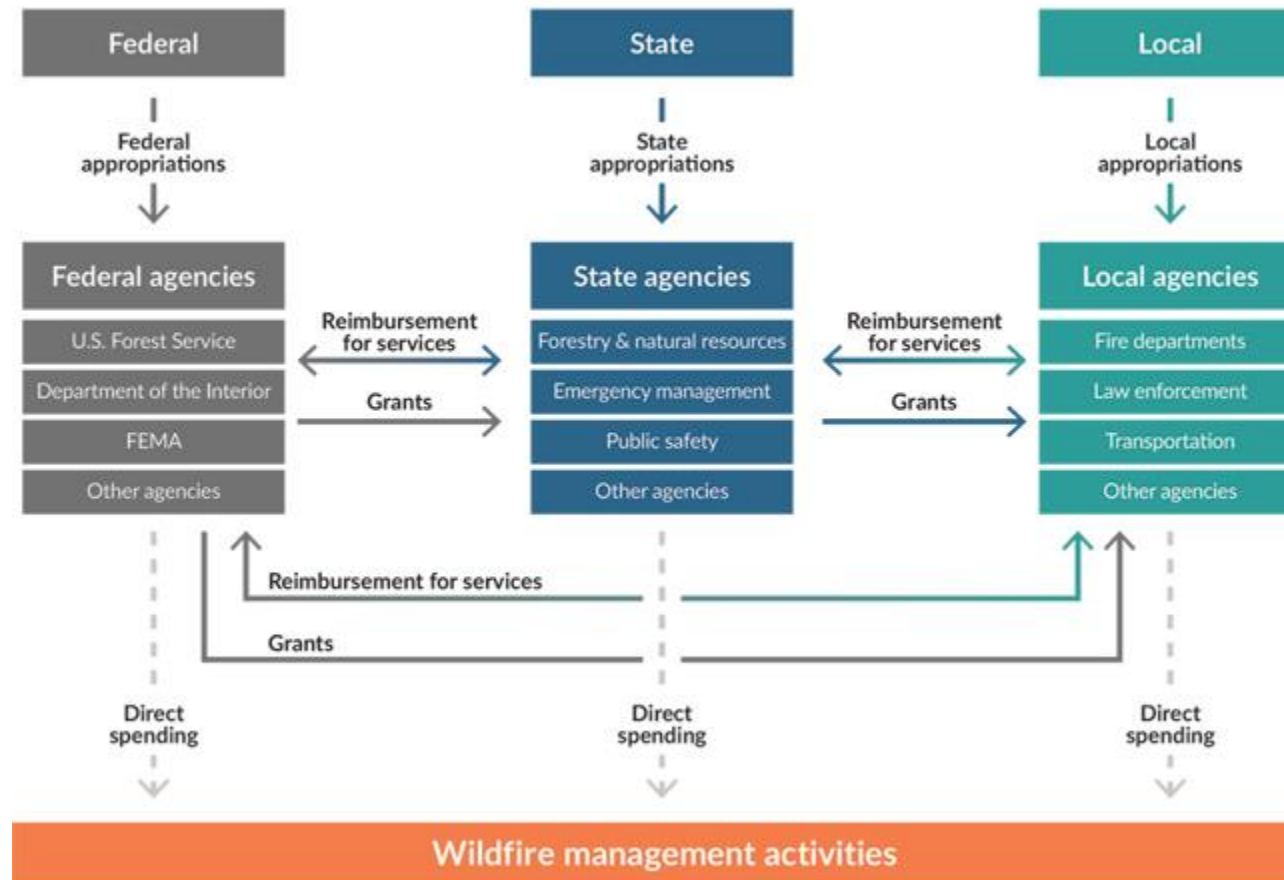
## Key Takeaways

4. Attracting and retaining fire and forestry workers is challenging
5. Accurate and accessible wildfire spending data is valuable
6. States are interested in data tools but have questions about how to apply them

# Public and Private funding available for Forest Management and Forest Fire Prevention



Wildfire Spending is highly intertwined

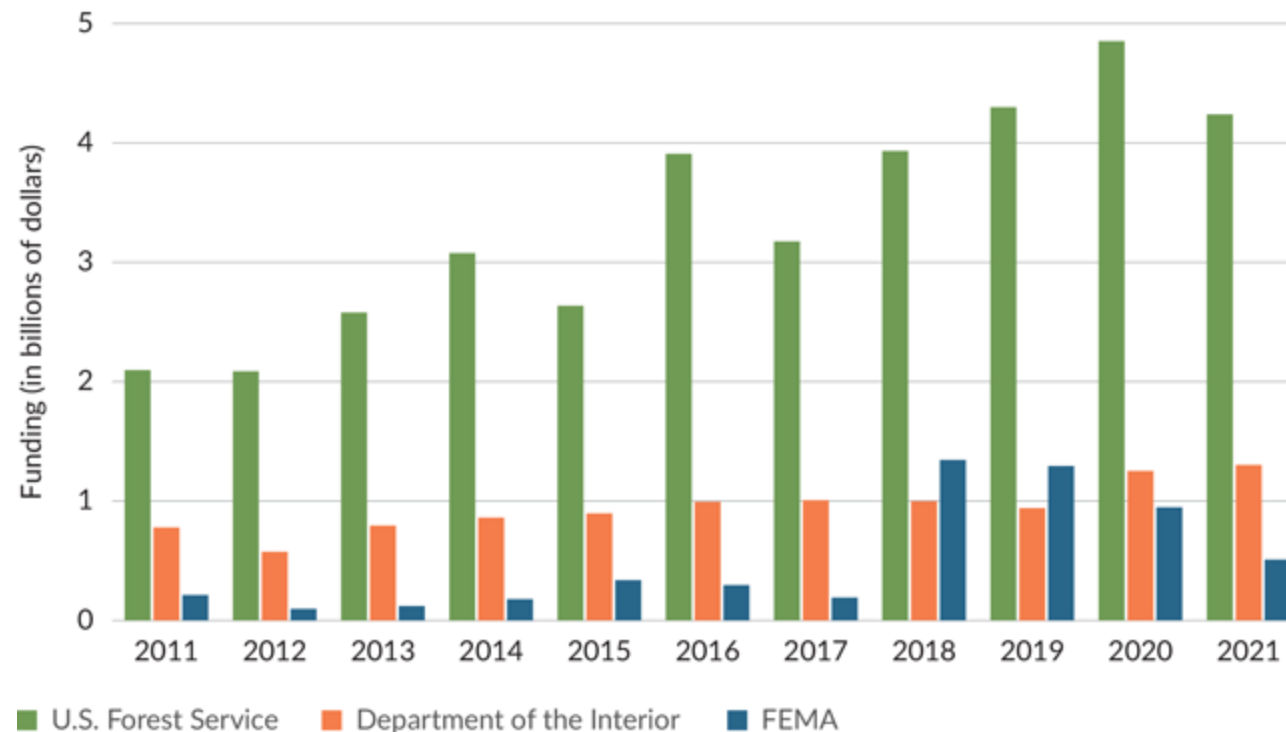


# Public and Private funding available for Forest Management and Forest Fire Prevention



Federal spending on Wildfire Management has significantly grown over time

Funding over time for wildfire management activities by the U.S. Forest Service, Department of the Interior, and Federal Emergency Management Agency





# Public and Private funding available for Forest Management and Forest Fire Prevention



Congress has taken some steps to address both budgeting and mitigation-related problems, including:

- The fiscal 2018 federal budget contained a provision known as the “wildfire funding fix”
- The 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) dedicated \$3.3 billion to reducing the risk of wildfire events.

# Public and Private funding available for Forest Management and Forest Fire Prevention



## Federal Government Grants:

- Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program through the US Department of Agriculture
- Wildfire Mitigation Grant through FEMA
  - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
  - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire (HMGP-PF)
  - Building Resilient Infrastructures and Communities (BRIC) grant