

The Honorable Paul Ryan
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

December 9, 2015

Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid:

The undersigned organizations represent millions of hunters and anglers across the United States who are united in seeking Congress's support for efforts to improve the health and management of our nation's public lands and concurrently address the chronic wildfire suppression funding problem. Many of our forests are being inadequately cared for due to insufficient funding, litigation, and burdensome regulations. Some of these problems are also blocking access to federal lands for both jobs and recreation. As long-time partners of the federal agencies in public forest and rangeland management, we have a vested interest in working with Congressional leaders on broadly supported solutions that will address these problems. Our millions of members use federal public lands for hunting, shooting sports, and angling, generating enormous economic activity and job growth in rural America.

We support efforts in both chambers of Congress to provide additional authorities to the Forest Service and the BLM to expedite forest management projects that would return federal public lands to a more diverse set of habitat types, which compose more productive landscapes. We are also united in our support of efforts to address and reform chronic wildfire suppression funding problems that diminish federal land management agencies' ability to properly manage habitat and outdoor recreation on public land.

As Congress considers an FY 2016 omnibus spending measure, we urge you to include provisions that would achieve both of these goals.

Sincerely,

Archery Trade Association
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Bear Trust International
Boone and Crockett Club
Camp Fire Club of America
Catch-A-Dream Foundation
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports

Dallas Safari Club
Delta Waterfowl Foundation
Ducks Unlimited
Houston Safari Club
Mule Deer Foundation
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Trappers Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
Orion – The Hunter’s Institute
Pheasants Forever
Pope and Young Club
Quail Forever
Quality Deer Management Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Ruffed Grouse Society
Safari Club International
Shikar Safari Club
Sportsmen’s Alliance
Texas Wildlife Association
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Tread Lightly!
Whitetails Unlimited
Wild Sheep Foundation
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute
Wildlife Mississippi