

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to expand the use of categorical exclusions for hazardous fuel reduction projects.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HELLER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to expand the use of categorical exclusions for hazardous fuel reduction projects.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Fuel Re-
5 duction Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are—

8 (1) to expedite wildfire prevention projects to
9 reduce the chances of wildfire on certain high-risk

1 Federal land adjacent to communities, private prop-
2 erty, and critical infrastructure;

3 (2) to improve forest and wildland health; and

4 (3) to promote the recovery of threatened and
5 endangered species, or other species under consider-
6 ation for listing under the Endangered Species Act
7 of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), including sage-
8 grouse, whose habitat is negatively impacted by
9 wildland fire.

10 **SEC. 3. EXPEDITED REVIEW OF PROJECTS ON FEDERAL**
11 **LAND.**

12 Section 104 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
13 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6514) is amended—

14 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) through (h)
15 as subsections (f) through (i), respectively;

16 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(C)(i), by striking “sub-
17 section (f)” and inserting “subsection (g)”; and

18 (3) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(e) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN
21 PROJECTS.—

22 “(1) DEFINITION OF ADJACENT FEDERAL
23 LAND.—In this subsection, the term ‘adjacent Fed-
24 eral land’ means an area of Federal land—

1 “(A) that, while not located in the
2 wildland-urban interface, is located within not
3 more than 2 miles of non-Federal land; and

4 “(B) on which the Secretary determines
5 that conditions, such as the risk of wildfire, an
6 insect or disease epidemic, or the presence of
7 invasive species, pose a risk to the adjacent
8 non-Federal land.

9 “(2) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN
10 PROJECTS.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An authorized haz-
12 ardous fuel reduction project shall be categori-
13 cally excluded from the requirements of the Na-
14 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
15 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) if the project—

16 “(i) involves the removal of insect-in-
17 fected trees, dead or dying trees, trees pre-
18 sented a threat to public safety or elec-
19 trical reliability, or the removal of other
20 hazardous fuels within 500 feet of utility
21 or communications infrastructure, a mu-
22 nicipal water supply system, campground,
23 roadside, heritage site, recreation site,
24 school, or other infrastructure;

1 the Emergency Fuel Reduction Act of
2 2014.”.