



RESOLUTION 2019-07
CONCERNING ONGOING WILDFIRE APPROPRIATIONS

Whereas, the Western States Land Commissioners Association ("WSLCA") and its member states manage over 515 million acres of trust lands, minerals, and waterways that are interspersed with federal lands; and

Whereas, members of WSLCA have state constitutional mandates to manage millions of acres of lands for public education, economic development, conservation, recreation, and other public purposes provided by state law; and

Whereas, members of the Western States Land Commissioners Association ("WSLCA") manage forested state trust lands surrounded by or near National Forest System lands; and

Whereas, state trust lands are managed to maximize revenue for beneficiaries, primarily K-12 public education, through economic development, active forest management, and other management practices including conservation, recreation, and other public purposes provided by state law; and

Whereas, forested state trust lands provide a dependable source of timber accounting for nearly 1 billion board feet of harvested volume annually; an amount that represents nearly ten percent of annual housing starts; and

Whereas, timber harvest from forested state trust lands contributes to public education in the United States by returning hundreds of millions of dollars each year to state trust land beneficiaries; and

Whereas, forest fires on National Forest System lands may threaten the value of forested state trust land resources particularly in instances where federal resources are underfunded; and

Whereas, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 accommodates appropriations for wildfire suppression operations in the Wildland Fire Management Accounts at the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior and has come under extreme pressure given the severity of past wildfire seasons; and

Whereas, the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy represents a collaborative effort by Federal, state, local, and tribal governments, non-governmental partners, and public stakeholders to manage for resilient landscapes, create fire adapted communities, and provide for safe and effective wildfire response; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT:

1. The WSLCA urges Congress to pass legislation to permanently appropriate funds necessary for fire suppression on federal lands.
2. The WSLCA urges the United States Departments of Agriculture and Interior to effectuate the three tenets of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy to manage for:
 - a. resilient landscapes
 - b. fire adaptive communities, and
 - c. safe and effective wildfire response
3. The WSLCA urges the United States Departments of Agriculture and Interior to include in their budget requests to Congress sufficient funding to carry out appropriate fire management duties.
4. The WSLCA urges the United States Department of Agriculture to maximize the Good Neighbor Authority granted by Congress to enter into agreement and contracts to reduce hazardous fuels, treat insect and disease and improve forest health.

Adopted this 31st day of July, 2019.



President, WSLCA



Secretary, WSLCA

*This Resolution will remain in effect through July 31, 2021
unless otherwise terminated, amended, or replaced by the Association.*