



MAY 20 2025

To: Chief, U.S. Forest Service
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Director, Bureau of Land Management
Director, National Park Service
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior

Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture

Subject: 2025 Direction to Wildland Fire Leadership

President Trump has made it clear that strong leadership, decisive action, and the protection of American communities are top priorities. The Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture are working together to ensure that wildland fire personnel have the resources, training, and support needed to work under safe conditions and to effectively carry out their wildland fire management missions. We are committed to prioritizing commonsense land management practices to help reduce fuel loads, mitigate risks, and improve fire response capabilities. We are also committed to ensuring that firefighters remain safe.

The 2025 fire year is off to an early and sobering start. From the costliest wildfires in California history this January to ongoing fires in the South, East, and elsewhere around the country, wildland fire remains a year-round threat to homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods across our Nation. Your leadership and the dedication of our wildland fire personnel are essential to protecting people and safeguarding communities.

In 2024 alone, wildland fire personnel responded to nearly 65,000 wildfires that burned more than 8.9 million acres across the United States. They are the backbone of our Nation's emergency response system. Their hard work ensures that our public lands remain resilient and that local economies that depend on these lands can thrive. The permanent pay increase enacted in March ensures that our wildland firefighters are fairly compensated for their sacrifices and strengthens our ability to recruit and retain top talent in this essential profession.

The scope and complexity of today's wildfires require unity. Success demands the seamless collaboration of Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies, along with community partners to maximize resources; enhance effectiveness; and ensure swift, coordinated responses. Together, we will prevent countless tragedies and protect the lands that support our way of life.

Looking ahead, expanding the pace and scale of fuels management is essential to reducing the risk of fire and the cascading disasters that follow. This starts by using all the authorities available to us to expedite fuels reduction projects and continuing to focus investments in the locations with the highest risk and greatest benefit to the American public.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication, sacrifice, and service to this Nation. The work of our wildland fire personnel is instrumental in keeping communities safe, infrastructure secure, and America's lands thriving and productive for future generations.