

104<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 596

To require the identification of certain high-fire-risk Federal forest lands in the State of Nevada, the clearing of forest fuels in such areas, and the submission of a fire prevention plan and budget.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 19, 1995

Mrs. VUCANOVICH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and, in addition, to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To require the identification of certain high-fire-risk Federal forest lands in the State of Nevada, the clearing of forest fuels in such areas, and the submission of a fire prevention plan and budget.

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 “Nevada Forest Protec-  
5       tion Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds that—

1           (1) persistent drought and large areas of accu-  
2 mulated fuels in forest lands have caused the 1994  
3 wildfire season to be one of the most severe in  
4 history;

5           (2) an extreme wildfire danger exists in many  
6 of the forest lands in Nevada, including such lands  
7 in the Lake Tahoe area, which have suffered years  
8 of drought and insect infestation that have resulted  
9 in a forest that is overloaded with fuels;

10          (3) over 780 wildfires have occurred throughout  
11 the State of Nevada in the 1994 wildfire season and  
12 have involved more than 215,000 acres, including  
13 areas near Caliente, Hallelujah Junction, Panaca,  
14 Lone Mountain, Bull Run, Mahogany Springs, Hol-  
15 brook Junction, and Verdi;

16          (4) the risk of intense wildfires that pose a seri-  
17 ous threat to the health of forest lands and water-  
18 sheds can be significantly reduced by the reduction  
19 of excessive fuel accumulations, including slash piles  
20 and dead trees that become fuel ladders;

21          (5) the highest priority for fuel removal should  
22 be placed on areas where the population is greatest  
23 and the interface between urban and wild land cre-  
24 ates a great fire threat to persons and property; and

1           (6) timber sales and fuels reduction projects  
2           should result in major decreases in fuel loading and  
3           emphasis should be placed on handpiling and burn-  
4           ing as well as the removal or burning of  
5           nonmerchantable, smaller, dead trees that are likely  
6           to become fuel ladders.

7   **SEC. 3. IDENTIFICATION OF RISK AREAS AND CLEARING OF**  
8                                   **FUELS.**

9           The Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior shall,  
10          in cooperation with appropriate State and local agencies—

11                 (1) identify any area in the State of Nevada,  
12                 within forest lands under the respective jurisdictions  
13                 of the Secretaries, that is extremely vulnerable to  
14                 wildfire due to the accumulation of forest fuels and  
15                 a combination of fire history, extent of human settle-  
16                 ment, weather patterns, topography, accessibility,  
17                 and visitor intensity; and

18                 (2) take action to reduce excessive accumula-  
19                 tions of fuel, including slash piles and dead trees  
20                 that become fuel ladders, in such areas.

21   **SEC. 4. FIRE PLAN AND BUDGET.**

22           The Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior shall  
23          jointly prepare, in consultation and coordination with  
24          other Federal agencies and the State of Nevada, a strate-  
25          gic plan regarding fire prevention for forest lands in the

1 State of Nevada under the respective jurisdictions of the  
2 Secretaries and an annual budget for the plan. The Sec-  
3 retaries shall submit the plan and budget to the Congress  
4 not later than March 1, 1995, for inclusion in the 1996  
5 appropriations request.

6 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7       There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
8 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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