



Resolution in Support of the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2014 (S. 1875)

Whereas the Four Forest Restoration Initiative Stakeholder Group represents over 30 organizations working collaboratively with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) across 2.4 million acres and four national forests in Arizona to restore forest ecosystems (<http://www.4fri.org>); and

Whereas longer fire seasons and increased fuel loads exceeding the historic range of variability are among the many factors contributing to an increase in the number, extent, and intensity of wildfires in National Forests, causing fire suppression costs to exceed the USFS annual budget for fire suppression; and

Whereas when the appropriated budget for fire is exceeded the USFS is forced to transfer funds from non-fire programs, including those that reduce the threat of wildfires through forest restoration treatments; and,

Whereas the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (S. 1875) attempts to manage emergency wildfire suppression costs without impacting other programs within the agency by funding a portion of the USFS and Department of Interior wildfire suppression costs through a budget cap adjustment similar to that used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

Whereas this bill would provide a budget-neutral structure that is consistent with other agencies responding to natural disasters.

Be it therefore resolved that the Four Forest Restoration Initiative Stakeholder Group supports S. 1875, the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, without reservation, as expressed at their meeting held Wednesday, January 22, 2014.

January 31, 2014