

House Engrossed
supporting proper forest management

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2038

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PROPER FOREST MANAGEMENT POLICIES IN NATIONAL
FOREST SERVICE LANDS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, America's national forest system (NFS) comprises more than
2 750 million acres—covering approximately one-third of our nation's land
3 mass—and provides the United States with a wealth of beauty and economic
4 prosperity; and

5 Whereas, America's forest lands are dying at an unprecedented rate
6 due to catastrophic wildfires and devastating insect and disease epidemics
7 that have resulted from years of mismanagement and unsound policies; and

8 Whereas, more than one hundred years ago, the federal government
9 recognized the importance of a responsible forest management policy that
10 combined protection of forest resources with commercial outputs. This
11 prudent, common-sense policy, which provided for multiple uses of forests
12 lands in conjunction with sustained economic yield, was largely adhered to
13 by the Congress and president for most of the twentieth century; and

14 Whereas, over the past twenty-five years, however, our NFS has
15 experienced a crisis as changes to forest management policies have
16 resulted in uncoordinated, conflicting and overbearing state and federal
17 regulations. These inconsistent approaches have led to a gridlock of
18 confusion and litigation, with numerous lawsuits being filed to exclude
19 any commercial activity; and

20 Whereas, the newer NFS policies have become skewed toward preserving
21 forests at all costs instead of managing them, leading to choked, overly
22 dense forests that have suffered from the effects of increasingly large
23 and intense wildfires over the past fifty years, particularly in the
24 western United States. These severe wildfires result in increased
25 erosion, increased greenhouse gas emissions, higher levels of air
26 pollution from smoke, loss of fish and wildlife and negative impacts to
27 local economies; and

28 Whereas, a majority of the United States Forest Service budget is
29 now spent on firefighting costs; and

30 Whereas, our nation's once vibrant timber industry has slowed
31 drastically as hundreds of sawmills have closed and thousands of forest
32 industry jobs have been lost. The resulting 70% reduction in NFS timber
33 outputs has resulted in the United States becoming the world's second
34 largest importer of softwood lumber products, with only China importing
35 more; and

36 Whereas, the combined lack of active forest management and timber
37 harvesting has not only made our forests much more vulnerable to the
38 damaging effects of wildfire, but has resulted in rural economic hardship,
39 steady forest decline and epidemic insect and disease outbreaks; and

40 Whereas, sound scientific solutions, both short-term and long-term,
41 are needed to end forest gridlock and improve the health of both our
42 forests and our nation's economy. Inconsistent and overreaching forest
43 management policies must be replaced by a common-sense policy to make
44 America's forests thrive again.

1 Therefore

2 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,
3 the Senate concurring:

4 That the Members of the Legislature express their support of a
5 reasonable and prudent multiple-use forest management policy to improve
6 our nation's forest health.