

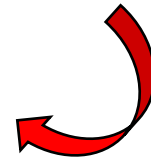
America’s Forests in the Balance, A National Emergency: A Call to Action¹

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The 2024 wildland fire season is well underway; 11,523 fires have burned 1,802,756 acres as of April 26, 2024. These amounts are well ahead of the same time in 2023. This *A Call to Action*, started almost four years ago, is an attempt to keep a National Emergency of unplanned wildfires at the forefront of the American people. To date, 78 professionals [and counting] have contributed to this *A Call to Action*. Sign-on to the *Petition* [Petition Link: <http://chng.it/bGsyZvSb>]. As of April 27, 2024, there are 5,817 signatories. In 2022, 68,988 fires burned 7,577,183 acres. More wildfires ignited in 2022 than the past 10-year average; about 20 percent more. In 2023, 56,580 wildfires burned 2,698,910 acres. While the number of wildfires is slightly above the 10-year average, the number of acres burned is well below it; the 10-year average at 6,220,360 acres. Notable incidents in 2023 included the Maui fire and the Smith River Complex in California. This is not surprising. The lack of forest maintenance is the primary culprit. Please, continue to review the concept of “managed or beneficial wildfire.” Do not be confused by intellectual argument. Putting all fires out immediately is cost effective; large fires are unimaginably expensive and destructive. Annual damages from unplanned wildfires are approaching \$1 trillion! Maybe it is time for a renewed, more contemporary “10 AM” policy by the USDA Forest Service. Let us not forget that smoke is also a horrendous killer. So, for now, it is critical to put all wildfires out quickly with an aggressive Initial Attack. The 2024 Annual Chief’s Letter of Intent is out! None of the six recommendations by the National Wildfire Institute and Others seem to have been included. Please see Appendix A.48.4. America’s forestlands are at risk, let there be no doubt. Please, share your voice aggressively so we can begin to alter the direction of this destructive force – uncontrollable wildfires. **Note:** *A Call to Action* is continually updated. **This is Revision 17.7**. Just click on the following two *hyperlinks* to see the latest versions:

THE FULL DOCUMENT: [A Call to Action, rev. 17.7, April 27, 2024](#)

THE SUMMARY: [A Call to Action, rev. 17.7, April 27, 2024](#)



In 2001, when “Managing the Impacts of Wildfires on Communities and the Environment” -- the *National Fire Plan*² – was completed, there were about 38 million acres of our national forestlands [forests are more than just trees] classified as high risk to fire. It is now about 90+ million acres. Why? Because for at least the last three decades, we have significantly underfunded forest maintenance [*aka*, forest management] work that could help restore the health and resiliency of our forested landscapes and help prevent large, intense unplanned wildfires. By shifting money *from* sustainable forest maintenance actions *to* fire suppression, today’s forests have become overgrown and act like tinderboxes. Federal forests call for at least 8-9 million acres³ to be restored annually for the next decade, including timber harvesting, fuel reduction, thinning of non-commercial sized trees, various fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects and plantings; about 20 million acres per year for all forestlands.

These are different times. With the current land conditions and the impacts of a changing climate, the idea of allowing a wildfire to burn anywhere, for whatever reason, for the foreseeable future, is unacceptable and must be stopped; no exceptions. Check out again the earlier contribution sustained in this revision of *A Call to Action*, including, the extremely instructional interview between Jim Petersen and Frank Carroll [Appendix A.45]; it’s classic. And the new Appendices A.48.4, A.49 and A.50 in the full document. Glance at the Graphic Organizer on page 2. Each box has a *hyperlink* for additional detail.

REV. 17.7

¹ Coordinated by Michael T. Rains with input from a wide-range of professionals; 78 and counting.

² Michael T. Rains, USDA Forest Service [ret.]. Lead Author, US Department of Agriculture. 2001.

³ The current accomplishment is stated by the Forest Service to be about one-half this amount [4.3 million acres].

This latest revision of *A Call to Action* is again being sent far and wide to decision-makers – members of the current Administration and Congress; County leaders; and more. Please, share your voice so we can begin to alter the direction of this destructive force – uncontrollable unplanned wildfires. As usual, I urge all of you to not be confused by the [intellectual argument](#) that unplanned wildfires are helpful to ecosystem health. They may be, but clearly NOT NOW. The current landscape scale conditions, especially in the western part of America, will not allow the “managed” or “beneficial” fire concept to work effectively; it’s simply too dangerous. See pages 11 and [100-102 of the full document](#). Also, visit [Appendix A.47](#), page 198 of the full document, to see some current litigations and other information linked to the notion of “managed or beneficial fire.” Finally, see [Appendix A.48.1](#), page 214 and [Appendix A.48.4](#), page 220 in the *Full Document*.

Graphic Organizer [Ctrl+Click]

