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U.S. SENATOR *for* CALIFORNIA

## **Wildfire Resilience Through Grazing Research Act**

*Co-Led by: Senators Moran, Hirono, and Lankford*

Wildfires are becoming more frequent, severe, and costly to life, the environment, and property. Effective land management techniques must be implemented to both reduce future wildfire risk and facilitate post-fire recovery. Among the many strategies for managing wildfire risk, one natural and highly effective approach is the use of grazing by hooved animals (or “ungulates”).

- Several states have implemented pilot programs in which hooved animals have grazed on prescribed areas of land containing highly flammable grasses and shrubs to mitigate fire risk. These pilot efforts have been successful in reducing the active fuels in vegetation that exacerbate fire growth.
- While grazing for wildfire mitigation is being used in practice, limited scientific research has been conducted on grazing land management techniques that maximize wildfire mitigation and that are also compatible with protecting against adverse environmental harms.

**To fully realize the potential of grazing, further research is essential. Studies on how grazing patterns, animal populations, and specific vegetation types interact can help optimize this approach, guiding land managers in creating fire-resilient landscapes. The bipartisan *Wildfire Resilience Through Grazing Research Act* would add the “Grazing for Wildfire Mitigation Initiative” to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s High-Priority Research List to:**

- Support research and development at land-grant colleges and universities of grazing land management techniques that promote wildfire mitigation, fuels reduction, and post-fire recovery and;
- Promote information dissemination of best wildlife grazing land management techniques that support wildfire mitigation to public and private landowners, land managers, and livestock owners, including land management activities that protect against negative environmental impacts and improve soil health.

**Expanding our understanding of grazing can ultimately make it a core, cost-effective tool in wildfire prevention, working harmoniously with other mitigation practices to protect our landscapes and communities.**

*This bipartisan bill has been endorsed by the Environmental Defense Fund and The Nature Conservancy.*