



Committee: Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Event: [Full Committee Markup](#)
Date: October 21, 2025
Time: 9:15 AM
Place: 328A Russell Senate Office Building

Member Toplines:

*Chair John Boozman (R-AR)*¹: Boozman highlighted the Fix Our Forests Act (FOFA) ([S. 1462](#)) as a bipartisan effort to modernize forest management and strengthen wildfire prevention. He emphasized its balanced approach to providing federal agencies with new authorities to reduce wildfire risks and protect communities. Boozman framed FOFA as a practical, consensus-driven solution to maintain healthy forests and safeguard natural resources.

*Ranking Member Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)*²: Klobuchar expressed support for advancing the FOFA and the accompanying land package, praising the bipartisan nature of the legislation. She said that while she supports moving the bill forward, additional funding for federal agencies is needed to restore workforce capacity and ensure the legislation can be effectively implemented. Klobuchar highlighted Senate changes to the FOFA legislation that clarified categorical exclusions, strengthened tribal involvement, and added safeguards for new fireshed management areas.

Legislation of Interest Discussed:

[S. 1462](#) – Fix Our Forests Act

- *Note:* House Natural Resources Chairman **Bruce Westerman** (R-AR-04), the primary sponsor of the House-passed version of FOFA ([H.R. 471](#)), attended the markup.
- Proposed Amendments
 - Tuberville Amendment (**Withdrawn**):
 - Sen. **Tommy Tuberville** (R-AL) introduced an amendment with Sen. **Raphael Warnock** (D-GA) to assist private forest landowners lacking disaster relief options. The amendment would have allowed landowners to deduct the appraised value of uncut timber destroyed by natural disasters if replanting occurs within five years. Tuberville acknowledged that the measure falls under the Finance Committee's jurisdiction and withdrew it after receiving commitments from Sens. Boozman and Warnock to work together on the issue.
 - Bennet Amendment No. 6 (Failed 11–12):

¹ Opening testimony was not available at the time of this memo's composition.

² Opening testimony was not available at the time of this memo's composition.

- Sen. **Michael Bennet** (D-CO), with Sen. **Adam Schiff** (D-CA), offered an amendment to require public and tribal collaboration in forest management projects. Bennet said the bill's expansion of emergency forest management authority risked sidelining local communities and tribes by reducing opportunities for comment and judicial review. He argued that local and tribal input builds trust and improves project outcomes. Sen. Klobuchar also expressed support, describing the amendment as constructive even if not likely to pass.
- Schiff Amendment No. 3 (**Failed 11-12**):
 - Sen. Schiff offered an amendment to provide funding for federal agencies to implement FOIA's new wildfire mitigation programs. He cautioned that without dedicated funding, the bill's provisions would be difficult to realize given recent Forest Service workforce reductions. Sens. Klobuchar and Bennet both supported the amendment, citing that the Forest Service has 5,000 fewer employees than in January and that new responsibilities must be paired with additional resources.
- Booker Amendment No. 2 (**Failed 11-12**):
 - Sen. **Cory Booker** (D-NJ), co-sponsored by Sen. **Dick Durbin** (D-IL), proposed to strike Section 121 of the FOIA, which limits judicial review and shortens the window for legal challenges from six years to 150 days. Booker argued that the provision restricts judicial discretion and reduces public access to the courts. Durbin supported the amendment, calling the shortened review period "unwise" and asserting that the issue falls under the Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction. Sen. Klobuchar also backed the amendment and said she would continue working to find a compromise between the existing six-year limit and the shortened 150-day window.
- Luján Amendment No. 4 (**Withdrawn**):
 - Sen. **Ben Ray Luján** (D-NM) proposed an amendment allowing the Secretary of Agriculture to waive cost-share requirements when federal management activities cause wildfire damage. Arguing that small rural governments should not bear the cost of damages caused by federal actions. He withdrew the amendment but received interest from Sens. Klobuchar and Boozman in revisiting the issue.
- [Manager's Amendment](#) was agreed to in the final bill. A list of all included amendments in the final manager's amendment can be found [here](#).
- Final Vote Counts for S. 1462 – **Legislation is agreed to 18-5.**