



The Mountain Pact

Fire Funding Fix Passes in 2018 Omnibus Spending Bill

The Mountain Pact is excited to share that Congress has [added new directives](#) to how the federal government budgets for the suppression of large wildfires in the FY 2018 omnibus spending bill which President Trump signed today, Friday, March 23, 2018.



"For years Western mountain communities and The Mountain Pact have pushed for wildfire funding reform," said Anna Peterson, Executive Director of The Mountain Pact. "Emergency relief funding, coupled with sustainable forest restoration investments, is imperative to protect our communities from more frequent and severe wildfires. It is critical to sustaining our towns' and cities' economic and environmental vitality. We are thankful that Congress has added and passed a bipartisan funding fix to the omnibus spending package that will free up urgently needed resources for catastrophic wildfires while keeping necessary funds for public lands conservation and recreation programs intact."

The 10-year deal includes a new funding mechanism which will adjust funding caps to accommodate firefighting needs and end the need for borrowing from other programs within the Forest Service and the Interior Department. The deal provides a new disaster cap allocation for wildfire starting in FY 2020 at \$2.25 billion and increases to \$2.95 billion in FY 2027. In addition, the legislation freezes the Forest Service budget for wildfire suppression activities at the FY 2015 level to stop the slow migration of non-fire related funds being diverted to fire programs at the beginning of each fiscal year.

This action finally dedicates appropriate funding for wildfire mitigation and forest management and allows dollars appropriated for recreation programs, maintenance, and infrastructure to stay in those accounts.

Thank you to all who have been involved in Mountain Pact [efforts](#) through the years to get a comprehensive fire funding fix passed. This is a great legislative win

that will allow the public lands that our communities rely on to receive the funding for maintenance and conservation that they deserve.

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