

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

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To authorize direct emergency acquisition flexibilities for the National Park Service and Forest Service for the purpose of retaining, vetting, approving, and expediting contractor approval for the clearing, rebuilding, maintenance, and improvement of areas of the Grand Canyon National Park and Kaibab National Forest damaged by certain wildfires, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GALLEGOS (for himself and Mr. KELLY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To authorize direct emergency acquisition flexibilities for the National Park Service and Forest Service for the purpose of retaining, vetting, approving, and expediting contractor approval for the clearing, rebuilding, maintenance, and improvement of areas of the Grand Canyon National Park and Kaibab National Forest damaged by certain wildfires, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “North Rim and Kaibab
3 National Forest Restoration Act of 2026”.

4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

5 Congress finds that—

6 (1) the Grand Canyon is a national treasure
7 that has exceptional historic, cultural, and geological
8 value;

9 (2) the Grand Canyon region drives the local
10 economy through tourism and outdoor recreation;

11 (3) the Grand Canyon is the ancestral home-
12 land of 11 Indian Tribes, the members of which now
13 live in the States of Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, and
14 Nevada;

15 (4) restoring the landscapes in the Grand Can-
16 yon helps uphold the responsibilities of the United
17 States to the Indian Tribes referred to in paragraph
18 (3); and

19 (5) the Dragon Bravo Fire and White Sage
20 Fire—

21 (A) collectively burned more than 200,000
22 acres of land in the North Rim and Kaibab Na-
23 tional Forest; and

24 (B) destroyed more than 100 structures,
25 including the Grand Canyon Lodge.

1 SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

2 In this Act:

3 (1) COVERED AREA.—The term “covered area”
4 means any area within the Grand Canyon National
5 Park or Kaibab National Forest impacted by the
6 Dragon Bravo Fire or White Sage Fire.

7 (2) DRAGON BRAVO FIRE.—The term “Dragon
8 Bravo Fire” means the wildfire in the North Rim of
9 Grand Canyon National Park in the State of Ari-
10 zona that began on July 4, 2025, and was contained
11 on September 29, 2025.

12 (3) FOREST MANAGEMENT OR RESTORATION
13 ACTIVITY.—The term “forest management or res-
14 toration activity” means slash and hazard tree (as
15 defined in section 512(a) of the Federal Land Policy
16 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(a)))
17 removal, erosion control, slope stabilization, tree re-
18 generation, wildlife rehabilitation, and reseeding with
19 native seeds.

20 (4) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
21 retary concerned” means—

22 (A) the Secretary of the Interior, acting
23 through the Director of the National Park
24 Service, with respect to the Grand Canyon Na-
25 tional Park; and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, with respect to the Kaibab National Forest.

4 (5) WHITE SAGE FIRE.—The term “White Sage
5 Fire” means the wildfire that began near Fredonia,
6 Arizona, on July 9, 2025, and was contained on
7 September 12, 2025.

8 SEC. 4. EMERGENCY CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned may use
10 emergency acquisition flexibilities under part 18 of title
11 48, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regula-
12 tions), including increased micro-purchase thresholds, sim-
13 plified acquisition thresholds, and other authorities de-
14 scribed in subpart 18.2 of that part, in contracting for
15 the following services within the covered area:

16 (1) Forest management or restoration activities
17 carried out in response to the Dragon Bravo Fire or
18 White Sage Fire, as applicable.

19 (2) Rebuilding, planning, development, and de-
20 sign of structures affected by the Dragon Bravo Fire
21 or White Sage Fire, as applicable.

22 (3) Improvements to the grounds and struc-
23 tures.

24 (4) Other recovery efforts necessary for the eco-
25 nomic and ecological well-being of the covered area.

1 (b) PROCESS FOR OTHER SERVICES.—Unless other-
2 wise provided by law or regulation, the authority granted
3 under subsection (a) shall not apply to contracts for serv-
4 ices other than those described in paragraphs (1) through
5 (4) of that subsection.

6 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
7 on which the Secretary concerned begins to use the au-
8 thority under subsection (a), and every 180 days there-
9 after until the date that is 180 days after the date de-
10 scribed in subsection (e), the Secretary concerned shall
11 submit to the Committees on Energy and Natural Re-
12 sources and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
13 of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources
14 and Oversight and Government Reform of the House of
15 Representatives a report that describes—

16 (1) all expenditures of the Secretary concerned
17 related to the recovery efforts for the Dragon Bravo
18 Fire or White Sage Fire, as applicable, in the cov-
19 ered area, including—

20 (A) a description of the expected cost of
21 recovery efforts;

22 (B) a description of cost expenditures;

23 (C) a description of cost overruns;

24 (D) the identification of contractors per-
25 forming the work associated with the recovery

1 from the Dragon Bravo Fire or White Sage
2 Fire, as applicable;

3 (E) a description of any affiliations or con-
4 flicts of interest between—

5 (i) the contractor; and

6 (ii)(I) the contracting office at the
7 Grand Canyon National Park or the Na-
8 tional Park Service; or

9 (II) the contracting office at the
10 Kaibab National Forest or the Forest
11 Service;

12 (F) a description of any waste, fraud, or
13 abuse detected during the recovery efforts;

14 (G) the identification of any contracts that
15 came in under expected expenses;

16 (H) an estimated time of completion for all
17 projects and full recovery efforts related to the
18 Dragon Bravo Fire or White Sage Fire, as ap-
19 plicable; and

20 (I) a description of whether an extension is
21 needed for the authority to complete projects
22 associated with the Dragon Bravo Fire or
23 White Sage Fire, as applicable; and

24 (2) any progress with respect to recovery efforts
25 by the Secretary concerned in the covered area relat-

1 ing to the Dragon Bravo Fire or White Sage Fire,
2 as applicable, during the period covered by the re-
3 port.

4 (d) EXTENSION.—If, after the date of enactment of
5 this Act, a new wildfire ignites within the covered area
6 that impacts recovery efforts relating to the Dragon Bravo
7 Fire or White Sage Fire, as applicable, the Secretary con-
8 cerned may request a 1-year extension of the authority
9 granted under subsection (a), subject to congressional ap-
10 proval.

11 (e) EXPIRATION.—The authority granted under sub-
12 section (a) shall expire on the date that is the earlier of
13 the following:

14 (1) 5 years after the date of enactment of this
15 Act.

16 (2) The date on which recovery efforts within
17 the covered area are determined by the Secretary
18 concerned to be complete.

19 **SEC. 5. PARTICIPATION OF INDIAN TRIBES AND LOCAL**
20 **STAKEHOLDERS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—In the conduct of planning, de-
22 sign, and reconstruction activities of the Secretary con-
23 cerned relating to the recovery of the covered area in re-
24 sponse to the Dragon Bravo Fire or White Sage Fire, as
25 applicable, the Secretary concerned shall—

7 (b) TRIBAL BUSINESSES AND LOCAL BUSINESSES.—

8 To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary con-
9 cerned shall prioritize contracting with Tribal businesses
10 and local businesses to carry out reconstruction activities
11 relating to the recovery of the covered area in response
12 to the Dragon Bravo Fire or White Sage Fire, as applica-
13 ble.

14 SEC. 6. CONTRACTS WITH CONCESSIONERS.

15 During the period beginning on the date of enactment
16 of this Act and ending on the date described in section
17 4(e), to facilitate recovery efforts relating to the Dragon
18 Bravo Fire or White Sage Fire, as applicable, in the cov-
19 ered area, the Secretary concerned may enter into non-
20 competitive procurement contracts with existing National
21 Park Service or Forest Service authorized concessioners
22 in the covered area to carry out coordinated recovery ef-
23 forts by the Secretary concerned and the concessioners at
24 facilities in the covered area that are operated by the Na-

1 tional Park Service, the Forest Service, or the conces-
2 sioners, as applicable.

3 **SEC. 7. STUDY AND REPORT.**

4 The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of
5 Agriculture shall jointly conduct a study of, and submit
6 to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on,
7 the costs of carrying out the recovery efforts authorized
8 under this Act.