

# TRIBAL SELF-DETERMINATION AND CO-MANAGEMENT IN FORESTRY ACT

## **Tribal Self-Determination and Co-Management in Forestry Act Ranking Member Jared Huffman (D-CA) Summary**

The Tribal Self-Determination and Co-Management in Forestry Act ensures the integration of Tribal Co-Management into decision-making processes at the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service. Tribal Nations have been stewards of the lands of the United States since time immemorial, providing critical wildfire prevention, landscape scale conservation, and cultural resources protection.

By empowering Tribes and federal land management agencies to work together as equal partners, Congress will take an important step toward fulfilling our treaty and trust responsibilities to Tribal Nations. As wildfires and other natural disasters increasingly impact communities across the United States, the Tribal Self-Determination and Co-Management in Forestry Act ensures that Tribes not only have a seat at the table but a meaningful stake in decisions affecting their communities. Tribes with the capacity and willingness to partner in federal land management should not be impeded by a lack of statutory authority or bureaucratic hurdles.

The Tribal Self-Determination and Co-Management in Forestry Act will:

- Require the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to develop Tribal Co-Management Plans in coordination with the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee.
- Requires all Department of the Interior employees involved in developing or implementing Tribal Co-Management Plans to receive necessary and culturally appropriate training, including education on the trust relationship between the federal government and Tribal Nations.
- Extends authority to the U.S. Forest Service to enter into Tribal Co-Management agreements.
  - Activities under the agreement may include forest planning and management, restoration and recreational activities, and research and development activities.
  - Each Tribal Co-Management Plan must be reviewed every five years to ensure communication and coordination between Tribes and the USFS, and a Tribe can request a review if a natural disaster occurs.
  - Requires the Secretary to consult with Tribes to ensure Indigenous Knowledge is incorporated into the decision-making process with appropriate safeguards to respect and protect the integrity of Indigenous Knowledge and data sovereignty of Tribes.
  - Directs the Secretary to reduce the administrative burden on Tribes, to the maximum extent practicable, by limiting or consolidating reporting requirements.