

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3907

To require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to create a classification that more accurately reflects the vital role of wildland firefighters.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 2, 2017

Mr. LAMALFA (for himself, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. GLANFORTE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to create a classification that more accurately reflects the vital role of wildland firefighters.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Wildland Firefighter
5 Recognition Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

1 (1) the term “Director” means the Director of
2 the Office of Personnel Management;

3 (2) the term “employee” has the meaning given
4 the term in section 2105 of title 5, United States
5 Code;

6 (3) the term “Federal land management agen-
7 cy” means—

8 (A) within the Department of the Inte-
9 rior—

10 (i) the Bureau of Land Management;

11 (ii) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

12 (iii) the National Park Service; and

13 (iv) the United States Fish and Wild-
14 life Service; and

15 (B) within the Department of Agriculture,
16 the Forest Service;

17 (4) the term “wildland fire”—

18 (A) means any non-structure fire that oc-
19 curs in vegetation or natural fuels; and

20 (B) includes prescribed fire and wildfire;
21 and

22 (5) the term “wildland firefighter” means—

23 (A) an employee of a Federal land man-
24 agement agency, the duties of whose position
25 are primarily to perform work directly related

1 to the prevention, control, suppression, or man-
2 agement of wildland fires, including an em-
3 ployee of a Federal land management agency
4 who is assigned to support wildland fire activi-
5 ties; and

6 (B) an employee of a Federal land man-
7 agement agency who is transferred to a super-
8 visory or administrative position from a position
9 described in subparagraph (A).

10 **SEC. 3. CLASSIFICATION OF WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS.**

11 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in
14 cooperation with the Federal land management
15 agencies, shall commence development of a distinct
16 wildland firefighter occupational series that more ac-
17 curately reflects the variety of duties performed by
18 wildland firefighters.

19 (2) DESIGNATION.—The official title assigned
20 to any occupational series established under para-
21 graph (1) shall include the designation of “Wildland
22 Firefighter”.

23 (3) POSITIONS DESCRIBED.—Paragraph (1)
24 shall apply with respect to any class or other cat-
25 egory of positions that consists primarily or exclu-

1 sively of forestry technician positions, range techni-
2 cian positions, or any other positions the duties and
3 responsibilities of which include—

4 (A) significant prevention, preparedness,
5 control, suppression, or management activities
6 for wildland fires; or

7 (B) activities necessary to meet any other
8 emergency incident to which assigned.

9 (4) CONSULTATION.—It is the sense of Con-
10 gress that the Director should consult with employee
11 associations and any other groups that represent
12 wildland firefighters in carrying out this subsection.

13 (5) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 2 years
14 after the date of enactment of this Act—

15 (A) the Director shall complete the devel-
16 opment of the wildland firefighter occupational
17 series required under paragraph (1); and

18 (B) the Secretary of the Interior and the
19 Secretary of Agriculture shall use the wildland
20 firefighter occupational series developed under
21 paragraph (1) in the advertising and hiring of
22 a wildland firefighter.

23 (b) HAZARDOUS DUTY DIFFERENTIAL NOT AF-
24 FECTED.—Section 5545(d)(1) of title 5, United States

1 Code, is amended by striking “except” and all that follows
2 and inserting the following: “except—

3 “(A) an employee in an occupational series
4 covering positions for which the primary duties
5 involve the prevention, control, suppression, or
6 management of wildland fires, as determined by
7 the Office; and

8 “(B) in such other circumstances as the
9 Office may by regulation prescribe; and”.

10 (c) CURRENT EMPLOYEES.—Any individual employed
11 as a wildland firefighter on the date on which the occupa-
12 tional series established under subsection (a) takes effect
13 may elect to—

14 (1) remain in the occupational series in which
15 the individual is working; or

16 (2) be included in the wildland firefighter occu-
17 pational series established under subsection (a).

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