

**PREVENTING CATASTROPHIC WILDLAND**

**FIRES**

2008 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Dennis E. Stowell**

House Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill enacts provisions relating to the prevention of catastrophic wildland fires.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ authorizes the Conservation Commission to:
  - enter into a cooperative agreement with a landowner to prevent wildland fire through land restoration;
  - give grants from the Wildland Fire Prevention Fund; and
  - make rules; and
- ▶ creates the Wildland Fire Prevention Fund, a restricted special revenue account.

**Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**4-18-28**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**4-18-29**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



28 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

29 Section 1. Section **4-18-28** is enacted to read:

30 **4-18-28. Cooperative agreements and grants to prevent wildland fire.**

31 The commission may:

32 (1) enter into a cooperative agreement with a federal, state, or private land owner to  
33 prevent catastrophic wildland fire through land restoration in a watershed that:

34 (a) is impacted by an invasive specie; or

35 (b) has a fuel load that may contribute to a catastrophic wildland fire;

36 (2) expend monies from the Wildland Fire Prevention Fund created in Section 4-18-29;

37 and

38 (3) in accordance with Title 63, Chapter 46a, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,  
39 make rules to:

40 (a) administer this section; and

41 (b) give grants from the Wildland Fire Prevention Fund.

42 Section 2. Section **4-18-29** is enacted to read:

43 **4-18-29. Wildland Fire Prevention Fund created.**

44 (1) (a) There is created a restricted special revenue fund known as the "Wildland Fire  
45 Prevention Fund."

46 (b) The fund shall consist of:

47 (i) money appropriated by the Legislature;

48 (ii) grants from the federal government;

49 (iii) grants or donations from a person; and

50 (iv) interest on fund monies.

51 (2) (a) The fund shall earn interest.

52 (b) All interest earned on fund monies shall be deposited into the fund.

53 (c) The department may use the interest deposited in the fund for administration costs.

54 (3) Any unallocated balance in the fund at the end of the year is nonlapsing.

55 (4) (a) The commission may use fund monies to give a grant to a federal, state, or

56 private land owner to prevent catastrophic wildland fire through land restoration in a watershed  
57 that:

58 (i) is impacted by an invasive specie; or

- 59           (ii) has a fuel load that may contribute to a catastrophic wildland fire.  
60           (b) A grant to a federal land owner must be matched with at least an equal amount of  
61 money by the federal land owner.  
62           (5) In giving a grant, the commission shall consider the effectiveness of a project in  
63 preventing the following effects of a catastrophic wildland fire:  
64           (a) first, the risk to public safety and health from:  
65           (i) air pollution;  
66           (ii) flooding; and  
67           (iii) reduced visibility;  
68           (b) second, damage to the environment, including:  
69           (i) soil erosion;  
70           (ii) degraded water quality; and  
71           (iii) release of carbon; and  
72           (c) third, damage to:  
73           (i) a local economy; and  
74           (ii) habitat for wildlife or livestock.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 1-28-08 4:48 PM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**S.B. 89 - Preventing Catastrophic Wildland Fires**

**Fiscal Note**

2008 General Session

State of Utah

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**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

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