

WILDLAND FIRE POLICY

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers

House Sponsor: Joel K. Briscoe

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies the responsibilities of the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ requires the director of the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands to:
 - coordinate the development of a state-wide wildland fire policy; and
 - report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim

Committee on the director's recommendation for a state-wide wildland fire policy;

- ▶ describes the goals of a state-wide catastrophic wildfire reduction strategy; and
- ▶ states that the division may use funds to promote wildfire prevention, wildfire mitigation, and wildfire preparedness.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

65A-8-103, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 342

ENACTS:



28 **65A-8-103.5**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

31 Section 1. Section **65A-8-103** is amended to read:

32 **65A-8-103. Forestry and fire control funds.**

33 (1) The division shall use money available to it to meet the costs of:

34 (a) controlling forest, range, and watershed fires;

35 (b) controlling insect and disease epidemics;

36 (c) rehabilitating or reforesting nonfederal forest, range, and watershed lands; ~~and~~

37 (d) promoting wildfire preparedness, wildfire mitigation, and wildfire prevention; and

38 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) carrying on the purposes of this chapter.

39 (2) All money available to the division to meet the costs of Subsections (1)(a) through

40 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) is nonlapsing and available to the division until expended.

41 (3) (a) The collection and disbursement of all money made available to the division

42 shall be in accordance with the rules of the Division of Finance.

43 (b) Money collected by the division from fees, rentals, sales, contributions,
44 reimbursements, and other such sources shall be deposited in the appropriate account.

45 Section 2. Section **65A-8-103.5** is enacted to read:

46 **65A-8-103.5. Wildland fire policy -- Report.**

47 (1) The director shall:

48 (a) coordinate the development of a comprehensive, state-wide wildland fire

49 prevention, preparedness, and suppression policy; ~~and~~

49a **(b) coordinate with applicable state agencies to identify critical wildlife habitat areas as**

49b **the policy described in Subsection (1)(a) is developed; and** ~~and~~

50 ~~and~~ ~~(b)~~ (c) report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim

50a Committee

51 by November 30, 2015, on the director's recommendation for the policy described in

52 Subsection (1)(a).

53 (2) The goals of the state-wide catastrophic wildfire reduction policy described in

54 Subsection (1)(a) shall be to:

55 (a) restore and maintain landscapes, ensuring landscapes across the state are resilient to

56 wildfire-related disturbances in accordance with fire management objectives;

57 (b) create fire-adapted communities, ensuring that human populations and

58 infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life or property; ~~and~~ ~~and~~

59 (c) improve wildfire response, ensuring that all political subdivisions can participate in
60 making and implementing safe, effective, and efficient risk-based wildfire management
61 decisions ~~§~~ → [] ; **and**

61a **(d) reduce risks to wildlife, such as the greater sage grouse, which can be devastated by**
61b **wildfire.** ← ~~§~~

62 (3) In developing the wildland fire policy described in Subsection (1)(a), the director
63 shall coordinate with representatives of counties, cities, and towns in the state, along with any
64 other stakeholders the director considers necessary and relevant, including the Catastrophic
65 Wildfire Reduction Strategy Statewide Steering Committee and six regional work groups.

Legislative Review Note
as of 1-8-15 11:21 AM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel