

# Wayne Allard

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## ALLARD PRAISES SENATE PASSAGE OF HEALTHY FORESTS BILL COLORADO LAWMAKERS WILDFIRE AMENDMENT INCLUDED IN THE BILL

Washington, D.C. --U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard (R-CO) announced that the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (H.R. 1904) passed the Senate late Thursday night by a vote of 80-14. This bill directs the timely implementation of scientifically-supported management activities to protect the health of the federal forests as well as the communities and private lands that surround them.

“The Healthy Forests Restoration Act is the first step to properly maintaining our forests and federal lands. The Federal Land management procedures should not be so complex that they prevent timely action to address crisis’ like these,” said Allard.

Within this bill Senator Allard also added an amendment that would increase the criminal penalty for those who violate bans on campfires when there is a high risk of fire danger on public lands.

The bill, similar to one introduced in the House by Congressman Tom Tancredo (R-CO) would establish a minimum fine of \$500 and a maximum jail sentence of one year if the violation results in damage to public or private property. Current penalties set a ceiling on fines at \$500 with a maximum jail term of six months.

“Fires caused by the negligent actions of careless individuals are simply unacceptable and there needs to appropriate consequences for such acts. This bill provides a strong deterrent to those who endanger our public lands,” added Allard.

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