



Summary Report

of Interim Committee Activities

Wildfire Matters Review Committee

Committee Members: Representative Elizabeth Velasco, Chair, Senator Lisa Cutter, Vice-chair
Senators Mark Baisley, Marc Catlin, Tony Exum, Janice Marchman, Cleave Simpson
Representatives Tisha Mauro, Lesley Smith, Larry Don Suckla, Ron Weinberg

Committee Charge

Pursuant to Section 2-3-1602, C.R.S., the committee is charged with reviewing and proposing legislation or other policy changes related to wildfire prevention, mitigation, and related matters, including public safety and forest health issues. In passing Senate Bill 13-082, which created the Wildfire Matters Review Committee, the General Assembly intended for the committee to be a permanent interim committee through which the General Assembly reviews state policies and resources addressing wildfire prevention and mitigation and the successful implementation and execution of such policies.

During the 2018 legislative session, the General Assembly passed [Senate Bill 18-039](#), which repealed obsolete provisions, provided funding for legislative staffing, and extended the repeal date of the committee to September 1, 2025.

Calendar of Events

June 16, 2025

- Presentation from the Department of Public Health and Environment
- Presentations from utility companies
- Presentation from the Department of Natural Resources and Colorado State Forest Service
- Presentation from the Division of Insurance
- Presentation from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Presentation from the Department of Local Affairs

June 25, 2025

- Field Trip to Jefferson County Airport in Broomfield
- Presentation from the Division of Fire Prevention and Control
- Presentation from the Center of Excellence



Wildfire Matters Review Committee

July 15, 2025

- Presentation from the Public Utilities Commission
- Presentation from the Colorado Forest Health Council
- Presentation from the Boulder Volunteer Fire Department
- Bill draft discussion and voting

August 26, 2025

- Public testimony
- Final action on bill draft requests

Recommended Legislation

As a result of committee discussion and deliberation, the committee recommends the following bills for consideration in the 2026 legislative session. Additionally, the committee sent [a letter](#) to stakeholders in the wildfire insurance and utilities sectors addressing the withdrawal of draft Bill 5 for the purpose of conducting further discussions with stakeholders.

Bill 1 – Recreate Wildfire Matters Interim Committee

Under current law, the Wildfire Matters Review Committee repeals on September 1, 2025. The bill continues the committee until June 30, 2031. The bill requires the committee to meet at least twice per year and may take two field trips every interim, though the chair may call additional meetings as necessary for the committee to complete its duties.

Bill 3 – CO State Forest Service Good Neighbor Authority

The bill clarifies the list of federal agencies covered under the Forest Service’s “Good Neighbor Authority” to include United States Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, and any agency within the Interior or Agriculture Departments. The bill also allows the Colorado State Forest Service to enter into projects that improve outdoor recreation opportunities.