



MEGAFIRE ACTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Megafire Action Statement on Chief Brian Fennessy Being Named Director of the United States Wildland Fire Service

Washington, D.C. – Megafire Action, the nation’s leading advocacy organization dedicated to solving the megafire crisis, today released the following statement in response to the news that Orange County Fire Authority Chief Brian Fennessy has accepted the position of Director of the newly created United States Wildland Fire Service (USWFS).

“Congratulations to Chief Fennessy on becoming the inaugural Director of the United States Wildland Fire Service,” said **Matt Weiner, founder and CEO of Megafire Action**. “His leadership at the Orange County Fire Authority set a high bar for integrity and operational excellence, and we’re confident he’ll do the same at the USWFS. This is a critical moment for the future of wildland firefighting, and we’re eager to partner with him to drive effective unification efforts and a stronger national wildfire response.”

In October, Megafire Action released a [comprehensive report](#) analyzing the Trump Administration’s proposal to unify the Federal wildland fire management mission within the Department of the Interior. The [analysis](#) builds on Megafire Action’s longstanding work on this issue, including a [February report](#) which examined the potential benefits and tradeoffs of relocating Forest Service wildland fire management and land management functions from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to DOI. This latest report provides a detailed comparison of the status quo, the Administration’s proposal, and several alternative approaches for unifying federal functions.

Based on extensive analysis and engagement with fire and land management experts, Megafire Action concludes that any successful consolidation should adhere to four overarching principles:

1. Unify Federal WFM personnel and assets, policymaking, and appropriations under DOI.
2. Integrate hazardous fuels management and WFM functions to improve performance and increase return on investment (ROI).
3. Strengthen capacity for land management activities that directly and indirectly support WFM, ensuring suppression does not crowd out long-term risk reduction work.

4. Ensure meaningful engagement with the Federal WFM workforce and a full range of external stakeholders.

Megafire Action's full report is available [HERE](#).

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