

Wildfire Management: Helping American Families Lower Costs



**MEGAFIRE
ACTION**

Smart investments in wildfire management lower the danger of wildfires and make life more affordable for everyone.

Rising Cost of Wildfires

The growing wildfire crisis is making life much more expensive for Americans:

- **Massive Costs:** Wildfires cost the U.S. between \$100 billion and \$500 billion every year, including direct damage and long-term economic losses. ([U.S. Department of Commerce](#))
- **Insurance Hikes:** Across the country, home insurance went up an average of \$648 (24%) between 2021 and 2024. In high-risk Western states, many families are seeing their bills jump by more than 50%. ([Consumer Federation of America](#), [Headwaters Economics](#))
- **Higher Power Bills:** Wildfires drive up electricity costs for ratepayers as utilities pay for repairs, legal fees, and rising insurance. ([The Electricity Journal](#))

Mitigation Saves Money

Investing in landscape resilience and home hardening pays off:

- **Huge Savings:** For every \$1 spent on targeted forest management and fuels removal, we can save up to \$7 in future costs and damages. ([Ecological Economics](#))
- **Smart Spending:** Every \$1 the government spends on grants to lower fire risks saves about \$3 by avoiding the massive costs of disaster recovery. ([U.S. Forest Service](#))

Direct Savings for Homeowners

Taking simple steps to clear dry brush and use fire-safe materials can more than double the chance of a home surviving a fire, while also cutting monthly bills:

- **Lowering Bills:** Switching to dual-pane windows can save homeowners between \$356 and \$1,509 a year on heating and cooling. Using high-quality "Class A" roofing can save families up to \$160 a year in energy costs in hot areas. ([EPA](#), [California Energy Commission](#))
- **Tax Breaks and Credits:** In some Western states, homeowners can qualify for state tax credits or lower property fees for protecting their property. ([Colorado Department of Revenue](#), [St. George News](#))

Benefits for the Whole Community

Caring for our forests and clearing hazardous fuels helps everyone by:

- **Preventing massive property damage** and protecting local infrastructure.
- **Saving taxpayer money** by reducing the need for expensive emergency response and recovery efforts.
- **Keeping our water clean** and our communities healthy.