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**HF Action Alert: Tell Congress How Important  
Forest Health and Wildfire Mitigation Are**

*By Dana Lee Cole*

*Hardwood Federation Executive Director*

2020 is shaping up to be a record-breaking year of catastrophic wildfires, particularly in the Western U.S. The magnitude of loss due to these fires is staggering and grows every day. While talking heads and pundits debate the driving causes of severe wildfire, the hardwood industry has known for generations that overstocked and mismanaged forest stands that have not been properly thinned are significant contributing factors to creating literal tinderboxes. Better plans to salvage usable timber, clear out dead and dying trees, and maintain an optimal forest floor must be implemented as part of the solution or this cycle of disastrous fire seasons will continue.

[CLICK HERE](#) to tell your elected Members of Congress how important proper forest management is, especially with regards to fire prevention and suppression. The 2020 fire season is expected to last at least another month, but it will eventually end. We cannot allow our elected officials to forget about forest health once the fires are doused. They must act this year to prevent yet another "worst season ever" from happening.

Be Well,  
Dana Lee Cole,  
Executive Director Hardwood Federation