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CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

June 16, 2016

The Honorable Tom Tidwell
Chief, U.S. Forest Service
Yates Building, 5th Floor
201 14th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Michael Black
Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
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1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

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Dear Chief Tidwell and Director Black:

I am writing regarding the rapidly growing wildfire (the "Cedar Creek Fire") near the communities of Show Low, Pinetop-Lakeside, and the White Mountain Apache Reservation in Arizona. I urge you to mobilize all necessary resources to contain this wildfire.

The Cedar Creek fire started yesterday afternoon and has already grown to more than 3,000 acres. Evacuations and pre-evacuations have been ordered for a number residents in the area.

This fire is burning in a region of the state that is at high risk of wildfire. Two of Arizona's largest wildfires in history have occurred in the area: the Wallow Fire in 2011 (538,049 acres) and the Rodeo-Chediski Fire in 2002 (468,638 acres). With dry and windy conditions forecast, I am deeply concerned over the potential for the Cedar Creek Fire to inflict catastrophic damage to human life and property to these communities.

I thank you and the brave firefighters and emergency responders who are assigned to this wildfire.

Sincerely,


John McCain
United States Senator