



Investing in the Future

The unprecedented investments available from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) have allowed the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service to promote economic stability in communities and build health and resilience on Federal, State, Tribal, and local lands. With this funding, the Forest Service is addressing the causes of the Nation’s wildfire crisis, sharing stewardship with States and Tribes, addressing climate change, and advancing equity and environmental justice.

Working Together and Expanding Partnerships

The Forest Service is forging new partnerships, expanding existing ones, and working across all lands to—

- Support ethnobotany efforts with 24 affiliated Tribes in Colorado; restoring national grasslands for bison reintroduction in Illinois; and protecting and restoring watershed, cultural, and ecological areas throughout the country by committing more than \$12 million for fiscal year [\(FY\) 2023 Tribal Forest Protection Act Projects using Good Neighbor Authority](#).
- Support Tribal participation in implementing BIL and IRA work with approximately \$100 million for Tribal “Keystone” Agreements.
- Help underserved communities and new partners access BIL and IRA funding opportunities by investing \$22 million in a “Community Navigator” program with assistance from the Hispanic Access Foundation, Coalitions, and Collaboratives and the Watershed Resource Training Center.
- Implement wildfire detection systems and using Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites for wildfire monitoring and tracking in partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Defense, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- Respond to invasive species threats by investing \$18 million in more than 44 projects and working with the Crow Reservation in Wyoming and other Tribes and underserved communities in Texas, South Carolina, and Alaska.
- Award over \$4 million in funding for temporary or “Skidder” Bridges to diminish damage to streambeds to 10 Tribes and 14 States.
- Provide forest landowner grants that focus on building climate and forest resilience markets to underserved and small acreage landowners, as well as Tribes and Indigenous communities.
- Provide low-income and underserved communities access to wood residuals with \$1.5 million investment in Firewood Banks, including \$824,000 awarded to Alliance for Green Heat and in partnership with Navajo, Hopi, Ute, Shoshone-Paiute, and Shoshone Bannock Tribes to provide wood for heating homes. This program benefits community well-being and supports use of material produced from forest health treatments.
- Improve our recreation infrastructure sites in conjunction with other funding sources, such as the Great American Outdoors Act or NATIVE Act supporting Tribal tourism.

The Forest Service is accepting grant applications:

Community Wildfire Defense Grants

Open until October 31, 2023, this funding helps communities and Tribes plan for and reduce the risk of wildfire.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants>.



Skidder Bridges/Temporary Water Crossing Rental Programs

Open on a rolling basis, until December 31, 2023, this funding helps States and Tribes protect water resources and reduce water quality degradation during forestry-related work. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/energy-forest-products/wood-innovation>.

The Alliance for Green Heat

This Forest Service partner is accepting applications for Firewood Banks subawards.

<https://www.firewoodbanks.org/copy-of-overview>

Growing and Nurturing Resilient Forests

The Forest Service is implementing a reforestation strategy using REPLANT Act and other funds by—

- Supporting a national seed strategy and reforestation and nursery programs. This includes support for State and seven Tribal nurseries that will produce culturally important seeds and seedlings for restoration of national forest and Tribally owned lands. We are working with Tribes, territories, commonwealths, and Puerto Rico to develop project proposals for an additional \$1,095,000 in funding.
- Protecting privately owned forests and providing benefits such as lands for recreation, clean water, and timber through the Forest Legacy Program.

Addressing Climate Change and Restoring Landscapes

The Forest Service is working across all lands to mitigate climate change and establish healthy landscapes by—

- Helping underserved and small acreage landowners access new climate and forest resilience markets with a \$150 million grant opportunity.
- Improving water quality and fish passage by investing \$25.5 million in the Collaborative Aquatic Landscape Restoration Program and other activities.
- Developing climate analytical services in partnership with American Forests to support climate-informed forest management.
- Helping reduce extreme heat island temperatures and pollution, as well as providing jobs and access to green space with \$1.5 billion in Urban and Community Forestry investments for planting trees in urban areas.
- Helping develop Biochar and other innovative products created from hazardous fuels removal.
- Restoring and revegetating formerly mined lands with \$20 million in investments that will allow storage of substantially more forest carbon in landscapes that are difficult to reforest.
- Providing funding for Community Wood to support the development of new products, facilities, and uses that sequester carbon or provide sustainable alternatives to more greenhouse gas intensive energy sources and products like plastic, metal, and concrete. This includes \$1.2 million to commission a wood energy facility that provides renewable, biomass-based energy to the community and contributes to a diversified energy mix.
- Increasing the efficiency of the wood products industry, advancing mass-timber construction, and supporting biomass energy by funding more than 100 projects.

Ricki Oldenkamp and Natural Resource Specialist Marion Glaser take down habitat fencing at the Russian River in Cooper Landing, Chugach National Forest. USDA Forest Service photo by Tyler Gagat.



Protecting Communities and Infrastructure

The Forest Service is focusing efforts on activities that mitigate the effects of wildfire to communities and infrastructure in the highest risk areas by—

- Helping develop and implement Community Wildfire Protection Plans by investing \$1 billion in the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program.
- Confronting the Nation's wildfire crisis and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires to underserved communities at high risk of wildfire by using more than \$2.3 billion in BIL and IRA funding to treat landscapes with mechanical thinning and prescribed fire.
- Addressing the Federal wildland firefighting workforce pay issues.
- Deploying new satellite and detection technology for wildfires.
- Increasing efforts to preplan wildfire suppression actions and create fuel breaks.
- Providing additional resources for State, Tribal, and local firefighting organizations by partnering with Tribes, local wildland fire managers, business owners, elected officials, and scientists to prepare and plan for future fires.

To find out more about how you can partner with the Forest Service and what the agency is doing in your community, please visit the website.



Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Dr. Homer Wilkes, speaks with Tribal Ecological Trainees from Klamath Tribes and affiliates working as part of the Tribal Ecological Forestry Training Program on the Lomakatsi Restoration Project in Siskiyou Mountain Park. USDA Forest Service photo by Preston Keres.

Notices of funding opportunities continue to be announced!

To stay up to date on announcements follow the [USDA Media page at usda.gov/media](https://www.usda.gov/media).



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