

BIL & IRA-supported Climate and Wildfire Resilience Funding Opportunities

The 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, or BIL) and the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) invested billions into Forest Service wildfire and climate resilience efforts. That funding is being made available to communities through a number of new and existing grant programs. The funding is also supporting a range of activities that are being implemented in part through Forest Service contracts and cooperative agreements. Those activities are listed at the end of this document.

Community Wildfire Defense Grant

Purpose: Offers funding to at-risk communities and Tribes for two purposes:

- Creating and updating Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)
- Implementing projects mentioned in a CWPP that is less than ten years old.

Funding timeline: The third of five rounds of funding is expected to be made available in summer, 2024.

Eligible entities: Local governments; non-profit organizations including homeowner associations; Indian Tribes; state forestry agencies (including U.S. territories and interests); Alaska Native Corporations.

Project criteria: To be eligible for funding, projects must benefit communities that face at least a moderate wildfire risk. Priority will be given to communities with high wildfire hazard potential, low income populations, and a history of severe disaster impacts. Match waiver provided to communities with CEJST disadvantaged status.

Funding range: Max \$250,000 for CWPP update/development; max \$10 million for CWPP implementation.

More information: www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants

Urban and Community Forestry

Purpose: Supports the enhancement and expansion of the nation's urban forest resources via tree planting, restoration, maintenance, and resilience. Additional programmatic goals are: workforce development, planning and community engagement, and extreme heat mitigation. The best opportunity for accessing UCF funding is through state sub-granting programs.

Funding timeline: State grants timelines vary; see [here](#) for an updated list.

Eligible entities: May vary by state program, but generally include local governments, federally recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations/villages, Tribal organizations, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and community-based organizations.

Project eligibility: Varies by state

Funding range: Varies by state

More information: www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf

State funding opportunities: <https://shorturl.at/oCLOR>



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Community Wood Grant Program

Purpose: Provides funding for grants to install thermally led community wood energy systems or to build innovative wood product manufacturing facilities. Additional program goals are to improve forest health and stimulate local economies.

Funding timeline: Next funding opportunity expected in fall 2024.

Eligible entities: Non-profits; local, state, and tribal governments; businesses, companies, corporations (for profit); institutions of higher education; and special purpose districts (public utility districts, fire districts, conservation districts, school districts, and ports.)

Project eligibility: The Forest Service expects renewable wood energy systems installed under this program to use the most stringent control technologies. The program places extra emphasis on assisting sawmills in economically challenged areas to retool or add advanced technology.

Funding range: Maximum \$1,000,000 per award; Federal funds may pay for up to 35% of total capital costs (50% if meet special considerations).

More information: www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/energy-forest-products/wood-innovation

Wood Innovations Grant Program

Purpose: Stimulates, expands, and supports U.S. wood products markets and wood energy markets to support the long-term management of the National Forest System and other forest lands. Focus areas include mass timber, renewable wood energy, and technological development that supports hazardous fuel reduction and sustainable forest management. Program goals are: 1. Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health on National Forest System and other forest lands. 2. Reduce cost of forest management on all land types. 3. Promote economic and environmental health of communities.

Funding timeline: Next funding opportunity expected in fall 2024.

Eligible entities: For-profit entities; state, local governments; Indian Tribes; school districts; community, not-for-profit organizations; institutions of higher education; and special purpose districts (e.g., public utilities districts, fire districts, conservation districts, and ports).

Project eligibility: Facility must be in close proximity to federal or Tribal lands and procure raw materials from federal or Tribal lands.

Funding range: Maximum of \$300,000 per award

More information: www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/energy-forest-products/wood-innovation

Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance (WPIA) Grant Program

Purpose: Provides support for facilities that purchase and process byproducts of ecosystem restoration projects. This includes applications to establish, reopen, retrofit, expand, or improve a sawmill or other wood-processing facility in close proximity to federal or Tribal lands that need ecosystem restoration and will generate byproducts.

Funding timeline: Next funding opportunity expected in fall 2024.



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Eligible entities: For-profit entities; state, local governments; Indian Tribes; school districts; community, not-for-profit organizations; institutions of higher education; and special purpose districts (e.g., public utilities districts, fire districts, conservation districts, and ports).

Project eligibility: The emphasis is on areas at risk of unnaturally severe fire or insect or disease infestation with high or very high priority for ecological restoration. Facility must be in close proximity to federal or Tribal lands and procure raw materials from federal or Tribal lands.

Funding range: \$50,000-\$1,000,000 per award

More information: www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/energy-forest-products/wood-innovation

Temporary Bridge Funding Opportunity Program

Purpose: Supports the establishment of temporary bridge rental/loan/cost-share programs with states and federally recognized Tribes to protect water resources and reduce water quality degradation during forestry-related operations.

Funding timeline: The program is open and available for response with rolling applications due on April 27, 2024, August 30, 2024, and December 27, 2024. Funding decisions will be made within 30 days of the due dates.

Eligible entities: State Governments and Indian Tribes. States may defer the grant authority to another responsible entity through a letter of designation.

Project eligibility: No other specifics provided

Funding range: None provided

More information: www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/energy-forest-products/wood-innovation

IRA Forest Landowner Support

Purpose: Provides grant opportunities to entities and organizations delivering technical and financial assistance to private forest landowners – including Tribes, underserved landowners, and small-acreage landowners – to participate in emerging private markets for forest resilience and climate mitigation. There are two specific funding opportunities available under this program.

- Small acreage and underserved: Proposals from an array of applicants to support the participation of underserved landowners and landowners owning less than 2,500 acres in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience.
- Tribal: Proposals from Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations/Villages, and Tribal Organizations to support Tribal access to emerging private markets for forest resilience or climate mitigation.

Funding timeline: Applications for both funding opportunities are being accepted through August 21, 2024.

Eligible entities:

- Small-acreage and underserved: State, local, and Tribal governments, Alaska Native Corporations and Villages, other Tribal entities, educational institutions, non-profit entities, for-profit entities.
- Tribal: Federally recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations and Villages, Tribal Organizations



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Project criteria:

- **Small-acreage and underserved:** Activities must support the participation of underserved and/or small-acreage forest landowners in emerging private markets for forest resilience or climate mitigation. Activities must occur on nonindustrial private forestland.
- **Tribal:** Project activities must target nonindustrial private forest land and must support the participation of Tribes and Tribal members in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience.

Funding range: Maximum of \$2 million per award

More information: www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/state-private-forestry/coop-forestry/ira-forest-landowner-support

**Note: The IRA Forest Landowner Support program is expected to release a cost-share and carbon payments funding opportunity in late summer or fall 2024*

Forest Legacy Program

Purpose: Encourages the protection of privately owned forest lands through conservation easements or land purchases.

Funding timeline: May 20, 2024 for IRA-funded Forest Legacy Program proposals.

Eligible entities: Nonindustrial and private landowners can participate in the program. Designated “state lead agencies” hold lands or interests in land acquired through the program (or share that responsibility through agreements with other state agencies/units of government)

Project eligibility: Projects must be

- Within, or partially within, a designated “Forest Legacy Area”
- Have a minimum of 75 percent forestland or a documented plan that includes sufficient landowner capacity to reforest to at least 75 percent forestland
- Be able to be managed consistent with the purpose for which it was acquired by FLP
- The landowner is willing to sell or donate the interest in perpetuity and acknowledges that a conservation easement will be held by a government entity if federal funds are used for the acquisition.

Funding range: None provided

More information: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/forest-legacy>



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BIL & IRA-funded Activities Implemented In Part Through Forest Service Contracts and Cooperative Agreements

To explore these opportunities, reach out to your local Forest Service unit or get in touch with a community navigator through the [Watershed Research and Training Center](http://www.thewatershedcenter.com) (www.thewatershedcenter.com). Assistance is also available through the Outreach and Partnerships Engagement Branch of the Forest Service's Grants and Agreements Office at accessga@usda.gov.

- Conduct restoration treatments and improve the Fire Regime Condition Class of 10,000,000 acres that are located in the wildland-urban interface or a public drinking water source area
- Mechanical treatments/thinning
- Prescribed fire and related activities (both planning and conducting prescribed burns)
- Fuel breaks
- Hazardous fuels treatments in the Wildland Urban Interface
- Post-fire restoration activities within 3 years of wildfire
- Restore native vegetation and mitigate hazards on previously mined lands
- Establishment and implementation of revegetation efforts
- Reforestation activities, as authorized by the Repairing Existing Public Land by Adding Necessary Trees (REPLANT) Act
- Landscape-scale contracts to restore ecological health
- Restoration projects implemented by states and Tribes through Good Neighbor Authority & Tribal Forest Protection Act
- Implementation of funding awarded through the [Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program](#) (see website for recent funding awards)
- Implementation of funding awarded through the new [Collaborative Aquatic Landscape Restoration Program](#) (see website for recent funding awards)
- Watershed Restoration
- Contracting or employing crews to modify and remove flammable vegetation on Federal land and using materials from treatments to, when possible, produce biochar and other innovative wood products. The Forest Service is encouraged to use existing locally based organizations like youth and conservation corps that engage young adults, Native youth, and veterans in service projects
- Provide feedstock to firewood banks and provide financial assistance for the operation of firewood banks
- Restore, prepare, or adapt recreation sites
- Identify and permanently plug and remediate orphaned wells
- Legacy roads and trails remediation and capital improvement of legacy and temporary roads
- Removal of non-hydropower Federal dams and dam removal technical assistance.
- Detect, prevent, and eradicate invasive species
- Pre-planning fire response workshops that develop Potential Operational Delineations and select potential control locations while providing workforce training for staff, non-Federal firefighters, and Native village fire crews.
- Research that directly supports any science needs related to BIL provisions (e.g. invasive species research)

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