Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

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Overview

• CWSF/WFLC Overview
• Infrastructure Bill
  – General Information
  – National Forest System
  – State and Private Forestry
  – Department of Interior
  – Wildfire Risk Reduction Section
  – Ecosystem Restoration Section
  – Federal Emergency Management Agency
  – Natural Resources Conservation Service
  – Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission
  – REPLANT Act
  – Other Provisions

• Questions
I. CWSF Overview
Council of Western State Foresters
II. Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act
Infrastructure Law

- **H.R. 3684** (Now Public Law No: 117-58)
- Signed into law November 15
- $1.2 Trillion
- Funding over 5 FY (FY22-FY26)
- [USFS Confronting the Wildfire Crisis: A Strategy for Protecting Communities and Improving Resilience in America’s Forests](#) – Announcement on initial investment in 10 landscapes
- [DOI Wildfire Risk Five-Year Monitoring, Maintenance, and Treatment Plan](#)
USFS: National Forest System

• $2.85B total for FY22-FY26 ($529.8M per FY)
• $2.12B total to carry out activities in sections 40803 and 40804 ($423M per FY)
• $514M for hazardous fuels management activities ($102.8M per FY)
  – Up to $12M a year to use State & Private Forestry authorities to create incentives for increased use of biomass on NFS lands, including the Community Wood Energy Program and the Wood Innovation Grants Program
  – Of this $12M up to $8M each year for implementation of the Tribal Forest Protection Act
• $225M for burned area recovery ($45M per FY)
USFS: State & Private Forestry

- $1.53B total over 5 years ($305.4M per FY)
- $718M to carry out activities in sections 40803 and 40804 ($143.6M per FY)
- $500M for grants to at-risk communities for wildfire mitigation activities ($100M per FY)
- $88M for State Fire Assistance ($17.6M per FY)
- $20M for Volunteer Fire Assistance ($4M per FY)
- $200.8M for state Forest Action Plan implementation ($40.16M per FY)
Department of the Interior

- $1.46B for DOI Wildland Fire Management
  - $1.055B to carry out activities in 40803 ($327M for FY22; $182M for FY23-26)
  - $178M for fuels management activities ($35.6M each FY)
  - $225M for burned area rehabilitation ($45M each FY)

- $455M for US Fish and Wildlife Service ($91M per FY)

- $11.3B for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund
Section 40803: Wildfire Risk Reduction

- $3.37B total for FY22-FY26
- $20M to work with NOAA to operate a program to detect starts in areas DOI and USDA has wildland fire financial responsibility
- $600M for salaries and expenses of federal wildland firefighters
- $10M for DOI for interoperability of radio frequencies for Type I and II IMTs
- $30M for financial assistance to states, Tribes, and local government to establish and operate reverse 911 telecommunications
- $50M for DOI slip-on tanker pilot program for local governments
- $1.2M for at-risk community map
- $100M for pre-planning fire response workshops
Section 40803: Wildfire Risk Reduction Continued

- $20M for USDA and the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institute mapping
- $20M Joint Fire Science Program
- $100M for Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program
- $500M for mechanical thinning and timber harvesting and precommercial thinning in young growth stands
- $500M for prescribed fire related activities
- $500M for developing or improving potential control locations
- $200M for contracting or employing crews of laborers for flammable vegetation removal on federal lands
- $200M for post-fire restoration
- $8M for firewood banks
- $10M for wildfire detection and real-time monitoring equipment
Community Wildfire Defense Grants

- $1B over 5 FY ($200M over 5FY)
- Grants to develop or revise a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and to carry out activities in a CWPP that is not more than 10 years old
- Priority given to at-risk community that is:
  - In an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential;
  - Low income; or
  - A community impacted by a severe disaster.
- Waiver for cost-share for projects serving underserved communities
Section 40804: Ecosystem Restoration

- $2.13B total for FY22-FY26
- $300M for entering into contracts, including stewardship contracts or agreements, to restore ecological health on federal lands
- $200M for states and Tribes to implement GNA on federal lands
- $400M financial assistance to byproduct processing facilities
- $400M to states, territories, and Tribes to implement voluntary ecosystem restoration projects in private or public land
- $50M in grants to establish rental programs for portable skidder bridges
Section 40804: Ecosystem Restoration
Continued

- $200M for invasive species detection, prevention, and eradication
- $100M restore, prepare, or adapt recreation sites on Federal land
- $200M to restore native vegetation and mitigate environmental hazards on federal and non-federal mined land
- $200M for national revegetation efforts on federal and non-federal land, including to implement the National Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration
- $80M collaborative-based, landscape scale restoration program to restore water quality or fish passage on Federal land
Federal Emergency Management Agency

- $1B for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) ($200M per FY)
  - Post-Fire Mitigation Projects
  - Wildfire Mitigation Projects
  - Non-Construction Activities

- $500M to implement the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act ($100M per FY)
  - Opportunity for FEMA to provide funds to states and tribal governments to administer Revolving Loan Funds through the state’s emergency management agency for mitigation

- **FEMA Wildfire Mitigation Grant Opportunities**
Natural Resources Conservation Service

- $500M for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations
- $118M for Watershed Rehabilitation Program
- $300M for Emergency Watershed Protection Program
Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission Act

- To study and make recommendations to improve federal policies related to the prevention, mitigation, suppression, and management of wildland fires and the rehabilitation of land devastated by wildland fires
- Composition:
  - Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture
  - Administrator of FEMA
  - 9 federal department or agency representatives
  - FEMA Mitigation Framework Leadership Group
  - National Interagency Coordination Center
  - Recovery Support Function Leadership Group
  - 18 non-federal stakeholders
- Establishment of Commission
- Call for non-federal members
Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission Act Continued

• Policy recommendations:
  – To facilitate efficient short- and long-term forest management in residential and nonresidential at-risk areas;
  – To manage the wildland-urban interface and utility corridors;
  – To improve the capacity of the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects;
  – For additional staffing or resources that may be necessary to more expeditiously prepare an environmental impact statement or analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act; and
  – For modernizing and expanding the use of technology.

• Provide:
  – an assessment of Federal spending on wildland fire-related disaster management; and
Repairing Existing Public Land by Adding Necessary Trees (REPLANT) Act

- Quadruples investment to support reforestation on national forests by removing the current $30M per year funding cap on the Reforestation Trust Fund
- Uses funds already collected through tariffs on foreign wood products
- Focus on reforestation following wildfires and other disasters
Other Provisions

• Extension of Secure Rural Schools

• Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Program
  – To improve the health and resilience of forest landscapes across NFS land and state, Tribal, and private land
  – $90M each for FY22 and FY23 authorized to be appropriated
III. Questions?

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IIJA Documents:
https://www.westernforesters.org/publications