

FISCAL YEAR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES



The West's open spaces, forests, rangelands, watersheds and agricultural soils – and the benefits they provide to all Americans – have never been more important or more threatened.

In America's rural West, economic, environmental, and community health should go hand in hand. Federal land management agencies, rural communities and businesses can work together to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire, improve ecosystem health, strengthen rural economies, and support the rural communities that help steward our public and private lands. With sufficient and stable funding for federal land management agencies, public and private lands conservation programs, and rural development programs, we can foster the health of the American West. Congress must sufficiently invest in federal agencies so they can support both vibrant rural communities and healthy landscapes.

To help rural America, the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition recommends four funding priorities for 2021.

RVCC'S TOP FUNDING PRIORITIES

- 1 Investments in proactive fire risk reduction to protect rural communities and create rural jobs**
- 2 Rural development programs, including Rural Business Development Grants and the Rural Energy for America Program**
- 3 Research that informs public lands management, particularly the impacts on rural communities and economies**
- 4 Private land stewardship programs that help landowners maintain and restore the health of the land**



FIRE RISK REDUCTION AND PUBLIC LANDS RESTORATION

To be strong partners to local communities, federal land management agencies must receive enough funding to accomplish their missions, including proactive hazardous fuels reduction, management of threatened and endangered species, and fire suppression. RVCC encourages restoring funding to programs that proactively reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LAND STEWARDSHIP

RVCC encourages Congress to support programs that contribute to collaborative restoration and stewardship economies on both public and private lands, including the **Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program**, **Farm Bill** working lands conservation programs, and the **State & Private Forestry Landscape Scale Restoration program**.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FOR RURAL ECONOMIES

Growing economic opportunity is vital to maintaining healthy rural communities. Federal investments in rural infrastructure and business development are critical to help start and expand rural business ventures through programs such as the **Rural Business Development Loans** and the **Rural Energy for America Program**.



SCIENCE SUPPORTS RURAL COMMUNITIES

Forest Service **Forest and Rangeland Research** and the **Joint Fire Science Program** play vital roles in shaping and improving economic and environmental outcomes on the ground. Research focused on responding to the rising threat of uncharacteristically severe wildfire is important, as are efforts focused on innovative wood products, recreation, rural economics, and the social impacts of public lands management. Information on changing rural social conditions and economies, like found in the Northwest Forest Plan socioeconomic monitoring efforts, can inform public lands management decisions and improve understanding of the economic impacts of public lands on rural communities.

USDA FOREST SERVICE	FY20 ENACTED	FY21 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET	RVCC FY21 REQUEST
National Forest System			
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program	\$40	\$0	\$80
Hazardous Fuels	\$445	\$510	\$510
Vegetation and Watershed Management	\$182	\$184	\$210
State and Private Forestry			
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program	\$4	\$0	\$5
Working Forest Lands Program	\$21	\$22	\$22
Forest Legacy Program	\$64	\$0	\$100
National Fire Capacity (National / Rural)	\$82 / \$18	\$81 / \$17	\$87 / \$20
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$14	\$14	\$20
Forest and Rangeland Research	\$305	\$249	\$305
Joint Fire Science Program	\$3	\$0	\$8
USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE	FY20 ENACTED	FY21 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET	RVCC FY21 REQUEST
Regional Conservation Partnership Program	\$300	\$300	\$300 (FMF)
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	\$1750	\$1800	\$1800 (FMF)
Conservation Stewardship Program	\$725	\$0	\$750 (FMF)
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	\$450	\$410	\$450 (FMF)
Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Program	\$5	\$0	\$25 (FMF)
USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT	FY20 ENACTED	FY21 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET	RVCC FY21 REQUEST
Rural Business Development Grants	\$37	\$0	\$65
Rural Energy for America Program	\$50 + 0.7(loans)	\$0	\$50 + 20 (loans)
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	FY20 ENACTED	FY21 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET	RVCC FY21 REQUEST
USFWS: Partners for Fish and Wildlife	\$57	\$57	\$57
USFWS: North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures	\$15	\$13	\$15
Wildland Fire Management			
Hazardous Fuels	\$194	\$228	\$228
Joint Fire Science Program	\$3	\$3	\$8
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	FY20 ENACTED	FY21 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET	RVCC FY21 REQUEST
NOAA: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	\$65	\$0	\$65

Note: Dollar amounts in millions. FMF = Full Mandatory Funding

COALITION SIGN-ONS



ALASKA

Southeast Alaska Wilderness
Exploration Analysis & Discovery

CALIFORNIA

California Center For Rural Policy
ForEverGreen Forestry
Sierra Institute for Community and
Environment
Watershed Research and Training
Center*

HAWAII

Hawaii Wildfire Management
Organization

IDAHO

Conservation Voters for Idaho
Idaho Conservation League
Policy Analysis Group*, Univ. of Idaho
Salmon Valley Stewardship*

MONTANA

Chickadee Forestry LLC
Heart of the Rockies*

NEVADA

The Shoesole Landowners
Boies Ranch
Cottonwood Ranch
Home Ranch

NEW MEXICO

Forest Stewards Guild*

OREGON

Blue Mountains Forest Partners*
McKenzie Watershed Stewardship
Group
Siuslaw Institute*
Sustainable Northwest*
Wallowa Resources*
Wisewood Energy

WASHINGTON

Mt. Adams Resource Stewards*

NATIONAL

Corazon Latino
Pinchot Institute for Conservation
The Wilderness Society

*Denotes RVCC Leadership Team member



ABOUT RVCC

RVCC envisions healthy landscapes and vibrant rural communities throughout the American West. We are committed to finding and promoting solutions through collaborative, place-based work that recognizes the inextricable link between the long-term health of the land and the well-being of rural communities.

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Working together for healthy landscapes and vibrant rural communities across the American West