

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2806

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to select and implement landscape-scale forest restoration projects, to assist communities in increasing their resilience to wildfire, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 22 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 21), 2021

Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. WYDEN)) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to select and implement landscape-scale forest restoration projects, to assist communities in increasing their resilience to wildfire, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Wildfire Emergency Act of 2021”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE FOREST RESTORATION

- Sec. 101. Definitions.
- Sec. 102. Purpose.
- Sec. 103. Selection and implementation of landscape-scale forest restoration projects.
- Sec. 104. Conservation finance agreements.
- Sec. 105. Administration.
- Sec. 106. Report evaluating implementation.
- Sec. 107. Funding.

TITLE II—INCREASING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO WILDFIRE

- Sec. 201. Critical infrastructure and microgrid program.
- Sec. 202. Retrofits for fire-resilient communities.
- Sec. 203. Hazard mitigation using disaster assistance.
- Sec. 204. Wildfire detection equipment.

TITLE III—RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- Sec. 301. Western prescribed fire centers.
- Sec. 302. Innovative forest workforce development program.
- Sec. 303. National community capacity and land stewardship grant program.

TITLE I—LANDSCAPE-SCALE FOREST RESTORATION

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CONSERVATION FINANCE AGREEMENT.—

The term “conservation finance agreement” means a mutual benefit agreement (excluding a procurement contract, grant, or cooperative agreement described in chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code)—

(A) the term of which is more than 1, but not more than 20, years;

(B) that may provide that performance under the agreement during the second and subsequent years of the agreement is contingent on the appropriation of funds; and

1 (C) if the agreement does so provide, that
2 may provide for a cancellation payment to be
3 made to the partner if those appropriations are
4 not made.

5 (2) ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS.—The term “eco-
6 logical conditions” has the meaning given the term
7 in section 219.19 of title 36, Code of Federal Regu-
8 lations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this
9 Act).

10 (3) ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY.—The term “eco-
11 logical integrity” has the meaning given the term in
12 section 219.19 of title 36, Code of Federal Regula-
13 tions (as in effect on the date of enactment of this
14 Act).

15 (4) LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT.—The term
16 “landscape assessment” means an assessment of a
17 landscape that—

18 (A) meets the requirements described in
19 section 103(c)(1)(C);

20 (B) does not constitute a decision docu-
21 ment or final agency action requiring a separate
22 analysis under the National Environmental Pol-
23 icy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

24 (C) may be presented—

25 (i) in a separate analysis;

- 1 (ii) within 1 or more broader analyses,
 2 including analyses under the National En-
 3 vironmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
 4 4321 et seq.); or
 5 (iii) through a combination of the
 6 analyses described in clauses (i) and (ii).

7 (5) RESTORE.—The term “restore” has the
 8 meaning given the term in section 219.19 of title 36,
 9 Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the
 10 date of enactment of this Act).

11 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 12 the Secretary of Agriculture.

13 (7) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term
 14 “wildland-urban interface” has the meaning given
 15 the term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Res-
 16 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

17 **SEC. 102. PURPOSE.**

18 The purpose of this title is to increase the pace and
 19 scale of forest restoration and reduction in the risk of
 20 uncharacteristic wildfire through—

- 21 (1) authorizing a pilot program with conserva-
 22 tion finance agreement authority to leverage other
 23 Federal and non-Federal investment (excluding
 24 funds appropriated to the Forest Service) in land-
 25 scape-scale forest restoration and related natural

1 and built infrastructure, equipment, and job train-
 2 ing;

3 (2) project planning and analysis practices that
 4 effectively scale up to the landscape level of 100,000
 5 acres or more;

6 (3) requiring ecological standards and collabo-
 7 ration for landscape-scale projects; and

8 (4) coordination with Federal, State, local, and
 9 Tribal agencies to expand personnel options to sup-
 10 port the pilot program described in paragraph (1) by
 11 taking advantage of interorganizational support.

12 **SEC. 103. SELECTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LAND-**
 13 **SCAPE-SCALE FOREST RESTORATION**
 14 **PROJECTS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall select, in ac-
 16 cordance with this section, landscape-scale forest restora-
 17 tion projects located west of the 100th meridian—

18 (1) to implement on National Forest System
 19 land; and

20 (2) if applicable, to implement on land adjoin-
 21 ing National Forest System land, in coordination
 22 with other Federal and non-Federal entities.

23 (b) INITIAL PHASE.—During the 5-year period begin-
 24 ning on the date of enactment of this Act, subject to the
 25 availability of appropriations pursuant to section 107(a),

1 the Secretary shall select not more than 20 landscape-
2 scale forest restoration projects under subsection (a).

3 (c) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), to
5 be eligible for selection and implementation under
6 subsection (a), a landscape-scale forest restoration
7 project shall satisfy the following requirements:

8 (A) The purposes and needs for the project
9 shall be—

10 (i) to restore the ecological integrity
11 and ecological resilience of terrestrial and
12 aquatic areas that have departed from ref-
13 erence conditions within the forest land-
14 scape;

15 (ii) to restore appropriate natural fire
16 regimes, including by reducing fuel loads
17 and modifying forest structure in areas
18 that have departed from reference condi-
19 tions, taking into account the current and
20 projected impacts of climate change; and

21 (iii) to conduct wildfire risk reduction
22 activities within the wildland-urban inter-
23 face to the extent that the project includes
24 lands within the wildland-urban interface.

1 (B) The project shall be developed and
2 supported by a collaborative group that—

3 (i) includes multiple interested per-
4 sons representing diverse interests;

5 (ii) is transparent and inclusive; and

6 (iii) has sufficient expertise, capacity,
7 and scientific support to effectively plan,
8 implement, and monitor landscape-level,
9 ecologically based forest restoration activi-
10 ties.

11 (C) The project shall be based on a land-
12 scape assessment that shall—

13 (i) cover a landscape of—

14 (I) except as provided in sub-
15 clause (II), not less than 100,000
16 acres; or

17 (II) in such limited cases as the
18 Secretary determines to be appro-
19 priate, not less than 80,000 acres if—

20 (aa) the assessment is com-
21 pleted or substantially completed
22 as of the date of enactment of
23 this Act; and

24 (bb) in the determination of
25 the Secretary, assessing a larger

1 area is not necessary to restore
2 the integrity, resilience, and fire
3 regimes of the landscape;

4 (ii) evaluate ecological integrity and
5 determine reference conditions for the
6 landscape;

7 (iii) identify terrestrial and aquatic
8 areas within the landscape that have de-
9 parted from reference conditions;

10 (iv) identify criteria to determine ap-
11 propriate restoration treatments within de-
12 graded areas of the landscape to achieve
13 reference conditions, including manage-
14 ment prescriptions, mitigation measures,
15 and constraints to be applied when car-
16 rying out actions in those areas;

17 (v) be based on the best available sci-
18 entific information and data, including,
19 where applicable, high-resolution imagery,
20 LiDAR, and similar technologies and infor-
21 mation, and involve direct engagement by
22 scientists; and

23 (vi) identify priority restoration strat-
24 egies for terrestrial and aquatic areas, in-
25 cluding prescribed fire and wildfires man-

1 aged for multiple resource benefits, which
2 shall focus on—

3 (I) areas that are the most de-
4 parted from reference conditions; and

5 (II) areas that would benefit the
6 most from reducing the risk of
7 uncharacteristic wildfire, especially
8 with respect to nearby communities,
9 taking into account other completed,
10 ongoing, and planned fuels-reduction
11 projects.

12 (D) Restoration treatments under the
13 project—

14 (i) shall emphasize the reintroduction
15 of characteristic fire, based on forest ecol-
16 ogy and reference conditions, through the
17 use of prescribed fire, wildfire managed for
18 resource benefits, or both;

19 (ii) that involve any proposed mechan-
20 ical treatments shall be designed to pro-
21 mote—

22 (I) the restoration of reference
23 conditions in areas that lack ecological
24 integrity, especially the reduction of
25 surface and ladder fuels; and

1 (II) the establishment of condi-
2 tions that will facilitate prescribed fire
3 or managed wildfire;

4 (iii) shall—

5 (I) fully maintain or contribute
6 to the restoration of reference old for-
7 est conditions, taking into account the
8 current and projected impacts of cli-
9 mate change; and

10 (II) protect or increase the num-
11 ber and distribution of large old trees,
12 consistent with reference conditions,
13 excepting any de minimis losses of
14 large old trees from prescribed fire or
15 hazardous tree removal; and

16 (iv) that involve prescribed fire shall
17 provide advance notification, in accordance
18 with notification procedures developed by
19 the Secretary, to the owner or operator of
20 critical infrastructure, such as a power line
21 right-of-way, of any prescribed fire treat-
22 ments within close proximity to the infra-
23 structure.

24 (E) The project shall be consistent with all
25 applicable environmental laws, including—

1 (i) the National Environmental Policy
2 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

3 (ii) the Endangered Species Act of
4 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

5 (iii) the Forest and Rangeland Renew-
6 able Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
7 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.).

8 (F) The project shall be consistent with
9 the Roadless Area Conservation Rule estab-
10 lished under part 294 of title 36, Code of Fed-
11 eral Regulations (or successor regulations), and
12 the final rule and record of decision of the For-
13 est Service entitled “Special Areas; Roadless
14 Area Conservation” (66 Fed. Reg. 3244 (Janu-
15 ary 12, 2001)) (or a successor rule).

16 (G) The project shall require multiparty
17 monitoring, including opportunities for public
18 engagement, and an adaptive management ap-
19 proach that—

20 (i) conditions the future implementa-
21 tion of the project on the satisfactory com-
22 pletion of—

23 (I) priority restoration actions;

24 and

25 (II) required monitoring;

1 (ii) validates conditions projected to
2 occur in the environmental analysis for the
3 project; and

4 (iii) requires modifications to the
5 project if monitoring reveals impacts be-
6 yond the anticipated impacts of the
7 project.

8 (H)(i) No new permanent road may be
9 built as part of the project.

10 (ii) Any new temporary roads needed to
11 implement the project shall be decommissioned
12 not later than 3 years after completion of the
13 project.

14 (I) The project shall use an efficient ap-
15 proach to landscape-scale analysis and decision-
16 making that is consistent with the National En-
17 vironmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
18 4321 et seq.), which may include—

19 (i) the preparation of a single environ-
20 mental impact statement or environmental
21 assessment, as applicable, for the entire
22 project, incorporating the landscape assess-
23 ment described in subparagraph (C);

24 (ii) the use of, as applicable—

1 (I) multiple records of decision to
2 implement a single environmental im-
3 pact statement; or

4 (II) multiple decision notices to
5 implement a single environmental as-
6 sessment;

7 (iii) the preparation of a pro-
8 grammatic environmental impact state-
9 ment or environmental assessment, as ap-
10 plicable, for the entire project, incor-
11 porating the landscape assessment de-
12 scribed in subparagraph (C), followed by
13 focused, concise, and site-specific—

14 (I) environmental assessments; or

15 (II) categorical exclusions con-
16 sistent with the National Environ-
17 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
18 4321 et seq.); or

19 (iv) the use of the landscape assess-
20 ment described in subparagraph (C),
21 through incorporation by reference and
22 similar approaches, to support focused,
23 concise, and site-specific—

24 (I) environmental assessments; or

1 (II) categorical exclusions con-
2 sistent with the National Environ-
3 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
4 4321 et seq.).

5 (2) EXCEPTION.—If the Secretary determines
6 that there are an insufficient number of projects
7 that fully comply with the requirements described in
8 paragraph (1) to implement based on all available
9 funding, then the Secretary may, during the 2-year
10 period beginning on the date of enactment of this
11 Act, select under subsection (a) not more than a
12 total of 5 landscape-scale forest restoration projects
13 to implement that do not fully comply with those re-
14 quirements if the projects—

15 (A) fully comply with the requirements de-
16 scribed in subparagraphs (B), (D), (E), (F),
17 (G), (H), and (I) of that paragraph;

18 (B) in the determination of the Secretary,
19 have purposes and needs that are consistent
20 with the purposes and needs described in sub-
21 paragraph (A) of that paragraph; and

22 (C) are supported by landscape assess-
23 ments that are substantially (if not completely)
24 consistent with the requirements described in
25 subparagraph (C) of that paragraph, subject to

1 the condition that the applicable landscape as-
2 sessments fully comply with the requirements
3 described in clauses (i) and (v) of that subpara-
4 graph.

5 (d) EVALUATION OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—In determining which land-
7 scape-scale forest restoration projects to select under
8 subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider—

9 (A) the criteria described in paragraph (2);

10 (B) the extent to which the project utilizes
11 the approaches to project implementation de-
12 scribed in paragraph (3); and

13 (C) the recommendations of the advisory
14 panel established under subsection (e).

15 (2) CRITERIA.—The criteria referred to in
16 paragraph (1)(A) are—

17 (A) the demonstrated need, based on the
18 best available science, to restore ecological in-
19 tegrity to degraded or departed areas within the
20 landscape covered by the project, taking into
21 account the current and projected impacts of
22 climate change;

23 (B)(i) the importance of watersheds in the
24 area covered by the project for downstream
25 waters supply; and

1 (ii) the opportunity to improve the ecologi-
2 cal integrity and ecological conditions of those
3 watersheds and reduce risks to water resources
4 through landscape-scale forest restoration;

5 (C)(i) the potential extent of cost sharing
6 for the development and implementation of the
7 project from diverse sources, such as State or
8 local governments, water or electric utilities,
9 carbon credits, or private entities; and

10 (ii) the proportion of the non-Federal cost
11 share that is in the form of cash contributions;

12 (D) whether the area covered by the
13 project has high-resolution, remote-sensing data
14 and other information available that enables a
15 landscape assessment and a robust analysis and
16 disclosure of the effects and outcomes of imple-
17 menting restoration activities;

18 (E) whether the project is using, or will
19 use, innovative approaches to completing re-
20 source surveys that are less costly and less
21 time-consuming than usual practices while pro-
22 viding the information necessary for project de-
23 sign and analysis;

24 (F) whether the project will reduce the
25 number of miles of permanent roads on Na-

1 tional Forest System land that are not nec-
2 essary for resource management or recreational
3 access;

4 (G) whether the project will assess or
5 quantify the ecosystem service benefits of forest
6 restoration within the landscape covered by the
7 project, such as water, carbon, biodiversity, fire
8 risk reduction, public health, and community
9 safety;

10 (H) whether the project has the potential
11 to support new or existing wood processing in-
12 frastructure that can make economic use of the
13 byproducts of forest restoration;

14 (I) whether the project has the potential to
15 support local employment and investment op-
16 portunities, particularly in economically dis-
17 advantaged communities;

18 (J) the scale of the landscape assessment
19 for the project, with a preference for projects
20 for which the landscape assessment covers a
21 larger area; and

22 (K) whether the project—

23 (i) strives to restore ecological integ-
24 rity and ecological conditions within areas

across land ownerships, including State
and private land; and

(ii) will reduce the risk of
uncharacteristic wildfire, and, to the extent
practicable, restore ecological integrity,
within the wildland-urban interface.

(3) APPROACHES TO LANDSCAPE-SCALE
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.—A landscape-scale res-
toration project carried out under this section may
use 1 or both of the following approaches to project
implementation:

(A) CONSERVATION FINANCE AGREE-
MENTS.—The Secretary may enter into a con-
servation finance agreement under the pilot
program established under section 104(a) to
carry out the project for the purpose of facili-
tating private, other non-Federal, and other
Federal investment (excluding the investment of
any other amounts appropriated to the Forest
Service)—

(i) to increase the pace and scale of
forest restoration at the landscape level;

(ii) to support the use of prescribed
fire at a greater scale; or

1 (iii) to make greater economic use of
 2 the byproducts of forest restoration to re-
 3 duce the net cost of forest restoration.

4 (B) INTERAGENCY PERSONNEL COLLABO-
 5 RATION.—The Secretary may coordinate with
 6 Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies to ex-
 7 pand personnel options to support the project
 8 by using authorities such as—

9 (i) the good neighbor authority under
 10 section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of
 11 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a);

12 (ii) sections 3371 through 3376 of
 13 title 5, United States Code (commonly re-
 14 ferred to as the “Intergovernmental Per-
 15 sonnel Act”); and

16 (iii) part 334 of title 5, Code of Fed-
 17 eral Regulations (or successor regulations).

18 (e) ADVISORY PANEL.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
 20 and maintain an advisory panel composed of not
 21 more than 15 members to evaluate, and provide rec-
 22 ommendations on—

23 (A) each landscape-scale forest restoration
 24 project that the Secretary is reviewing for po-
 25 tential selection under subsection (a); and

1 (B) proposals for planning and developing
2 landscape-scale forest restoration projects that
3 the Secretary is reviewing for potential funding
4 under section 107(a)(1).

5 (2) REPRESENTATION.—The Secretary shall en-
6 sure that the membership of the advisory panel es-
7 tablished under paragraph (1) is fairly balanced in
8 terms of the points of view represented and the
9 functions to be performed by the advisory panel.

10 (3) INCLUSION.—The advisory panel estab-
11 lished under paragraph (1) shall include experts in
12 ecological forest restoration, fire ecology, fire man-
13 agement, rural economic and workforce development,
14 strategies for ecological adaptation to climate
15 change, fish and wildlife ecology, and woody biomass
16 and small-diameter tree utilization.

17 (4) EXEMPTION.—The advisory panel estab-
18 lished under paragraph (1) shall be exempt from the
19 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

20 **SEC. 104. CONSERVATION FINANCE AGREEMENTS.**

21 (a) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—The Secretary
22 shall establish a pilot program under which the Secretary
23 may enter into a conservation finance agreement with a
24 public or private person, including a for-profit or nonprofit
25 organization, to plan, implement, and monitor a land-

1 scape-scale forest restoration project selected by the Sec-
2 retary under section 103(a) if the Secretary finds each of
3 the following:

4 (1) There is a reasonable expectation that,
5 throughout the contemplated agreement period, the
6 Secretary will request funding for the agreement at
7 the level required to avoid agreement cancellation.

8 (2) The environmental analysis for the project
9 demonstrates that there is a sufficient supply of
10 small-diameter material to support a long-term
11 agreement consistent with the landscape assessment
12 and all applicable environmental laws.

13 (3) The use of the conservation finance agree-
14 ment will, in the area of the applicable landscape-
15 scale forest restoration project, assist in achieving
16 the purpose described in section 102.

17 (4) The project involves an entity that dem-
18 onstrates experience in—

19 (A) developing and implementing conserva-
20 tion finance public-private partnerships; and

21 (B) raising capital commitments from
22 concessional and market rate investors or other
23 external financing.

24 (b) LIMITED DELEGATION.—The Secretary may not
25 delegate the pilot program authority under subsection (a)

1 to a Federal official that serves under the Chief of the
2 Forest Service.

3 (c) LIMITATIONS.—The pilot program authority
4 under subsection (a)—

5 (1) may be used for the obligation under con-
6 servation finance agreements of not more than—

7 (A) \$250,000,000 in the aggregate; and

8 (B) \$50,000,000 for any 1 landscape-scale
9 forest restoration project; and

10 (2) may not be used to pay interest to any
11 other entity providing funds for the applicable land-
12 scape-scale forest restoration project.

13 (d) CANCELLATION, TERMINATION, OR MODIFICA-
14 TION FOR INSUFFICIENT FUNDING.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—

16 (A) INSUFFICIENT FUNDING.—If funds are
17 not made available for the continuation of a
18 conservation finance agreement made under
19 this section into a subsequent fiscal year, the
20 agreement shall be canceled, terminated, or
21 modified.

22 (B) PAYMENT OF COSTS.—If the Secretary
23 determines that it is necessary to cancel or ter-
24 minate a conservation finance agreement pursu-
25 ant to subparagraph (A), and the conservation

1 finance agreement includes a cancellation provi-
2 sion described in paragraph (2)(A), the Sec-
3 retary may pay the costs of that cancellation or
4 termination using any of the following amounts:

5 (i) Appropriations originally available
6 for the performance of the applicable con-
7 servation finance agreement.

8 (ii) Appropriations currently available
9 for the type of services concerned under
10 the applicable conservation finance agree-
11 ment, and not otherwise obligated.

12 (iii) Funds appropriated for payments
13 for those costs of cancellation or termi-
14 nation.

15 (2) PROVISIONS IN AGREEMENTS.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
17 provide for cancellation provisions in conserva-
18 tion finance agreements under this section to
19 the extent that those provisions are necessary
20 and in the best interests of the United States.

21 (B) CONSIDERATIONS.—The cancellation
22 provisions described in subparagraph (A) may
23 include consideration of the recurring and non-
24 recurring costs of the partner under the appli-
25 cable conservation finance agreement.

1 (3) CANCELLATION CEILINGS.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may ob-
3 ligate funds in stages that are economically or
4 programmatically viable to cover any potential
5 cancellation or termination costs for a conserva-
6 tion finance agreement under paragraph (1)(B)
7 and implement the agreement pursuant to this
8 section.

9 (B) ADVANCE NOTICE TO CONGRESS OF
10 CANCELLATION CEILING IN EXCESS OF
11 \$25,000,000.—Not later than 30 days before en-
12 tering into a conservation finance agreement
13 under this section that includes a cancellation
14 ceiling in excess of \$25,000,000, but does not
15 include proposed funding for the costs of can-
16 celling the agreement up to that cancellation
17 ceiling, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
18 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources and
19 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
20 Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on
21 Natural Resources and the Committee on Agri-
22 culture of the House of Representatives a writ-
23 ten notice that includes—

1 (i) a description of the cancellation
2 ceiling amounts proposed for each program
3 year in the agreement;

4 (ii) the reasons why the cancellation
5 ceiling amounts described under clause (i)
6 were selected;

7 (iii) a description of the extent to
8 which the costs of agreement cancellation
9 are not included in the budget for the
10 agreement; and

11 (iv) an assessment of the financial
12 risk of not including budgeting for the
13 costs of agreement cancellation.

14 (C) TRANSMITTAL OF NOTICE TO OMB.—

15 Not later than 14 days after the date on which
16 written notice is provided under subparagraph
17 (B), the Secretary shall transmit a copy of the
18 notice to the Director of the Office of Manage-
19 ment and Budget.

20 (D) RELATIONSHIP OF CANCELLATION

21 CEILING TO CONSERVATION FINANCE AGREE-
22 MENT.—The Secretary may enter into a con-
23 servation finance agreement pursuant to this
24 section that includes partner services in return
25 for payments by the Secretary in future years

1 that are contingent on the appropriation of
2 funds, subject to the requirement that the Sec-
3 retary shall pay the partner cancellation costs
4 pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) up to the can-
5 cellation ceiling applicable to the agreement if
6 funding for the completion of the agreement is
7 not appropriated.

8 **SEC. 105. ADMINISTRATION.**

9 (a) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date
10 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue guid-
11 ance on the implementation of this title.

12 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—A landscape-scale forest res-
13 toration project under this title shall be implemented con-
14 sistent with—

15 (1) the requirements for the project described
16 in section 103(c); and

17 (2) all project commitments described in the 1
18 or more decisions or decision notices relating to the
19 project.

20 **SEC. 106. REPORT EVALUATING IMPLEMENTATION.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the
22 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
23 to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Com-
24 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives
25 and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and

1 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report
2 evaluating the implementation of this title, including—

3 (1) a list of the landscape-scale forest restora-
4 tion projects selected under section 103(a) and the
5 accomplishments under those projects;

6 (2) an evaluation of the approaches to project
7 planning and implementation described in section
8 103(d)(3) based on the experience of the implemen-
9 tation of those approaches in the projects described
10 in paragraph (1); and

11 (3) an evaluation of the pilot authority for con-
12 servation finance agreements described in section
13 104, including whether that authority has—

14 (A) increased the availability of non-Fed-
15 eral funding sources to assist in landscape-scale
16 forest restoration projects; and

17 (B) promoted private or other non-Federal
18 investment in—

19 (i) new or existing infrastructure and
20 related equipment that can make use of
21 the byproducts of forest restoration;

22 (ii) the use of prescribed fire at a
23 greater scale;

24 (iii) related economic development and
25 workforce training and development;

1 (iv) land management activities en-
 2 hancing natural infrastructure with bene-
 3 fits for downstream water users; or

4 (v) mitigating the risk of
 5 uncharacteristic wildfire.

6 (b) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report under
 7 subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with the advi-
 8 sory panel established under section 103(e).

9 **SEC. 107. FUNDING.**

10 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 11 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
 12 \$250,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022 through
 13 2026, to remain available until expended—

14 (1) to plan and develop potential landscape-
 15 scale forest restoration projects under this title that
 16 the Secretary and a collaborative group described in
 17 section 103(c)(1)(B) shall design—

18 (A) to meet the requirements of section
 19 103(c); and

20 (B) to satisfy the criteria described in sec-
 21 tion 103(d)(2), to the maximum extent prac-
 22 ticable; and

23 (2) to implement landscape-scale forest restora-
 24 tion projects selected under section 103.

1 (b) SOURCES OF FUNDING.—Landscape-scale forest
 2 restoration projects under this Act may be carried out
 3 using—

- 4 (1) amounts appropriated under subsection (a);
- 5 (2) other sources of Forest Service funding;
- 6 (3) other sources of Federal funding;
- 7 (4) non-Federal funding sources; or
- 8 (5) any combination of the amounts described
- 9 in paragraphs (1) through (4).

10 (c) COST-SHARE.—

11 (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—

12 (A) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.—The
 13 Federal share of the cost of planning and devel-
 14 oping a potential landscape-scale forest restora-
 15 tion project under this title shall not exceed 75
 16 percent.

17 (B) IMPLEMENTATION AND MONI-
 18 TORING.—The Federal share of the cost of car-
 19 rying out and monitoring each landscape-scale
 20 forest restoration project on National Forest
 21 System land under this title shall not exceed 60
 22 percent.

23 (2) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-
 24 Federal share of the cost of a project carried out

1 using funds made available pursuant to this title
2 may include in-kind contributions.

3 (d) ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT.—Not less than 5 per-
4 cent of the amount made available for each landscape-
5 scale forest restoration project under this title shall be
6 used for monitoring and adaptive management in the ap-
7 plicable landscape.

8 (e) STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING.—In the case of a
9 landscape-scale forest restoration project under this title
10 that is covered by an agreement or a contract under sec-
11 tion 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
12 (16 U.S.C. 6591c), the Secretary may use monies retained
13 by the Secretary under subsection (e)(2)(A) of that section
14 to plan, analyze, and implement landscape-scale forest res-
15 toration projects within the area covered by that agree-
16 ment or contract consistent with this title.

17 (f) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 5 per-
18 cent of any amounts appropriated to carry out this title
19 may be used for administrative management and program
20 oversight.

1 **TITLE II—INCREASING COMMU-**
 2 **NITY RESILIENCE TO WILD-**
 3 **FIRE**

4 **SEC. 201. CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND MICROGRID**
 5 **PROGRAM.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) CRITICAL FACILITY.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “critical fa-
 9 cility” means a facility that provides services or
 10 may be used—

11 (i) to save lives;

12 (ii) to protect property, public health,
 13 and public safety; or

14 (iii) to lessen or avert the threat of a
 15 catastrophe.

16 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “critical facil-
 17 ity” includes—

18 (i) a hospital;

19 (ii) an outpatient clinic;

20 (iii) a nursing home;

21 (iv) a police station;

22 (v) an emergency operation center;

23 (vi) a jail or prison;

24 (vii) a fire station;

1 (viii) a facility in the communications
2 sector, as determined by the Secretary;

3 (ix) a facility in the chemical sector,
4 as determined by the Secretary;

5 (x) a school or other large building
6 that may serve as a temporary gathering
7 space;

8 (xi) a utility station, such as a water
9 and wastewater station;

10 (xii) a facility described in subpara-
11 graph (A) that is owned or operated by, or
12 provides services to, an Indian Tribe (as
13 defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-De-
14 termination and Education Assistance Act
15 (25 U.S.C. 5304));

16 (xiii) a Federal facility, including a
17 military base or installation; and

18 (xiv) any other facility described in
19 subparagraph (A), as determined by the
20 Secretary.

21 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
22 the Secretary of Energy.

23 (b) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND MICROGRID
24 PROGRAM.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
2 a program—

3 (A) to improve the energy resilience and
4 power needs of critical facilities through the use
5 of microgrids, renewable energy, energy effi-
6 ciency, reduced electricity demand, and on-site
7 storage;

8 (B) to improve the energy efficiency of
9 critical facilities by decreasing the size and cost
10 of generators;

11 (C) to provide technical assistance and fa-
12 cilitate the distribution and sharing of informa-
13 tion to develop more resilient electricity systems
14 (including bulk systems and localized systems);
15 and

16 (D) to promulgate consumer-facing infor-
17 mation and resources to inform the public on
18 best practices and resources related to increas-
19 ing resilience of electricity systems and reducing
20 the impacts of extreme weather events on elec-
21 tricity systems.

22 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the pro-
23 gram established under paragraph (1), the Secretary
24 shall ensure, with respect to critical facilities—

1 (A) provision of on-site back-up power with
2 renewable resources, low-carbon liquid fuels,
3 and on-site energy storage technologies; and

4 (B) installation, at the transmission and
5 distribution level, of interoperable technologies,
6 advanced power flow control, dynamic line rat-
7 ing, topology optimization, and communications
8 systems.

9 (3) INTERESTED PARTY INPUT.—In estab-
10 lishing the program under paragraph (1), the Sec-
11 retary shall seek the input of State energy regu-
12 lators, electric utilities (as defined in section 3 of the
13 Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796)), regional trans-
14 mission organizations and independent system oper-
15 ators, electric utility customers and ratepayer orga-
16 nizations, local governments, community choice
17 aggregators or regional energy collaboratives, and
18 other interested parties.

19 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
21 appropriated to the Secretary \$100,000,000 to carry
22 out this section, to remain available until expended.

23 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of the amount
24 used to carry out this section, not more than 10 per-
25 cent shall be used for salaries and expenses, admin-

1 istrative management, and oversight of the program
 2 established under subsection (b)(1).

3 **SEC. 202. RETROFITS FOR FIRE-RESILIENT COMMUNITIES.**

4 (a) DEFINITION OF WEATHERIZATION MATE-
 5 RIALS.—Section 412(9) of the Energy Conservation and
 6 Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6862(9)) is amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at
 8 the end;

9 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as sub-
 10 paragraph (K); and

11 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the fol-
 12 lowing:

13 “(J) materials that are resistant to high
 14 heat and fire; and”.

15 (b) WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 413(b)(6) of the En-
 17 ergy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C.
 18 6863(b)(6)) is amended—

19 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking
 20 “and” at the end;

21 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the
 22 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(E) owners of such dwelling units shall
 25 use fire- and drought-resistant building mate-

1 rials and incorporate wildfire and drought pre-
 2 vention and mitigation planning, as directed by
 3 the State.”.

4 (2) LIMITATIONS.—Section 415(c) of the En-
 5 ergy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C.
 6 6865(c)) is amended—

7 (A) in paragraph (1)—

8 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
 9 (A) through (E) as clauses (i) through (v),
 10 respectively, and indenting appropriately;

11 (ii) in the matter preceding clause (i)
 12 (as so redesignated), in the second sen-
 13 tence, by striking “Labor” and all that fol-
 14 lows through “to—” and inserting the fol-
 15 lowing:

16 “(B) LABOR AND WEATHERIZATION MATE-
 17 RIALS.—Labor, weatherization materials, and
 18 related matter described in subparagraph (A)
 19 includes—”;

20 (iii) by striking “(c)(1) Except” and
 21 inserting the following:

22 “(c) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

23 “(1) AVERAGE COST.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except”;

1 (iv) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
2 ignated)—

3 (I) by striking “exceed an aver-
4 age of \$6,500” and inserting the fol-
5 lowing: “exceed—

6 “(i) an average of \$13,000 (adjusted
7 annually for inflation)”;

8 (II) in clause (i) (as so des-
9 ignated), by striking the period at the
10 end and inserting “; or”; and

11 (III) by adding at the end the
12 following:

13 “(ii) another average amount that is
14 greater than the amount described in
15 clause (i), if the Secretary determines it
16 necessary to waive or adjust the average
17 amount established under that clause.”;
18 and

19 (v) in subparagraph (B) (as so des-
20 ignated)—

21 (I) in clause (iv) (as so redesign-
22 ated), by striking “, and” and insert-
23 ing “; and”; and

1 (II) in clause (v) (as so redesign-
 2 nated), by adding a period at the end;
 3 and

4 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$3,000”
 5 and inserting “\$6,000 (adjusted annually for
 6 inflation)”.

7 **SEC. 203. HAZARD MITIGATION USING DISASTER ASSIST-**
 8 **ANCE.**

9 Section 404(f)(12) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
 10 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
 11 5170c(f)(12)) is amended—

12 (1) by inserting “and wildfire” after “wind-
 13 storm”;

14 (2) by striking “including replacing” and in-
 15 serting the following: “including—

16 “(A) replacing”;

17 (3) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated)—

18 (A) by inserting “, wildfire,” after “ex-
 19 treme wind”; and

20 (B) by adding “and” after the semicolon
 21 at the end; and

22 (4) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(B) the installation of fire-resistant wires
 24 and infrastructure and the undergrounding of
 25 wires;”.

1 **SEC. 204. WILDFIRE DETECTION EQUIPMENT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VI of the Healthy Forests
3 Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591 et seq.) is
4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 607. WILDFIRE DETECTION EQUIPMENT.**

6 “To the extent practicable, the Secretary of Agri-
7 culture and the Secretary of the Interior shall—

8 “(1) expedite the placement of wildfire detec-
9 tion equipment, such as sensors, cameras, and other
10 relevant equipment, in areas at risk of wildfire;

11 “(2) expand the use of satellite data to assist
12 wildfire response; and

13 “(3) expedite any permitting required by the
14 Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the In-
15 terior for the installation, maintenance, or removal
16 of wildfire detection equipment.”.

17 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
18 for the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16
19 U.S.C. 6501 note; Public Law 108–148) is amended by
20 adding at the end of the items relating to title VI the fol-
21 lowing:

“Sec. 607. Wildfire detection equipment.”.

1 **TITLE III—RESEARCH, TRAIN-**
2 **ING, AND CAPACITY BUILD-**
3 **ING**

4 **SEC. 301. WESTERN PRESCRIBED FIRE CENTERS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture and
6 the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section
7 as the “Secretaries”) shall establish 1 or more centers to
8 train individuals in prescribed fire methods and other
9 methods relevant to the mitigation of wildfire risk (re-
10 ferred to in this section as a “center”).

11 (b) HOST INSTITUTIONS.—The 1 or more centers
12 shall be—

13 (1) located at 1 or more institutions of higher
14 education; or

15 (2) developed in collaboration with 1 or more
16 institutions of higher education.

17 (c) GOALS.—The 1 or more centers shall advance the
18 following goals:

19 (1) Training individuals and conducting re-
20 search on prescribed fire methods and other restora-
21 tion methods relevant to the mitigation of wildfire
22 risk.

23 (2) Developing and advancing interdisciplinary
24 science relating to wildfire, including social science

1 and human dimensions of wildfire, in consultation
2 with stakeholders who—

3 (A) need that science;

4 (B) will benefit from the outcomes of that
5 science; and

6 (C) will coordinate with 1 or more other
7 centers in developing and advancing that
8 science.

9 (3) Conducting ongoing and forward-looking
10 needs assessments among stakeholders, including
11 Federal and State agencies and Indian Tribes, to de-
12 termine common need requirements and emerging
13 challenges to reduce wildfire risk and adapt commu-
14 nities to increased risk from wildfire, including the
15 following hazard-related focus areas:

16 (A) Increasing disaster resilience.

17 (B) Mitigation and management methods.

18 (C) Air quality.

19 (D) Firestorm weather forecasting and
20 burn-area debris flow forecasting, including em-
21 pirical and modeling research.

22 (4) Collaborating with Federal wildfire sci-
23 entists at the Forest Service, the Department of the
24 Interior, and other related agencies.

1 (5) Identifying, through a detailed engagement
 2 process targeting defined end-users, the require-
 3 ments and delivery mechanisms for products and
 4 services that are practical and will have an impact
 5 on mitigating wildfire risk.

6 (6) Promoting technology transfer with path-
 7 ways for dissemination, implementation, and applica-
 8 tion of research results on the ground, using and en-
 9 hancing previous research.

10 (7) Ensuring the connectivity and interoper-
 11 ability of distributed services to maximize synergies
 12 and benefits across services.

13 (8) Developing open digital infrastructure to
 14 make research data, science, and models open for all
 15 sectors to use.

16 (d) LOCATION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The 1 or more centers shall
 18 be located in any State the entirety of which is lo-
 19 cated west of the 100th meridian.

20 (2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretaries shall con-
 21 sult with the Joint Fire Science Program to solicit
 22 and evaluate proposals for the location of the 1 or
 23 more centers.

24 (3) SELECTION.—Not later than 1 year after
 25 the date of enactment of this Act, based on the con-

1 sultation under paragraph (2), the Secretaries shall
 2 select a location for the 1 or more centers.

3 **SEC. 302. INNOVATIVE FOREST WORKFORCE DEVELOP-**
 4 **MENT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) CAREER IN FORESTRY AND FIRE MANAGE-
 7 MENT.—The term “career in forestry and fire man-
 8 agement” means a career in a field relating to for-
 9 ests and the restoration to the natural fire regimes
 10 of forests, including—

11 (A) in timber operations;

12 (B) as a registered professional forester;

13 (C) in vegetation treatment, including as a
 14 member of a hand crew, a machine operator,
 15 and in conducting prescribed fires as part of a
 16 fire restoration workforce that is capable of
 17 conducting large landscape restorative and
 18 maintenance prescribed fires;

19 (D) in ecological restoration, including res-
 20 toration of watersheds;

21 (E) in wildland fire fighting; and

22 (F) in community fire resilience, including
 23 workforce development projects.

24 (2) FORESTRY AND FIRE MANAGEMENT.—The
 25 term “forestry and fire management” includes the

1 areas of fields relating to forests described in sub-
2 paragraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1).

3 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 (b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall es-
6 tablish a competitive grant program—

7 (1) to assist in the development and utilization
8 of innovative activities relating to workforce develop-
9 ment in forestry and fire management and opportu-
10 nities for careers in forestry and fire management;
11 and

12 (2) to expand public awareness about forestry
13 and fire management and connect individuals to ca-
14 reers in forestry and fire management.

15 (c) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—In award-
16 ing grants under subsection (b), the Secretary shall, to
17 the extent practicable, select nonprofit professional or
18 service organizations, labor organizations, State agencies,
19 community colleges, institutions of higher education, or
20 other training and educational institutions—

21 (1) that have qualifications and experience—

22 (A) in the development of training pro-
23 grams and curricula relevant to the workforce
24 needs of forestry and fire management;

1 (B) working in cooperation with forestry
2 and fire management; or

3 (C) developing public education materials
4 appropriate for communicating with groups of
5 various ages and educational backgrounds; and

6 (2) that will address the human resources and
7 workforce needs of forestry and fire management.

8 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under sub-
9 section (b) may be used for activities such as—

10 (1) targeted internship, apprenticeship, pre-ap-
11 prenticeship, and post-secondary bridge programs
12 for skilled forestry and fire management trades that
13 provide—

14 (A) on-the-job training;

15 (B) skills development;

16 (C) test preparation for skilled trade ap-
17 prenticeships;

18 (D) advance training in forestry and fire
19 management relating to jobs as forest
20 restorationists, members of hand crews,
21 wildland fire fighters, machine operators, li-
22 censed timber operators, registered professional
23 foresters, ecologists, biologists, or workers in
24 construction in support of resilient infrastruc-
25 ture, including residential buildings; or

1 (E) other support services to facilitate
 2 post-secondary success;

3 (2) education programs designed for elemen-
 4 tary, secondary, and higher education students
 5 that—

6 (A) inform people about the role of for-
 7 estry, vegetation management, and ecological
 8 restoration in the communities of those people;

9 (B) increase the awareness of opportunities
 10 for careers in forestry and fire management
 11 and exposure of students to those careers
 12 through various work-based learning opportuni-
 13 ties inside and outside the classroom; and

14 (C) connect students to pathways to ca-
 15 reers in forestry and fire management;

16 (3) the development of a model curriculum and
 17 related vocational programs to be adopted by com-
 18 munity colleges, which, to the extent practicable and
 19 feasible, shall—

20 (A) provide professional training in imple-
 21 menting prescribed fire projects, including the
 22 knowledge and skills necessary to plan and im-
 23 plement broad-scale surface and ladder fuel
 24 treatments within the wildland-urban interface,
 25 wildlands, and urbanized areas, as appropriate;

1 (B) include a focus on the ecological con-
2 cerns, economics, and practices necessary to im-
3 prove community safety and forest resilience;
4 and

5 (C) train students in—

6 (i) the retrofitting of houses, including
7 the use of fire-resistant materials and the
8 maintenance of defensible space;

9 (ii) urban forestry; and

10 (iii) policies or guidance relating to
11 the management of vegetation near utility
12 infrastructure and relevant portions of
13 electric utility wildfire mitigation plans;

14 (4) regional industry and workforce develop-
15 ment collaborations, including the coordination of
16 candidate development, particularly in areas of high
17 unemployment;

18 (5) integrated learning laboratories in sec-
19 ondary educational institutions that provide students
20 with—

21 (A) hands-on, contextualized learning op-
22 portunities;

23 (B) dual enrollment credit for post-sec-
24 ondary education and training programs; and

1 (C) direct connection to industry or gov-
 2 ernment employers; and

3 (6) leadership development, occupational train-
 4 ing, mentoring, or cross-training programs that en-
 5 sure that workers are prepared for high-level super-
 6 visory or management-level positions.

7 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 8 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
 9 out this section such sums as are necessary.

10 **SEC. 303. NATIONAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND LAND**
 11 **STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.**

12 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) COMMUNITY CAPACITY.—The term “com-
 14 munity capacity” means the ability of an eligible en-
 15 tity to carry out or assist in a land stewardship ac-
 16 tivity.

17 (2) DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY.—The term
 18 “disadvantaged community” means—

19 (A) a low-income community (as defined in
 20 section 45D(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of
 21 1986); and

22 (B) a community that includes a signifi-
 23 cant population that has been systematically de-
 24 nied a full opportunity to participate in aspects
 25 of economic, social, and civic life based on a

1 particular characteristic, such as Black, Latino,
2 Indigenous, and Native American persons,
3 Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and other
4 persons of color.

5 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
6 ty” means any the following entities that is located
7 in or represents a disadvantaged community:

8 (A) An organization described in section
9 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
10 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a)
11 of that Code.

12 (B) A collaborative group fiscally spon-
13 sored by an organization described in subpara-
14 graph (A).

15 (C) A unit of local government.

16 (D) An Indian Tribe.

17 (E) A special district government, as de-
18 fined by the Director of the Bureau of the Cen-
19 sus.

20 (4) ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY.—The term “eco-
21 logical integrity” has the meaning given the term in
22 section 219.19 of title 36, Code of Federal Regula-
23 tions (as in effect on the date of enactment of this
24 Act).

1 (5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
2 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
3 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
4 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

5 (6) LAND STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY.—The term
6 “land stewardship activity” means any of the fol-
7 lowing activities, as applied to a qualifying project:

8 (A) Planning.

9 (B) Collaboration and building community
10 support.

11 (C) Implementation on land other than
12 National Forest System land.

13 (D) Monitoring, including multiparty moni-
14 toring, and adaptive management.

15 (7) QUALIFYING PROJECT.—The term “quali-
16 fying project” means any of the following activities
17 that takes place at least in substantial part on Na-
18 tional Forest System land or national grasslands:

19 (A) Restoration of the ecological integrity
20 of a forest, meadow, grassland, prairie, or other
21 habitat.

22 (B) Tribal management for aligned cul-
23 tural and ecological values.

24 (C) Enhancing community wildfire resil-
25 ience in the wildland-urban interface.

1 (D) Increasing equitable access to environ-
 2 mental education and volunteerism opportuni-
 3 ties.

4 (8) RESTORATION.—The term “restoration”
 5 has the meaning given the term in section 219.19 of
 6 title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on
 7 the date of enactment of this Act).

8 (9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 9 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through—

10 (A) the regional offices of the State and
 11 Private Forestry Deputy Area of the Forest
 12 Service; and

13 (B) as appropriate, regional offices of
 14 other Deputy Areas of the Forest Service.

15 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to sup-
 16 port increasing community capacity, partnerships, and col-
 17 laborations within and involving disadvantaged commu-
 18 nities for land stewardship activities and restoration of ec-
 19 ological integrity on—

20 (1) National Forest System land;

21 (2) national grasslands; and

22 (3) adjacent private, State, and trust land asso-
 23 ciated with the health and resilience of land de-
 24 scribed in paragraphs (1) and (2).

25 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may issue
2 grants to eligible entities for increasing community
3 capacity for land stewardship activities and related
4 activities based on the criteria described in sub-
5 section (d).

6 (2) FEDERAL COST-SHARE.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
8 fund up to 100 percent of the cost of land stew-
9 ardship activities and related activities carried
10 out using a grant issued under paragraph (1).

11 (B) MATCHING ELIGIBILITY.—A grant
12 issued under this section may be considered a
13 non-Federal matching contribution from the eli-
14 gible entity that received the grant towards
15 other sources of Federal funding.

16 (3) DURATION.—The Secretary may issue a
17 grant under paragraph (1) for a period of 1 or more
18 years.

19 (4) MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of
20 a grant issued under paragraph (1) shall be not
21 more than \$50,000 per year.

22 (5) APPLICABLE LAWS.—The Secretary shall
23 administer grants under paragraph (1) in accord-
24 ance with all applicable Federal and State laws.

25 (d) CRITERIA FOR AWARDED GRANTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
2 the Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities
3 under subsection (c)(1) on a competitive basis in ac-
4 cordance with the following criteria:

5 (A) The extent to which the proposed land
6 stewardship activities benefit units of the Na-
7 tional Forest System and national grasslands
8 over the short and long term.

9 (B) The extent to which valuable ecologi-
10 cal, economic, and social benefits to disadvan-
11 taged communities, including job creation and
12 business development or retention, are likely to
13 result from the scope of the land stewardship
14 activities.

15 (C) The extent to which the grant would
16 benefit disadvantaged communities that have
17 historically received less investment in collabo-
18 rative capacity.

19 (D) The extent to which the proposal
20 brings together diverse interests through plan-
21 ning, collaboration, implementation, or moni-
22 toring of land stewardship activities to benefit
23 units of the National Forest System or national
24 grasslands.

1 (E) The extent to which the grant funds
2 appear to be critical for the success of the eligi-
3 ble entity and the identified land stewardship
4 activities.

5 (F) The extent to which the budget for the
6 land stewardship activities is reasonable given
7 the anticipated outcomes.

8 (2) SET-ASIDE FOR INDIAN TRIBES.—The Sec-
9 retary shall allocate not less than 10 percent of the
10 funding awarded under this section to Indian Tribes
11 or eligible entities representing Indian Tribes.

12 (e) ANNUAL REVIEWS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
14 and maintain an advisory panel composed of not
15 more than 15 members to provide feedback each
16 year to each regional office of the State and Private
17 Forestry Deputy Area of the Forest Service on the
18 extent to which the implementation of this section by
19 the regional office is fulfilling the purpose described
20 in subsection (b).

21 (2) INCLUSIONS.—The advisory panel estab-
22 lished under paragraph (1) shall include representa-
23 tion from a diversity of public land stakeholders
24 from across interest groups, including—

1 (A) not fewer than 8 members rep-
2 resenting the interests of a diversity of dis-
3 advantaged communities; and

4 (B) not fewer than 2 members rep-
5 resenting not fewer than 2 Indian Tribes.

6 (3) EXEMPTION.—The advisory panel estab-
7 lished under paragraph (1) shall be exempt from the
8 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

9 (f) REPORT EVALUATING PROGRAM IMPLEMENTA-
10 TION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after
12 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
13 shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources
14 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House
15 of Representatives and the Committee on Energy
16 and Natural Resources and the Committee on Ap-
17 propriations of the Senate a report evaluating the
18 implementation of this section, including—

19 (A) a list of the eligible entities and land
20 stewardship activities selected for funding under
21 this section and the accomplishments of those
22 activities; and

23 (B) an evaluation of the extent to which
24 the implementation of this section is fulfilling
25 the purpose described in subsection (b).

1 (2) CONSULTATION; CONTRACTING.—In pre-
 2 paring the report under paragraph (1), the Sec-
 3 retary—

4 (A) shall consult with the advisory panel
 5 established under subsection (e)(1); and

6 (B) may contract with a third party to
 7 complete an evaluation of the implementation of
 8 this section to inform the report.

9 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
 11 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this sec-
 12 tion \$50,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022
 13 through 2026.

14 (2) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall dis-
 15 tribute amounts made available under paragraph (1)
 16 to the regional offices of the State and Private For-
 17 estry Deputy Area and, as appropriate, regional of-
 18 fices of other Deputy Areas, of the Forest Service to
 19 administer the grants under this section.

20 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than
 21 10 percent of any amounts made available to carry
 22 out this section may be used for administrative man-
 23 agement and program oversight.

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