



# U.S. Department of Agriculture

MENU



# Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$500 Million to Confront the Wildfire Crisis as Part of Investing in America Agenda


## Advances Biden-Harris Administration's National Climate Resilience Framework

PUBLISHED: February 20, 2024

SHARE:



**SAN DIEGO, Feb. 20, 2024** — Today, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the Biden-Harris Administration is investing nearly \$500 million from President Biden's [Investing in America agenda](#)  to expand work on the [USDA Forest Service's Wildfire Crisis Strategy](#) to reduce risk to communities, critical infrastructure and natural resources from the nation's ongoing wildfire crisis, which is exacerbated by climate change.

These funds bring the total investment in this comprehensive strategy to an historic \$2.4 billion thanks to President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The announcement also advances the Administration's [National Climate Resilience Framework](#)  to help expand and accelerate nationally comprehensive, locally tailored, and community-driven resilience strategies.

“As climate change exacerbates the challenges our communities, forests and infrastructure face from catastrophic wildfires, our answer to those challenges have to match the scale of the threat,”



## U.S. Department of Agriculture


Approximately \$400 million of the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds will be allocated to ongoing efforts on the [21 designated priority landscapes](#) identified in the strategy, making the total investment to date \$1.6 billion. An additional \$100 million will be allocated under a new program established by the Forest Service - [the Collaborative Wildfire Risk Reduction Program](#) - to expand work outside these landscapes. Inspired by past example and success of programs such as the [Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program](#), the new program expands work in high-risk wildfire areas outside the 21 priority landscapes.

The Collaborative Wildfire Risk Reduction Program will use hazardous fuels funds from the Inflation Reduction Act to treat areas outside the 21 priority landscapes in high-risk wildfire areas where national forests and grasslands meet homes and communities, known as the Wildland-Urban Interface. The program allows national forests, in collaboration with Tribes, communities and partners in 24 qualifying states, to build local capacity for projects to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health to protect communities, infrastructure, water quality and adjacent landowners.

A list of the qualifying states and criteria for eligible areas and projects can be found on the [program webpage](#).

This announcement is part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda to increase the resilience of lands facing the threat of catastrophic wildland fires and to better support federal wildland firefighters. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law included \$1.4 billion for the USDA Forest Service in wildfire risk reduction funds. The Inflation Reduction Act provided an additional \$1.8 billion to reduce the risk of wildfire to neighborhoods, infrastructure, watersheds, and the many other benefits forests provide. All these investments will help strengthen long-term fire preparedness, reduce catastrophic wildland fire risk across states, and invest in supporting the wildland firefighter workforce.

In January 2022, the Forest Service [launched the Wildfire Crisis Strategy](#) with the goal of safeguarding communities and the resources they depend on by increasing hazardous fuels treatments to reduce wildfire risk. This work includes the treatment of more than a million acres across the 21 priority landscapes that is beginning to reduce wildfire risk for some 550 communities, 2,500 miles of power lines, and 1,800 watersheds that supply drinking water to millions of Americans.

These landscapes and efforts to expand the work under the Wildfire Crisis Strategy are determined using scientific research and analysis, water source protection, risk to community infrastructure, at-risk species, wildlife corridors and equity. Investments in the Wildfire Crisis Strategy are also part of President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#) , which aims to see 40% of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.



## U.S. Department of Agriculture

“We are pleased with the record-setting pace and scale accomplished by Forest Service employees, partners, Tribes and communities,” said Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. “These investments will allow critical work to continue in the 21 priority landscape areas and begin intensively in other high-risk areas across the country that will be determined through new program.”

In 2023, the Forest Service and a wide-range of partners, communities, and Tribes accomplished more than 4.3 million acres of hazardous fuels reduction, including nearly two million acres of prescribed burning, on national forests and grasslands across the nation – both are record highs in the agency’s 119-year history and over a million acres more accomplished than the previous year.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America’s food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, promoting competition and fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate-smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across USDA by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of the Nation. To learn more, visit [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

#

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

PRESS RELEASE

**Release No.:**  
**0032.24**

CONTACT:  
USDA Press

EMAIL:  
[press@usda.gov](mailto:press@usda.gov)

---

# Trending News and Updates



U.S. Department of Agriculture



**USDA Continues  
Historic Commitment,  
Partnering with Rural  
Communities on Clean,  
Affordable Energy**

January 10, 2025

Latest Investments Will Lower Costs and Support Jobs in 30 States

[Learn More](#) →

**USDA Invests in  
Additional Domestic  
Biofuels and Clean  
Energy Projects to  
Lower Costs and  
Increase American  
Energy Security Across  
the Nation**

January 10, 2025

Part of Today's Announcement is Funded by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act

[Learn More](#) →

PRESS RELEASE



PRESS RELEASE







U.S. Department of Agriculture

## [Milk Testing Strategy for H5N1, Shares Update on Vaccination Efforts](#)

January 8, 2025

USDA APHIS Shares Fifteen New States Joining the NMTS and Critical Updates on HPAI Vaccines Across Species

[Learn More](#) →

## [Innovative Production](#)


January 8, 2025


USDA is providing a total of \$14.4 million in grants and technical assistance through two separately funded projects.

[Learn More](#) →

# AskUSDA

One central entry point for you to access information and help from USDA.

 [Ask.USDA.gov](https://www.Usda.gov)

 1-833-ONE-USDA

 [AskUSDA@usda.gov](mailto:AskUSDA@usda.gov)

[Ask a Question](#)



U.S. Department of Agriculture

[Policy and Statements](#)

[Resources](#)

[Careers](#)

[Sign up for Email Updates](#)



# U.S. Department of Agriculture

- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- Information Quality
- Non-Discrimination Statement
- Open Government at USDA
- Plain Writing
- Privacy Policy
- Vulnerability Disclosure Policy

- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (OASCR)
- Report Fraud on USDA Contracts 
- Sitemap
- USDA Performance
- Whistleblower Protection Coordinator 






## Help us improve USDA.gov!

USDA is currently seeking your opinion on our site via a 5-minute survey.

[Take the Survey !\[\]\(6059a5aa8b4ca7bb793408023d6c6e42\_img.jpg\)](#)

## Related Sites

- AskUSDA
- Farmers.gov 
- National Agricultural Library
- Office of the Inspector General 
- USA.gov 
- WhiteHouse.gov 