



# U.S. Department of Agriculture

MENU



U.S. Department of Agriculture

# USDA Invests More than \$48.6 Million to Manage Risks, Combat Climate Change

---

PUBLISHED: February 21, 2023

SHARE:



**WASHINGTON, Feb. 21, 2023** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will invest more than \$48.6 million this year through the [Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership](#) for projects that mitigate wildfire risk, improve water quality, restore forest ecosystems, and ultimately contribute to USDA's efforts to combat climate change. This year, the USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will invest in projects, including 14 new projects, bringing together agricultural producers, forest landowners, and National Forest System lands to improve forest health using available Farm Bill conservation programs and other authorities.

“The need for cross-boundary wildfire risk reduction work as part of our Wildfire Crisis Strategy is more urgent than ever. These projects, and the \$930 million of investments being made across 21 landscapes in highest-risk fireheds in the western U.S., speak to our commitment to improve forest health and resiliency across the nation's forests to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire,” said Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. “We have long moved beyond wildfire seasons to fire years, with an annual average of 8 million acres burned since 2015; more than 10 million acres burned in three of those years. The Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership promotes cross-boundary work needed to increase the scale of our wildfire risk reduction efforts to protect people and communities, critical infrastructure, water supplies, and ecosystems from extreme wildfire.”

NRCS Chief Terry Cosby added: “These Joint Chiefs' projects are excellent examples of how federal, state, and local agencies can use targeted funding to achieve results that meet producers' conservation goals, build drought resiliency, and mitigate climate change. Through collaboration



## U.S. Department of Agriculture

restoration at a large enough scale to make a difference. Working in partnership, and at this scale, helps reduce wildfire threats to communities and critical infrastructure, protect water quality and supply, and improve wildlife habitat for at-risk species.

Congress recently recognized the value of this important USDA program by memorializing it in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law signed by President Biden on November 15, 2021. The law includes enhanced collaboration and public engagement associated with future projects. The Forest Service and NRCS look forward to supporting the now permanent Joint Chiefs' program to enhance the resilience of our forests, communities, water supplies, and working lands.

USDA is investing \$17.4 million in these 14 new projects:

- Arizona, Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Phase Two
- Arkansas and Oklahoma, Arkklahoma Ozark Watershed Restoration
- California, Forest Health and Fire Resilient Rural Communities Phase Three
- Guam, Making Southern Guam Firewise and Wildfire Resistant
- Idaho, South Teton Valley Hazardous Fuels Removal
- Illinois, Cross-Boundary Upland Oak Restoration
- Montana, Elkhorn Cooperative Management Area
- New Jersey, New Jersey Pine Barrens Restoration
- North Dakota, Badlands Restoration Phase Two
- Oregon, North Wasco All Lands
- Oregon, Southern Blues Restoration
- Pennsylvania, Allegheny Plateau Habitat Restoration
- South Carolina, Piedmont Watershed Restoration
- Wisconsin, Northeast Wisconsin Forestry and Wildlife Partnership

Through the new three-year projects, landowners will work with local USDA experts and partners to apply targeted forestry management practices on their land, such as thinning, hazardous fuel treatments, fire breaks, and other systems to meet unique forestry challenges in their area.

Additionally, USDA is investing \$31.2 million in 25 existing projects. For full project descriptions and information on completed projects, visit the [Joint Chiefs' webpage](#).

### More Information



## U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural producers and forest managers interested in participating in Joint Chiefs' or other USDA conservation programs should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#) .

Learn more about the Forest Service work to [confront the wildfire crisis](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to 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 the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

#

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

### PRESS RELEASE

**Release No.:**  
**0041.23**

**CONTACT:**  
USDA Press

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

---

# Trending News and Updates

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE



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



## U.S. Department of Agriculture Announces

PRESS RELEASE



## USDA Announces Grants and Technical



U.S. Department of Agriculture

## 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](#) 

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](#)



[1-833-ONE-USDA](#)



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

[Ask a Question](#)



U.S. Department of Agriculture

Policy and  
Statements

[Accessibility  
Statement](#)

Resources

[Careers](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Federal Website Inventory](#)

[Feedback](#)

Sign up for Email Updates

[Sign Up](#)



# U.S. Department of Agriculture

[Information](#)

[Quality](#)

[Non-](#)

[Discrimination](#)

[Statement](#)

[Open Government  
at USDA](#)


[Plain Writing](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Vulnerability](#)

[Disclosure Policy](#)

[Report Fraud on USDA](#)

[Contracts](#) 

[Sitemap](#)

[USDA Performance](#)

[Whistleblower Protection](#)

[Coordinator](#) 



USDA.gov:

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

[Take the Survey](#) 

## Related Sites

[AskUSDA](#)

[Farmers.gov](#) 

[National](#)

[Agricultural](#)

[Library](#)

[Office of the](#)

[Inspector General](#)



[USA.gov](#) 

[WhiteHouse.gov](#) 