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# Inflation Reduction Act Invests Over \$120 Million in Proven Projects to Advance Climate Resilience, Conservation and Equity

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Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

**WASHINGTON** — The Department of the Interior today announced a more than \$120 million investment from the Inflation Reduction Act to rebuild and restore units of the National Wildlife Refuge System and partnering State Wildlife Management Areas that have been affected by adverse weather events. The investment prioritizes projects that promote coastal resilience and climate adaptation, address invasive species threats, and provide for additional data collection needed to support successful natural resource resilience.

The Inflation Reduction Act is enabling the Department of the Interior to play a leading role in the transition to a clean energy economy, advancing key habitat restoration, land resilience and water projects and securing environmental justice for historically disadvantaged communities.

“Communities across the country continue to face the devastating impacts of weather events made even more extreme due to climate change. The Inflation Reduction Act is a historic and transformational investment towards achieving President Biden’s ambitious goals to help American families and tackle the climate crisis,” said **Secretary Deb Haaland**. “These projects will increase the resiliency of habitats and infrastructure to withstand severe and unanticipated weather events, furthering our work to restore America’s natural infrastructure through nature-based solutions.”

“The Inflation Reduction Act supports the work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its conservation partners, and helps local, state and Tribal communities tackle the climate crisis while advancing endangered species priorities and environmental justice,” said **Service Director Martha Williams**. “These investments will advance climate resilience, support habitat and critically important breeding areas and support the recovery of endangered species.”

Today's announcement follows the release of the Department's [restoration and resilience framework](#) a plan to leverage historic investments in climate and conservation to achieve landscape-level outcomes across the nation. Through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, the Department is implementing a more than \$2 billion downpayment to restore our nation's lands and waters. The framework lays out an initial set of keystone initiatives to guide historic investments from both laws, which are focused on addressing the climate and biodiversity crises, advancing co-stewardship and equity, furthering locally-led, collaborative strategies and focusing landscape-scale restoration work on areas where the Department has an opportunity have a transformational impact at scale.

The funding announced today advances the goals of the framework as well as the Department's grasslands keystone initiative through investments in prairie potholes and bison management. More than \$7 million of the funding will be dedicated to advancing bison and grasslands restoration, consistent with a new [Secretary's Order](#). Examples of investments include funding for new fencing at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge in Colorado to allow the refuge's bison herd to graze on an additional 4,500 acres; improving the quality of over 2,000 acres of grasslands; and ensuring consistent access to water for the herd in the face of worsening drought conditions. Another project includes funding to Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico to support a co-stewardship effort with the Pueblo of Pojoaque for management and expansion of the Pueblo's bison herd on the refuge.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will work with state partners to complete geographically diverse, large-scale projects that are mutually beneficial for these conservation areas, including projects that benefit historically underserved communities and Tribal interests.

The list of projects include:

- **\$27.25 million** for the Albemarle-Pamlico Sound restoration in North Carolina.
- **\$25 million** to create a landscape conservation approach for a climate resilient Northern Forest in the Midwest and Northeastern regions of the United States.
- **\$23 million** for landscape conservation and restoration in the Prairie Pothole Region (Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota).
- **\$20 million** for nature-based resiliency in the Lower Mississippi River Valley, encompassing parts of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.
- **\$10 million** for nature-based resiliency and restoration in the Upper Mississippi and Illinois River to include parts of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin.
- **\$7.5 million** for bison management and grasslands habitat improvements across several Service refuges.
- **\$7 million** for nature-based solutions to support the endangered Yaqui fish species on San Bernadino National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona.

- **\$1 million** for the acquisition of LiDAR Data over National Wildlife Refuge System lands in partnership with the 3D Elevation Program.

The announcement also comes as the Endangered Species Act (ESA) turns 50 years old in 2023. Throughout the year, the Department is celebrating the importance of the ESA in preventing the extinction of imperiled species, promoting the recovery of wildlife and conserving the habitats upon which they depend. Each of the projects funded plays a significant role in protecting habitats and species at risk of extinction.

For more information about the Service’s Inflation Reduction Act-related efforts, visit [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s website](#).

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