



Infrastructure Bill: Utilization Provisions

National Forest System (NFS) Hazardous Fuels Management Activities

Out of the \$514M (\$102.8M per FY), up to \$12M a year to use State & Private Forestry authorities to create incentives for increased use of biomass on NFS lands, including the Community Wood Energy Program and the Wood Innovation Grants Program (of this \$12M up to \$8M each year for implementation of the Tribal Forest Protection Act).

Section 40803: Wildfire Risk Reduction	
<p>“There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, for the activities described... \$3,369,200,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.”</p>	
Total Amount for FY22-FY26	Activity
\$200M	for contracting or employing crews of laborers to modify and remove flammable vegetation on Federal land and for using materials from treatments, to the extent practicable, to produce biochar and other innovative wood products, including through the use of existing locally based organizations that engage young adults, Native youth, and veterans in service projects, such as youth and conservation corps (\$100M USDA; \$100M DOI; \$20M per FY for USDA; NFS)
\$8M	to provide feedstock to firewood banks; and to provide financial assistance for the operation of firewood banks (USDA; \$1.6M per FY; S&PF)

Section 40804: Ecosystem Restoration	
<p>“There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, for the activities described... \$2,130,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.”</p>	
Total Amount for FY22-FY26	Activity
\$400M	to provide financial assistance to facilities that purchase and process byproducts from ecosystem restoration projects in accordance with subsection (d) (USDA; \$80M per FY)
\$50M	to award grants to States and Indian Tribes to establish rental programs for portable skidder bridges, bridge mats, or other temporary water crossing structures, to minimize stream bed disturbance on non-Federal land and Federal land (USDA; \$5M per FY; S&PF)



Summary of Section 40804 Subsection (d) Regarding \$400M

USDA will develop a ranking system from very low to very high priority for ecological restoration involving vegetation removal. For high and very high priority units of federal land, USDA will be determined if a sawmill or other wood-processing facility exists in close proximity to, or a forest worker is seeking to conduct restoration treatment work on or in close proximity to, the unit and if the presence of a sawmill or other wood-processing facility would or does substantially decrease the cost of conducting ecological restoration projects. Based on this information, USDA may use the \$400M over 5FY, to provide financial assistance, including a low-interest loan or a loan guarantee, to an entity seeking to establish, reopen, retrofit, expand, or improve a sawmill or other wood-processing facility in close proximity to a unit of Federal land that has been identified as high or very high priority for ecological restoration, if the presence of a sawmill or other wood-processing facility would *or* does substantially decrease the cost of conducting ecological restoration projects on the unit of Federal land, including Indian forest land or rangeland. It also more generally encourages USDA when allocating federal funds to units of federal land for ecological projects, to prioritize units identified as high or very high priority *and* that have a sawmill or other wood-processing facility that exists in close proximity to the unit *and does substantially decrease* the cost of conducting ecological restoration projects involving vegetation removal on the unit *or* that has received financial assistance under the previously mentioned \$400M loan program.

Full Legislative Text of Section 40804 Subsection (d)

(d) WOOD PRODUCTS INFRASTRUCTURE. —The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, shall—

(1) develop a ranking system that categorizes units of Federal land, including Indian forest land or rangeland, with regard to treating areas at risk of unnaturally severe wildfire or insect or disease infestation, as being—

(A) very low priority for ecological restoration involving vegetation removal;

(B) low priority for ecological restoration involving vegetation removal;

(C) medium priority for ecological restoration involving vegetation removal;

(D) high priority for ecological restoration involving vegetation removal; or

(E) very high priority for ecological restoration involving vegetation removal;

(2) determine, for a unit identified under paragraph (1) as being high or very high priority for ecological restoration involving vegetation removal, if—

(A) a sawmill or other wood-processing facility exists



- in close proximity to, or a forest worker is seeking to conduct restoration treatment work on or in close proximity to, the unit; and
- (B) the presence of a sawmill or other wood-processing facility would substantially decrease or does substantially decrease the cost of conducting ecological restoration projects involving vegetation removal;
- (3) in accordance with any conditions the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be necessary, using the amounts made available under subsection (b)(3), provide financial assistance, including a low-interest loan or a loan guarantee, to an entity seeking to establish, reopen, retrofit, expand, or improve a sawmill or other wood-processing facility in close proximity to a unit of Federal land that has been identified under paragraph (1) as high or very high priority for ecological restoration, if the presence of a sawmill or other wood-processing facility would substantially decrease or does substantially decrease the cost of conducting ecological restoration projects involving vegetation removal on the unit of Federal land, including Indian forest land or rangeland, as determined under paragraph (2)(B); and
- (4) to the extent practicable, when allocating funding to units of Federal land for ecological restoration projects involving vegetation removal, give priority to a unit of Federal land that—
 - (A) has been identified under paragraph (1) as being high or very high priority for ecological restoration involving vegetation removal; and
 - (B) has a sawmill or other wood-processing facility—
 - (i) that, as determined under paragraph (2)—
 - (I) exists in close proximity to the unit; and
 - (II) does substantially decrease the cost of conducting ecological restoration projects involving vegetation removal on the unit; or
 - (ii) that has received financial assistance under paragraph (3).