



Inflation Reduction Act: Land Trust Provisions

[The Inflation Reduction Act](#), signed by President Biden on Tuesday, August 16, is a huge win for the environment, and the most significant climate policy passed in the U.S.

The bill would invest \$369 billion in renewable energy, zero carbon transportation, clean manufacturing, community resilience, and natural climate solutions. It contains funding for multiple programs that are critical to the work of land trusts, including investments in Farm Bill programs, the Forest Legacy program, and coastal resilience. This document is a detailed breakdown of the funding provisions in the bill that are most relevant to the land trust community.

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- \$20 billion to support climate-smart agriculture practices.
- \$5 billion in grants to support healthy, fire resilient forests, forest conservation and urban tree planting.
- Tax credits and grants to support the domestic production of biofuels, and to build the infrastructure needed for sustainable aviation fuel and other biofuels.
- \$2.6 billion in grants to conserve and restore coastal habitats and protect communities that depend on those habitats.
- \$14 billion to lower costs for families and support good-paying clean energy jobs in rural communities.
- \$5 billion to protect communities from wildfires while combating the climate crisis and supporting the workforce through climate-smart forestry.
- Significant new resources for more efficient and effective planning, permitting and environmental reviews, which will help engage communities, reduce conflicts, and ensure the clean energy buildout proceeds at a pace necessary to meet climate goals.



Funding Allocations

[Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Provisions](#)

Overview: \$40 billion for agricultural conservation, forestry, and renewable energy (the latter organized as rural development) through FY2031.

Agricultural Conservation Programs (Title II, Subtitle B)

\$20 billion in additional funding for existing farm bill conservation programs:

Section 21001

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program- \$8.45B
 - \$250M for FY2023;
 - \$1.75B for FY2024;
 - \$3B for FY2025;
 - \$3.45B for FY2026;
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program - \$6.75B
 - \$250M for FY 2023
 - \$800M for FY2024;
 - \$1.5B for FY2025;
 - \$2,4B for FY2026;
- Conservation Stewardship Program - \$3.25B
 - \$250M for FY 2023;
 - \$500M for FY2024
 - \$1B for FY 2025
 - \$1.5B for FY2026;
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - \$1.4B
 - \$100M for FY2023;
 - \$200M for FY2024;
 - \$500M for FY2025;
 - \$600M for FY2026

Section 21002

- Conservation technical assistance through NRCS



- \$1B to provide conservation technical assistance through NRCS.
- Carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions quantification program - \$300M
 - \$300M to carry out a program through NRCS to collect field-based data to quantify carbon sequestration and reduction in carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide emissions from the activities of this section. This data will be used to monitor and track carbon sequestration and emissions trends through the Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Assessment Program at USDA

Section 22006

- Farm Loan Immediate Relief
 - \$3.1B through FY2031 for payments on loans for distressed borrowers of direct or guaranteed loans administered by the Farm Service Agency. Prioritized relief to those borrowers whose agricultural operations are at financial risk.

Section 22007

- USDA Assistance and Support - \$125M through FY2031
 - To provide outreach, mediation, financial training, capacity building training, cooperative development and agricultural credit training and support, and other technical assistance on issues concerning food, agriculture, agricultural credit, agricultural extension, rural development, or nutrition to underserved farmers, ranchers, or forest landowners, including veterans, limited resource producers, beginning farmers and ranchers, and farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners living in high poverty areas.
 - Additional \$250M provided for land loss assistance: grants and loans to eligible entities, as determined by the Secretary, to improve land access (including heirs' property and fractionated land issues) for underserved farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners, including veterans, limited resource producers, beginning farmers and ranchers, and farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners living in high poverty areas.



- \$10M to fund one or more equity commissions that will address racial equity issues within the Department of Agriculture and the programs of the Department of Agriculture.
- [Discrimination financial assistance](#) - \$2.2B
 - Funding for a program to provide financial assistance, including the cost of any financial assistance, to farmers, ranchers, or forest landowners determined to have experienced discrimination prior to January 1, 2021.

Forestry Programs (Title II, Subtitle D)

\$5 billion for forest management, planning, and restoration activities for federal and non federal forests

Section 23001

- National Forest System Restoration and Fuels Reduction Projects - \$2.15B
 - \$1.8B for hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System land within the wildland-urban interface;
 - \$200M for vegetation management projects on National Forest System land;
 - \$100M for environmental reviews by the Chief of the Forest Service;
 - \$50M for the protection of old-growth forests on National Forest System land and to complete an inventory of old-growth forests and mature forests within the National Forest System.

Section 23002

- Competitive grants for non-federal forest landowners - \$2.75B
 - \$150M for competitive grants to provide a cost-share to carry out climate mitigation or forest resilience practices in the case of underserved forest landowners;
 - \$150M for competitive grants to support the participation of underserved forest landowners in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience;



- \$100M for competitive grants to support the participation of forest landowners who own less than 2,500 acres of forest land in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience;
- \$50M for competitive grants to states and other eligible entities to provide payments to owners of private forest land for implementation of forestry practices on private forest land to provide measurable increases in carbon sequestration and storage beyond customary practices on comparable land;
- \$100M for the wood innovation grant program including for the construction of new facilities and for the hauling of material removed to reduce hazardous fuels to locations where that material can be utilized.

Section 23003

- State and private forestry conservation programs
 - Forest Legacy - \$700M through FY2031
 - \$1.5B to provide multiyear, programmatic, competitive grants to a State agency, a local governmental entity, an agency or governmental entity of the District of Columbia, an Indian Tribe, or a nonprofit organization through the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance program for tree planting and related activities.

Renewable Energy Programs (Title II, Subtitle C)

\$13.3 billion for farm bill energy title programs:

Section 22001

- Electric loans for renewable energy under the Rural Electrification Act - \$1B
 - USDA may use funding to make loans for electric generation from renewable energy sources, including projects that store electricity

Section 22002

- Rural Energy for America Program - \$1.7B
 - \$304M for grants/loans for underutilized renewable energy technologies and technical assistance with applications.



Section 22003

- \$500M for grants to increase the sale and use of agricultural commodity-based fuels through infrastructure improvements for blending, storing, supplying or distributing bio-fuels.

Section 22004

- \$9.7B in loans for rural cooperatives for the long-term resiliency, reliability, and affordability of rural electric systems; reducing reliance on nonrenewable resources; zero-emissions systems; or for carbon capture and storage systems.

[Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Provisions](#)

Title IV

\$2.6 billion through FY2026 for coastal communities and climate resilience

Section 40001

- Competitive and block grants through NOAA for coastal states, Tribal governments, academic institutions, nonprofit organizations, and state governments to fund projects that support climate resilience of coastal communities, fishery stock assessments and salmon recovery.
- Funding also supports the planning and construction of projects that use natural infrastructure to address coastal hazards such as sea level rise and other impacts from climate change.

Section 80001

\$220 million for Bureau of Indian Affairs' Tribal Climate Resilience Program

- Grants will support climate and coastal management and planning.

Section 40002

\$200 million for NOAA Facilities and National Marine Sanctuaries

- \$150M for construction of new NOAA facilities and \$50M for construction and repair of sanctuary facilities, including interpretive centers.



Section 40003

\$20 million for efficient and effective NOAA reviews

- Speed up environmental review processes needed to get transportation, conservation, and other projects permitted or approved and under construction more quickly. This funding will help NOAA secure additional manpower and equipment necessary to address the backlog of permitting and environmental compliance needs required by the ESA and MMPA.

[Senate Energy and Natural Resources Provisions](#)

Title V

Section 50221

- \$250M through FY2031 to carry out projects for the conservation, protection, and resiliency of lands and resources administered by NPS and BLM.

Section 50222

- \$250M through FY2031 to carry out conservation, ecosystem and habitat restoration projects on lands administered by the NPS and BLM.

Section 50224

- \$200M through FY2026 to carry out priority deferred maintenance projects, through direct expenditures or transfers, within the boundaries of the NPS.

Section 50231

- \$550M through FY2031 for grants, contracts, or financial assistance agreements for disadvantaged communities for up to 100 percent of the cost of the planning, design, or construction of water projects. Primary purpose of projects is to provide domestic water supplies to communities or households that do not have reliable access to domestic water supplies.

[Senate Environment and Public Works Provisions](#)



Section 60114

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants. This section provides \$5 billion for a competitive grant program for state planning and implementation of greenhouse gas reduction programs. Specifically, this section provides EPA with \$250 million for planning grants and \$4.75 billion for implementation grants for programs, policies, measures, and other investments that will achieve or facilitate greenhouse gas emission reductions. Entities eligible to receive grants include States, air pollution control agencies, municipalities, Indian tribes, and groups of one or more such entities. Of amounts made available in this section, 3 percent is reserved for administrative costs. This provision is similar to the Carbon Reduction Program within the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Section 60201

Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants. This section provides \$3 billion to EPA to award grants and provide technical assistance for environmentally-related activities that benefit disadvantaged communities. Of these funds, \$2.8 billion is provided for grants to support eligible activities, \$200 million is provided for technical assistance grants, and 7 percent is reserved for administrative costs. Eligible activities fall into five categories:

1. pollution monitoring, prevention and environmental remediation; investments in low- and zero-emission and resilient technologies and related infrastructure; and workforce development that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants;
2. mitigating climate and health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions, and wildfire events;
3. climate resiliency and adaptation;
4. reducing indoor toxics and indoor air pollution; and
5. facilitating engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal public processes, including facilitating such engagement in advisory groups, workshops, and rulemakings.

Section 60301

Endangered Species Act Recovery Plans. This section provides \$125 million to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for the development and



implementation of recovery plans under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Section 60302

Funding for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to Address

Climate-Induced Weather Events. This section provides \$121.25 million to FWS for direct expenditures, grants, and contracts for rebuilding and restoring units of the National Wildlife Refuge System and state wildlife management areas, including by addressing the threat of invasive species and increasing the resiliency of habitats and infrastructure to withstand climate-induced weather events. This section also provides \$3.75 million for administrative costs related to carrying out this provision.

Helpful Links

- <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IN/IN11978>
- <https://www.commerce.senate.gov/2022/8/sen-cantwell-democrats-deliver-win-s-to-boost-sustainable-aviation-fuel-support-coastal-and-climate-resiliency-and-improve-weather-forecasting-in-inflation-reduction-act>
- <https://www.democrats.senate.gov/inflation-reduction-act-of-2022>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/12/business/economy/inflation-reduction-act-black-farmers.html>