

# RVCC

Rural Voices for  
Conservation  
COALITION

# FISCAL YEAR 2020 APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES



## RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LAND STEWARDSHIP

In America's rural West, economic, environmental, and community health should go hand in hand. Federal land management agencies, and rural communities and businesses, have the opportunity to work together reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire, improve ecosystem health, strengthen rural economies, and support the rural communities that help steward our public and private lands. With adequate and stable funding for public and private lands conservation programs, federal land management agencies, and rural development programs, we can address the growing backlog of needed restoration in the American West.

The Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition encourages Congress to support programs that contribute to collaborative restoration and stewardship economies on both public and private lands, including the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, Farm Bill working lands conservation programs, and the State & Private Forestry Landscape Scale Restoration program. Rural development programs that support the creation of rural businesses, including the Rural Development Business Program and Rural Energy for America Program, are also necessary to grow and maintain the workforce that supports stewardship and conservation work.

## OUR TOP FUNDING PRIORITIES

- 1 Responsible agency budgets
- 2 Working lands conservation
- 3 Cross-boundary restoration
- 4 Rural economic development through land stewardship
- 5 Research and monitoring for improved decision-making

## FUNDING WILDFIRE-RELATED PROGRAMS

To be strong partners to local communities, federal land management agencies must receive adequate funding to accomplish their missions, including hazardous fuels reduction, management of threatened and endangered species, and fire suppression. In light of recently enacted changes to how fire suppression is funded, RVCC encourages funding programs that address the problem of uncharacteristic wildfire and that have been impacted by budget reductions from increasing fire suppression costs. Furthermore, agencies need to use the best available science to guide decision-making and implementation: full funding of the Joint Fire Science Program and Forest Service Research and Development is vital to the health of America's landscapes.



*The West's open spaces, forests, rangelands, watersheds and agricultural soils – and the benefits they provide to all Americans – have never been more important or more threatened.*

## PROPOSED FOREST SERVICE BUDGET STRUCTURE

Funding is critical, yet budget structures are equally important. The Forest Service's newly proposed budget structure combines a number of existing budget line items into a single, unified pool, an approach that could have profound impacts, including reducing accountability for important programs of work. Increased flexibility may provide some benefits, yet RVCC is concerned that the proposal takes the wrong lesson from the Integrated Resource Restoration pilot - that integration of budgets might result in funds being used to meet only "hard targets" at the expense of other vital restoration goals. RVCC encourages Congress to carefully examine potential impacts of the proposed change on vital commitments such as working in partnership with communities, habitat restoration, and planning and research, before adopting changes to the Forest Service's budget structure.

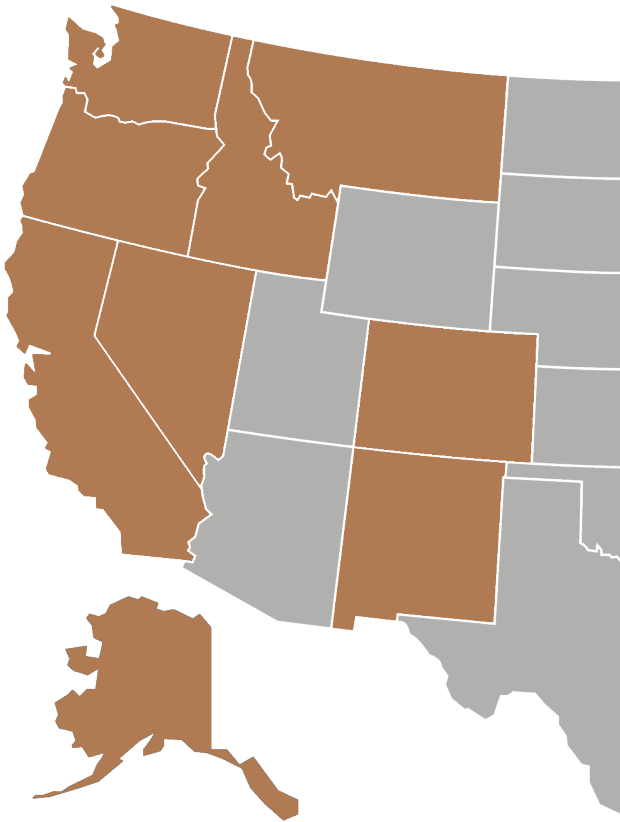
RVCC looks forward to working with Congress and the Administration to fulfill commitments and promises to the rural communities they serve, and upon which the well-being of our nation depends.

(Dollar amounts in millions)

<b>USDA FOREST SERVICE</b>	<b>FY 2019 ACTUAL</b>	<b>FY 2020 PRES BUDGET</b>	<b>FY 2020 RVCC REQUEST</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>			
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	\$40	-	\$80
Land Management Planning	\$141	\$141	\$201
Hazardous Fuels	\$435	\$450	\$500
Vegetation and Watershed Management	\$180	\$180	\$210
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>			
Suppression and Preparedness	\$2,505	\$2,351	\$1,011
National Fire Capacity	\$57	\$44	\$87
Joint Fire Science Program	-	-	\$8
<b>State and Private Forestry</b>			
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program	\$4	-	\$5
Working Forest Lands Program	\$20.5	\$19	\$20
Forest Legacy Program	\$64	-	\$100
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$14	-	\$20
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	<b>\$297</b>	<b>\$255</b>	<b>\$297</b>
<b>USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE</b>			
Regional Conservation Partnership Program	\$281	\$300	\$300 (FMF)
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	\$1,642	\$1,689	\$1,750 (FMF)
Conservation Stewardship Program	\$384	-	\$700 (FMF)
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	\$422	\$433	\$450 (FMF)
Healthy Forests Reserve Program	-	-	\$12 (FMF)
Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Program	-	-	\$25 (FMF)
<b>USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business Development Program	\$35	-	\$60
Rural Energy for America Program Grants	\$33	\$38	\$70
<b>DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR</b>			
USFWS: Partners for Fish and Wildlife	\$52	\$54	\$54
USFWS: North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures	\$13	\$13	\$13
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>			
Wildlife Management	\$103	-	\$103
Hazardous Fuels	\$189	\$194	\$210
Joint Fire Science Program	\$3	-	\$8
<b>USDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b>			
NOAA: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	\$65	-	\$65

(Dollar amounts in millions)

# COALITION PARTNERS



## ALASKA

Alaska Fire Science Consortium  
Sitka Conservation Society  
Sustainable Southeast Partnership\*

## CALIFORNIA

California Center For Rural Policy  
Ore-Cal RC&D Area Council  
Sierra Business Council  
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment  
The Fire Restoration Group  
Watershed Research and Training Center\*

## COLORADO

Public Lands Partnership

## IDAHO

Central Idaho Rangelands Network  
Framing Our Community  
Idaho Conservation League  
Policy Analysis Group, Univ. of Idaho  
Salmon Valley Stewardship\*

## MONTANA

FireSafe Montana  
Flathead Economic Policy Center  
Heart of the Rockies\*  
Tri-County FireSafe Working Group  
Stewardship Alliance of Northeast Elko (SANE)

## NEVADA

Boies Ranches  
Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition

## NEW MEXICO

Forest Stewards Guild\*  
Western Landowners Alliance

## NORTH CAROLINA

Lower Bladen County  
Communities Citizens Group

## OREGON

Blue Mountains Forest Partners\*  
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
Lomakatsi Restoration Project  
Prairie Mountain Folk School  
Resource Innovation Consulting  
Siuslaw Institute\*  
Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative  
Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative  
Sustainable Northwest\*  
Wallowa Resources\*  
Western Environmental Law Center  
Wisewood Energy  
Mt. Adams Resource Stewards\*  
Washington Wild

## REGIONAL/NATIONAL

American Forests  
Center for Rural Strategies

\*Denotes RVCC Leadership Team member

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## ABOUT RVCC

RVCC envisions healthy landscapes and vibrant rural communities throughout the American West. We are committed to finding and promoting solutions through collaborative, place-based work that recognizes the inextricable link between the long-term health of the land and the well-being of rural communities.

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Working together for healthy landscapes and vibrant rural communities across the American West