

FY 2018 APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES

AMERICA'S GOT A RURAL OPPORTUNITY: LET'S GET THE FUNDING RIGHT

In America's rural west, economic, environmental, and community health go hand in hand. Investment in the stewardship of our forests, watersheds, and rangelands creates jobs for local people, while providing clean water and air for all of America. Yet today, our rural communities are still struggling to keep up with their urban neighbors.



Congress and the Administration can spark rural prosperity by investing in solutions that revitalize communities and create jobs through land stewardship. It is imperative to maintain funding that encourages innovation, implementation, and investment in rural America and in our federal agency partners. Therefore, RVCC encourages the following priorities in FY18:

PRIORITY 1 – FIRE FUNDING FIX

A solution to the escalating costs of wildfire is essential. The burden of these costs on Department of the Interior and the USDA Forest Service budgets is crippling—with real implications for the health of our communities and our forests. **RVCC supports a comprehensive fire fix** that stabilizes funding, allows access to disaster funding, and prevents transfers of dollars out of other land management and prevention budgets.

PRIORITY 2 – RURAL JOBS FOR FOREST AND RANGE STEWARDS

Rural forestry, ranching and renewable energy businesses can create jobs and spur economic growth while supporting healthy landscapes. 2018's Farm Bill reauthorization is a critical opportunity to achieve the dual goals of community and environmental health. Important USDA programs to support include: **Rural Business Development Program** and the **Rural Energy for America Program**.

PRIORITY 3 – COLLABORATIVE, CROSS BOUNDARY SOLUTIONS

The scale of the ecological, economic, and social challenges we face are not constrained by property lines or political views. These challenges require solutions that are cross-boundary, collaborative and are implemented at the landscape scale. Support these solutions by maintaining funding for key programs such as: **Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program**, the **Regional Conservation Partnership Program**, the **Partners for Fish and Wildlife program**, and **Sage Grouse Management Plans**.

PRIORITY 4 – BOOTS ON THE GROUND

Wise investments in both our federal agency partners and community based organizations can enhance conservation outcomes, while achieving economic benefits and durable solutions. Programs that increase local capacity include: **BLM's Wildland Fire Community Assistance Program** and the **Community Capacity Land Stewardship Program**.

The Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition looks forward to working with the Congress and the Administration to fulfill commitments and promises to the rural communities they serve, upon which the well-being of our nation depends.

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

RVCC FY2018 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition Funding Recommendations for FY 2018	FY2017 enacted omnibus	RVCC FY2018 Request
USDA FOREST SERVICE	<i>In Millions</i>	
National Forest System		
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	\$40	\$40
Land Management Planning	NA	\$37
Inventory and Monitoring	NA	\$148
Integrated Resource Restoration	\$186	\$186
Wildland Fire Management		
Hazardous Fuels	\$390	\$479
State Fire Assistance	\$78	\$78
State and Private Forestry		
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program	\$2	\$2
Forest Stewardship Program	\$20	\$23
Forest Legacy Program	\$62	\$62
Forest and Rangeland Research	\$289	\$291
Joint Fire Science Program	\$3	\$7
USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT		
Rural Business Development Program	\$24	\$65
Rural Energy for America Program	\$50	\$50
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR		
USFWS: Partners for Fish and Wildlife	\$52	\$52
Bureau of Land Management	\$89	\$89
USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE		
2014 Farm Bill		
Regional Conservation Partnership Program		Full mandatory funding
Environmental Quality Incentives Program		Full mandatory funding
Conservation Stewardship Program		Full mandatory funding
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program		Full mandatory funding
Healthy Forests Reserve Program		Full mandatory funding

The Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition supports responsible federal investment in public programs that integrate ecological, economic, social and cultural values.

COALITION PARTNERS

Alaska

Sealaska Corporation
Sitka Conservation Society
*Sustainable Southeast Partnership**

Arizona

Borderlands Restoration
Gary Paul Nabhan, University of Arizona South-west Center
Grand Canyon Trust
Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership
Melanie Lawrence

California

Dr. Erin Kelly, Humboldt State University
ForEverGreen Forestry
Mid Klamath Watershed Council
Northwest Forest Worker Center
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
Sierra Business Council
Skunk Ranch, LLC
*Watershed Research & Training Center**

Colorado

Coalition for the Upper South Platte
Colorado Forest Restoration Institute
Colorado Springs Utilities
Fire Adapted Colorado
FireWise of Southwestern Colorado
Grand County Wildfire Council
Markit! Forestry Management LLC
Public Lands Partnership
West Region Wildfire Council

Idaho

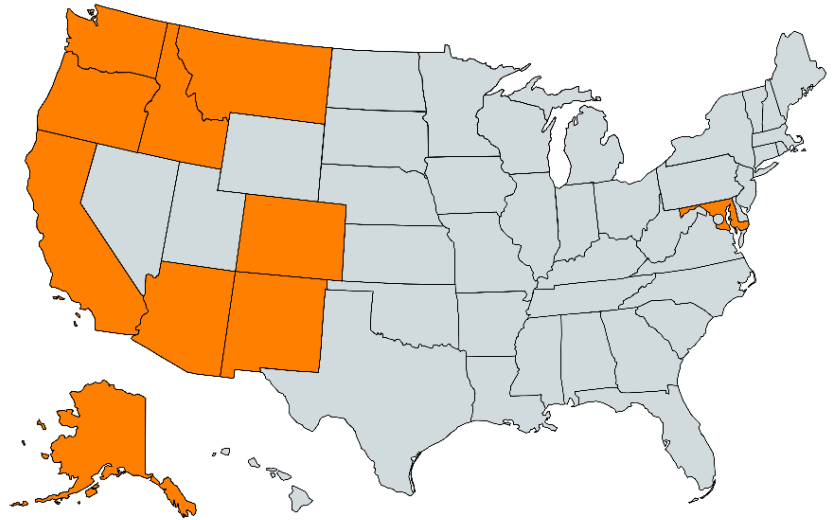
Beyeler Ranches, LLC
Central Idaho Rangelands Network
Framing Our Community
Idaho Conservation League
*Salmon Valley Stewardship**

Maryland

Alliance for Green Heat

Montana

*Blackfoot Challenge**



New Mexico

*Forest Stewards Guild**
Western Landowners Alliance
Wildfire Network

Oregon

Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council
Blue Mountains Forest Partners
*Ecosystem Workforce Program**
Lake County Resources Initiative
Lomokatsi Restoration Project
Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative
Pinchot Institute for Conservation
Rachel Davee
Rogue Indivisible
*Siuslaw Institute**
Southern Oregon Forest Collaborative
*Sustainable Northwest**
*Wallowa Resources**
Western Environmental Law Center

Washington

Darrington Area Resource Advocates
Darrington Strong, Inc.
Friends for Public Use
*Mt Adams Resource Stewards**
Saving Skamania County
Whitman College Semester in the West

**Denotes an RVCC Leadership Team Member*

For more information, contact:

Karen Hardigg
RVCC Director
karen@wallowaresources.org
(541) 426-8053 x24

Ashley Rood
RVCC Associate
ashley@wallowaresources.org
(541) 426-8053 x27

www.ruralvoicescoalition.org

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Blackfoot Challenge, MT
Ecosystem Workforce Program, OR
Forest Stewards Guild, NM
Mt. Adams Resources Stewards, WA
Salmon Valley Stewardship, ID
Siuslaw Institute Inc., OR
Sustainable Northwest, OR
Sustainable Southeast Partnership, AK
Wallowa Resources, OR
Watershed Research and Training Center, CA

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