

AUGUST 2022



WestFAST News

682 East Vine Street / Suite 7 / Murray, UT 84107 / (801) 685-2555/ www.westernstateswater.org/westfast

Chair – Roger Gorke; Federal Liaison Officer – Heather Hofman

Biden-Harris Administration Launches EPA-USDA Partnership to Provide Wastewater Sanitation to Underserved Rural Communities

USDA/EPA 8/2/22

WASHINGTON – Today, at an event in Lowndes County, Alabama, where a significant number of residents lack access to wastewater infrastructure, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced *the Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap Community Initiative*. The new initiative will be piloted in 11 communities across the country where residents lack basic wastewater management that is essential to protecting their health and the environment. EPA, USDA, the states of Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, and West Virginia, and Tribes will jointly leverage technical assistance resources to help historically underserved communities identify and pursue federal funding opportunities – including from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – to address their wastewater needs and eliminate harmful exposure to backyard sewage.

“The America that we all believe in is a land of opportunity. But, for historically marginalized communities from Alabama to Alaska, that opportunity is stolen when basic sanitation doesn't work—exposing adults and children to backyard sewage and disease,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “By partnering with USDA,

states, and leveraging funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA is working to restore dignity and opportunity to rural communities here in Lowndes County and across the country.”

“Under the leadership of the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA believes hardworking people in America's small towns and rural communities should have the infrastructure they need to be healthy and to provide for their families. We recognize that there are still people who have been going without the basics,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “Access to modern, reliable wastewater infrastructure is a necessity, and the Biden-Harris Administration is committed to doing everything we can to ensure every family and every child in America has access to these vital services. By combining USDA and EPA resources and taking advantage of the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we can restore to these communities a sense of economic vitality and social dignity that the people living there deserve.”

“President Biden has been clear—we cannot leave any community behind as we rebuild America's infrastructure with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This includes rural and Tribal communities who for too long have felt forgotten. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$11.7 billion in loans and grants to communities for a wide range of water-quality infrastructure projects, including wastewater solutions for these communities,” said White House Infrastructure Coordinator Mitch Landrieu.

An estimated 2.2 million people in the United States lack basic running water and indoor plumbing. Many more live with wastewater infrastructure that is ineffective and puts people's health at risk. The *Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap Community Initiative* will help communities access financing and technical assistance to improve wastewater infrastructure to "close the gap" for communities that have been left behind for far too long. EPA and USDA—in partnership with state, Tribal, and local partners—are launching the initiative in:

- Bolivar County, Mississippi;
- Doña Ana County, New Mexico;
- Duplin County, North Carolina;
- Greene County, Alabama;
- Halifax County, North Carolina;
- Harlan County, Kentucky;
- Lowndes County, Alabama;
- McDowell County, West Virginia;
- Raleigh County, West Virginia;
- San Carlos Apache Tribe, Arizona; and,
- Santo Domingo Pueblo, New Mexico.

The *Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap Community Initiative* will allow EPA and USDA—in close collaboration with these communities, our state and Tribal partners, and on-the-ground technical assistance providers—to leverage technical and financial expertise to make progress on addressing the wastewater infrastructure needs of some of America's most underserved communities. Each community or Tribe will receive direct support to develop wastewater assessments with technical engineering support, design wastewater community solution plans, identify and pursue funding opportunities, and build long term capacity. States, Tribes, and water agencies have committed to working with the EPA and USDA to support these communities.

Wastewater infrastructure challenges exist in communities across the country. The *Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap Community Initiative* will be a roadmap to scale up efforts in the rest of the country. EPA and USDA each offer technical assistance that can help communities access funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other government programs. Several of the communities chosen for this initiative are also participating in the Biden-Harris Administration's recently announced [Rural Partners](#)

[Network](#). The USDA-led network brings together twenty federal agencies and regional commissions to help rural communities create economic opportunity by accessing resources and funding that match their unique needs and priorities.

"Access to adequate wastewater infrastructure is a basic human right, but for too many of my constituents, generations of disinvestment have led to broken and failing wastewater systems that put the health of our communities at risk," said U.S. Representative Terri Sewell (AL-07). "Since coming to Congress, I have made addressing our wastewater crisis a top priority, working to secure funding and direct resources to areas in need of help. Now, thanks to the leadership of the Biden-Harris Administration and transformative investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, more help is on the way. This joint initiative between the EPA and USDA will be instrumental in our fight to improve wastewater infrastructure for our most underserved communities."

"Decades ago, Lowndes County led the charge for voting rights – today we are leading the call for wastewater equity. Most Americans couldn't imagine raw sewage pooling in their yard just outside the kitchen window, or worse, backing up into their home when it rains too much," said Catherine Flowers, founder of the Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice. "I want to thank the Biden-Harris Administration for committing to help us find a solution. Today, we are taking a big step toward achieving a more just future for the people of Lowndes and rural communities across the U.S."

If you are a community interested in learning more about Technical Assistance opportunities, visit <https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/water-technical-assistance>.

What they are saying:

"Investing in reliable wastewater infrastructure is key to improving the health and wellbeing of our residents and creating the foundation for economic growth," said U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (WV). "As I was negotiating and helping craft the bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, strengthening the wastewater infrastructure in West Virginia was a top priority, and I'm pleased to see McDowell and Raleigh counties included in the first

round of recipients. I have long been an advocate for increased support for our wastewater systems in West Virginia, and I will continue to help deliver the resources our communities need to overcome the infrastructure challenges they face.”

“Every West Virginian deserves clean water to drink and fresh air to breathe. The bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* continues to deliver critical investments for our communities that spur economic growth and enhance public health, and I am pleased the EPA and USDA are partnering to identify new opportunities and upgrade wastewater infrastructure in McDowell and Raleigh Counties. I look forward to seeing the positive impacts of this collaboration for years to come, and I will continue working to ensure our rural communities across the Mountain State have the resources they need to thrive,” said U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (WV).

“Wastewater infrastructure is critical for every individual’s health and safety, and is the backbone of economic development,” said U.S. Senator Thom Tillis (NC). “Some of North Carolina’s wastewater infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, needs improvement. That is why I was proud to help negotiate the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to ensure the package included major funding for North Carolina’s clean water and wastewater management. I’m happy to see the *Closing America’s Wastewater Access Gap Community Initiative* come to fruition and applaud the investments in Halifax and Duplin Counties for wastewater infrastructure to improve drainage problems and sewer line connections.”

“Technical assistance is a proven tool that can help water utilities maintain and upgrade their systems,” said Senator Roger Wicker (MS). “This initiative, which was made possible by the bipartisan infrastructure law that I supported, will help Bolivar County improve its drainage systems and quality of life for its residents.”

“As the only Mississippi Member in the House to vote for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, I am proud that communities in my district will receive assistance through this initiative to address the current drainage issues that the state faces,” said U.S. Representative Bennie Thompson (MS-02). “Providing quality water systems is important

to improving outdated infrastructure in Mississippi.”

“Modern water infrastructure and especially wastewater systems are critically important when it comes to keeping families, individuals, and entire communities healthy. I am excited that Halifax County is one of several communities across the country to receive federal assistance through the *Closing America’s Wastewater Access Gap Community Initiative*. Under the leadership of President Biden coupled with North Carolina’s own, EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan, and USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, underserved communities like those in Halifax County and others in rural America will see wastewater infrastructure improvements to build a better America,” said U.S. Representative G. K. Butterfield (NC-01).

“Clean water is a basic human right and I am proud to support any program that provides that right to Kentuckians,” said Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear.

“In many rural New Mexico communities, like Chapparral in Doña Ana County, residents live without access to basic sanitation services,” said New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. “We have a responsibility to provide equitable access to infrastructure, and this pilot is going to help us get there with valuable input from community members and local leaders.”

“This is an important first step to addressing wastewater issues and bringing health and economic benefits to two of our rural, underserved communities that need it most,” said North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper. “We look forward to working with our federal, Tribal and local partners to meet the needs in our communities.”

“The Alabama Department of Environmental Management is pleased to see these Alabama communities participate in this new pilot program,” said Alabama Department of Environmental Management Director Lance LeFleur. “Access to proper-functioning sewer service is an issue throughout Alabama’s Black Belt, where the combination of nonpermeable soil, low population density and low incomes creates challenges. We are working with communities to provide assistance

and available funding to address these issues. This pilot program complements those efforts.”

“To have two communities in West Virginia selected among 11 participants in this nationwide initiative is an incredibly exciting opportunity,” said West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Harold Ward. “Under the leadership of Governor Jim Justice, West Virginia has committed millions of dollars toward improving wastewater systems in several areas across the state. But now, this additional help from the EPA and the USDA will provide an even bigger boost in our efforts to modernize this critical infrastructure in McDowell and Raleigh counties. This initiative is going to make a real difference in the lives of countless people across our state and our nation.”

“This new EPA/USDA initiative to provide technical assistance to one of our Mississippi communities will build upon MDEQ’s previous and continued efforts to assist Bolivar County and their consulting engineers throughout the process of securing CWSRF funding, if needed, for water pollution control projects,” said Executive Director of Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Chris Wells.

“Wastewater produced on the San Carlos Apache Reservation is currently managed through septic systems and, in the more populated communities near San Carlos, a centralized lagoon disposal facility. The systems are outdated and threaten the health and safety of the Tribal community and groundwater that supplies the community with drinking water,” said Tribal Chairman Terry Rambler. “The San Carlos Apache Tribe strongly supports the EPA Pilot Program as a positive step toward providing modern wastewater facilities to the Tribal community to improve health, welfare, and quality of life.”

“Due to decades of underfunding, Santo Domingo Pueblo’s wastewater infrastructure is degraded and needs repair and replacement,” said Santo Domingo Pueblo Tribal Administrator Herman Sanchez. “Participation in this initiative will enable the Pueblo to make important progress on addressing wastewater service needs in our community.”

Earth had its 6th-hottest July and year to date on record

Antarctic saw another month of record-low sea ice coverage

NOAA 8/12/22



July 21, 2022: In this aerial view over Glossop, England, the bed of the Woodhead reservoir can be seen as summer water levels dropped due to demand for drinking water, record temperatures and reduced rainfall. The United Kingdom saw its 7th-hottest July on record with 46 weather stations setting new all-time maximum temperature records. Europe saw its 6th-hottest July; in contrast, Asia experienced its 3rd hottest on record. (Christopher Furlong/Getty Images)

July 2022 was the world’s sixth-hottest July on record, according to NOAA’s National Centers for Environmental Information.

Last month also saw Earth’s sixth-hottest year to date on record as Antarctic sea ice coverage plunged to a record low for a second consecutive month. Here’s a closer look into NOAA’s latest monthly global climate report:

Climate by the numbers | July 2022

The July 2022 land and ocean-surface temperature for the globe was 1.57 degrees F (0.87 of a degree C) above the 20th-century average of 60.4 degrees F (15.8 degrees C). This made it the sixth-hottest July in the 143-year global climate record.

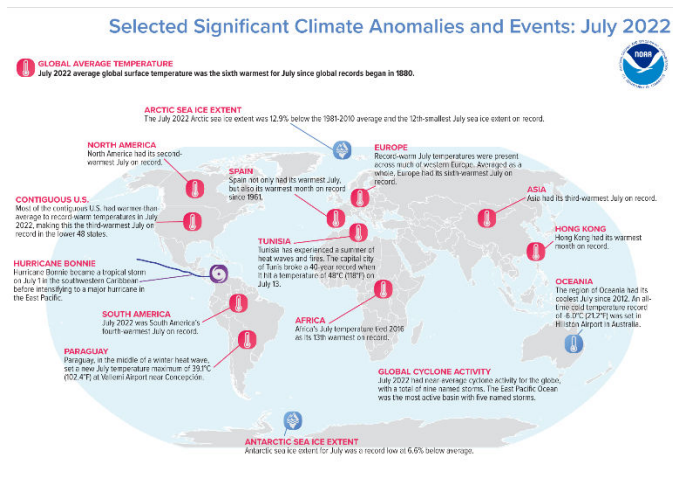
July marked the 46th-consecutive July and the 451st-consecutive month with temperatures above the 20th-century average. The five warmest Julys on record have all occurred since 2016.

Regionally, July 2022 was among the top-10 warmest Julys on record for several continents. North America saw its second-hottest July on record, Asia had its third hottest, South America had its fourth hottest and Europe had its sixth hottest.

Year to date | January through July 2022

The average global land and ocean-surface temperature was the sixth-warmest year to date on record, at 1.55 degrees F (0.86 of a degree C) above average. Asia had its second-hottest such YTD on record with Europe seeing its fifth hottest. Africa, North America and South America all had an above-average YTD, though it did not rank among their top-10 warmest on record.

According to [NCEI's Global Annual Temperature Rankings Outlook](#), there is a greater than 99% chance 2022 will rank among the 10-warmest years on record but an 11% chance the year will rank among the top five.



A map of the world plotted with some of the most significant climate events that occurred during July 2022. Please see the story below as well as more details in the report summary from NOAA NCEI at <http://bit.ly/Global202207>.

More notable climate events last month

- Antarctic sea ice hit another record low: Globally, July 2022 brought the third-lowest July sea ice coverage (extent) on record. Only July 2019 and 2020 had smaller sea ice extents. Antarctica had a record-low July sea ice coverage for the second month in a row at 5.75 million square miles -- about 409,000 square miles below average -- according to an analysis by the [National Snow and Ice Data Center](#). Meanwhile, *Arctic sea ice extent* in July was 471,000 square miles below the 1981-2010 average and the 12th-smallest July extent in the 44-year record, roughly the size of South Africa.
- Tropics were near average: July saw nine named storms, which is near-normal activity

for July. Five storms reached tropical cyclone strength (74 mph or higher), and two (Hurricanes Bonnie and Darby) reached major tropical cyclone strength (111 mph or higher). The North Atlantic saw two tropical storms in July, also near normal. One storm, Bonnie, became a tropical storm on July 1 in the southwestern Caribbean before intensifying to a major hurricane in the Eastern Pacific. The Eastern Pacific, which is having an above-normal hurricane season so far, experienced five named storms, including four hurricanes, in July.

More > [Access NOAA's full climate report, and download images from the NCEI website.](#)

Media contact: John Bateman, john.jones-bateman@noaa.gov, (202) 424-0929

USDA Investing \$197 Million in Partner-Driven, Locally led Conservation

USDA 8/12/22



Drought Resilience Incentive Program (DRIP) primary goal is to increase surface water supplies by addressing brush infiltration onto rangelands in central Texas. The partnership plans to treat approximately 4,000 acres and re-seed treated areas with native perennials. A unique pay-for-performance approach will provide funding to producers based on estimated acre-feet of water yield increase.


WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced it is awarding \$197 million for 41 locally led conservation projects through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). RCPP is a partner-driven program that leverages partner resources to advance innovative projects that address climate change, enhance water quality, and address other critical challenges on agricultural land.

“Our partners are experts in their fields and understand the challenges in their own backyards,” Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said. “Through RCPP we can tap into that knowledge, in partnership with producers and USDA, to come up with lasting solutions to the challenges that farmers, ranchers, and landowners face. We’re looking forward to seeing the results of public-private partnership at its best, made possible through these RCPP investments.”

The projects funded today are awarded under two different RCPP funding opportunities: RCPP Classic and RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA). RCPP Classic projects are implemented using NRCS contracts and easements with producers, landowners and communities, in collaboration with project partners. Through RCPP AFA, partners have more flexibility in working directly with agricultural producers to support the development of new conservation structures and approaches that would not otherwise be available under RCPP Classic.

See the list of 2022 RCPP projects [here](#) or view the [interactive map](#) .

As part of each project, partners offer value-added contributions to amplify the impact of RCPP funding in an amount equal to or greater than the NRCS investment.

Private landowners can apply to participate in an RCPP project in their region through awarded partners or at their local [USDA service center](#) .

More Information

First authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill, RCPP has leveraged partner contributions of more than \$1 for every \$1 invested by USDA, resulting in nearly \$3 billion collectively invested in natural resource conservation on private lands. Since inception, RCPP has made 589 awards involving over 3,000 partner organizations. Currently there are 401 active projects, with at least one active project in every state and area. Successful RCPP projects provide innovative conservation solutions, leverage partner contributions and offer impactful and measurable outcomes. For more information about RCPP, visit the [NRCS website](#).

RCPP is part of NRCS’ broader effort to engage partners. For example, NRCS recently announced it will invest \$35 million this year through the

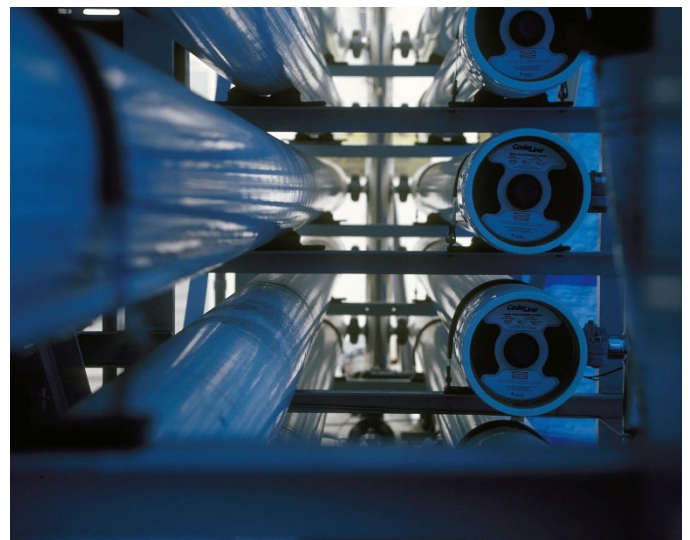
Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program. Through CIG, grantees work to address our nation's water quality, water quantity, air quality, soil health and wildlife habitat challenges, all while supporting agricultural production.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America’s food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Help Communities Reduce Vulnerability to Drought

Over \$310 million investment will support 25 projects bringing water to more than 850,000 per year

BOR 8/18/22



Membranes used in the treatment process for water being recycled and then reused.

IRVINE, Calif. — Following a tour of the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project at the Irvine Ranch Water District today, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton announced the allocation of \$309.8 million in funding from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and \$1 million in appropriated funding for the planning, design and construction of water reuse projects across the country. The selected projects will advance drought resilience and are expected to increase annual capacity by about 213,000 acre-feet of water, enough water to support more than 850,000 people a year.

The announcement caps a two-day swing through central and southern California to highlight how investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will help address the worsening drought crisis and expand access to clean drinking water for families, farmers and wildlife. On Wednesday, Secretary Haaland, Commissioner Touton, and federal, state and local leaders visited with farmers and water users in Fresno to discuss water solutions for farmers and highlight investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

“Water is essential to everything we do and it will take all of us, working together, to address the significant drought impacts we are seeing across the West. As the climate crisis drives severe drought conditions and historically low water allocations, President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is making historic investments to address water and drought challenges and invest in our nation’s western water and power infrastructure,” said Secretary Haaland.

"Water reuse helps communities diversify their water supply as they are facing an unprecedented drought and a changing climate," said Commissioner Touton. “This has tangible impacts and can help feed families, grow crops, sustain wildlife and the environment and help more families access safe, clean, reliable water. These projects will provide flexibility for communities and help them stretch their current drinking supplies as they will be treating wastewater that continues to be available."

Funding will support local water management agencies with stretching existing drinking water

supplies and helping to ensure that growing water needs can be met through the advanced treatment of wastewater and naturally impaired surface and groundwater. Along with non-federal contributions, today’s investment will support an overall \$1.2 billion in infrastructure projects.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allocates \$8.3 billion for Bureau of Reclamation water infrastructure projects to repair aging water delivery systems, secure dams, complete rural water projects, and protect aquatic ecosystems. The funding announced today is part of the \$1 billion in WaterSMART Water Recycling and Reuse grants provided by the Law. The Department previously announced \$52.2 million this year in WaterSMART grants funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to support [water and energy efficiency projects](#) and [conserve watersheds and restore aquatic habitats](#).

Selected Projects

Recipient	State	Title	Reclamation Funding
Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency	CA	Replenish Big Bear Project	\$8,267,112
Carpinteria Valley Water District	CA	Carpinteria Advanced Purification Project	\$9,659,990
Coachella Valley Water District	CA	Water Reclamation Plant 10 (WRP-10) Non-Potable Water System	\$12,276,517
Eastern Municipal Water District	CA	Purified Water Replenishment Project	\$10,000,000
Irvine Ranch Water District	CA	Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project	\$12,245,625
Jurupa Community Services District	CA	Joint IEUA-JCSD Recycled Water Intertie Project	\$12,275,000
Las-Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority	CA	Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo	\$10,199,637
Monterey One Water	CA	Expand Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project	\$10,316,822
City of Morro Bay	CA	Water Reclamation Facility Project	\$9,310,095
City of Oceanside	CA	Pure Water Oceanside Program	\$9,941,533

Recipient	State	Title	Reclamation Funding
Olivenhain Municipal Water District	CA	North San Diego Water Reuse Coalition Regional Recycled Water Program: 2020 Project	\$17,826,952
Padre Dam Municipal Water District	CA	East County Advanced Water Purification Program Phase 2	\$28,300,000
City of Palo Alto	CA	City of Palo Alto Advanced Water Purification System	\$12,867,875
City of Pismo Beach	CA	Central Coast Blue	\$14,124,000
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	CA	Harvest Water Program	\$24,115,808
City of San Buenaventura	CA	Ventura Water Pure Program	\$14,026,650
Santa Margarita Water District	CA	San Juan Watershed Project	\$7,928,615
Sonoma County Water Agency	CA	North Bay Reuse Program: Phase 2 Program	\$6,934,655
Soquel Creek Water District	CA	Pure Water Soquel: Groundwater Replenishment and Seawater Intrusion Prevention Project	\$20,925,000
Water Replenishment District of Southern California	CA	Groundwater Reliability Improvement Program Recycled Water Project	\$15,478,307
County of Maui	HI	Lahaina Water Recycling Project #3: West Maui Recycled Water Expansion	\$1,080,244
City of Nampa	ID	City of Nampa Recycled Water Program	\$3,000,000
El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board	TX	Advanced Water Purification Facility	\$20,000,000
Weber Basin Water Conservancy District	UT	Tertiary Treatment Facility in Central Weber	\$14,300,000
City of Cheney	WA	Cheney Purple Pipe Project	\$5,445,750

The Departments of the Interior and Agriculture co-lead the Drought Resilience Interagency Working

Group and recently released their [Drought Resilience 2022 Year One Summary Report](#). More information, including details about other current opportunities to apply for funding available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, is available on [Reclamation's WaterSMART program webpage](#).

Biden-Harris Administration invests \$65M from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in clean water, roads, trails improvement

USFS 8/26/22



Perched and velocity barrier culvert replaced with a Stream Simulation designed 78" x 36ft long round corrugated metal pipe. Note: This pipe survived a greater than Q50 (2% Annual Exceedance Probability) event with no maintenance required. Tongass NF. Credit: Bob Gubernick, USDA Forest Service.

Today, the Biden-Harris Administration announced more than \$65 million of investments to help the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service improve water quality, roads, trails and fish habitat nationwide.

Made possible by [President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), today is the first round of a

\$25.5 million investment over five years through the new **Collaborative Aquatic Landscape Restoration Program** and more than \$40 million for Fiscal Year 2022 projects for the already successful **Legacy Roads and Trails Program**. The investments being announced will support projects that serve rural community needs, create jobs, and improve access to national forests and grasslands.

“President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has given us a remarkable opportunity to restore and improve waterways across the whole landscape,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “The investments we’re making here ensure communities have clean drinking water and the improved fish habitats that rural areas rely on for subsistence and strong recreation economies.”

The Collaborative Aquatic Landscape Restoration Program follows Secretary Vilsack’s [recent direction](#) to the Forest Service to take bold action to restore forests, make them more resilient to drought, wildfire, insects, disease, and to address the climate crisis. In addition to improving water quality, the 89 projects announced today will reduce sedimentation into streams and restore functioning floodplains across tribal, state and federally managed public lands.

The Legacy Roads and Trails Program funds projects, along with other restoration and infrastructure work, to improve water quality and aquatic habitat while making transportation systems safer, more sustainable and more durable. The 120 projects being announced today aim to address critical road issues in real time by delivering funds where they are needed most. In addition to improving roads and trails for communities, business and recreation, the Legacy Roads and Trails program creates jobs for contractors, including those who specialize in stream restoration, environmental design, and heavy equipment operations.

Since 2008, the Legacy Roads and Trails program maintained and storm proofed more than 18,000 miles of roads, replaced more than a thousand culverts for fish habitat, restored nearly 17,000 miles of streams and decommissioned more than 7,000 miles of roads to improve fish habitat and reduce pollution. Projects also built or repaired 137

bridges and repaired more than 5,000 miles of trails while creating between 700 and 1,100 jobs each year and reducing annual maintenance costs for project areas by \$3.5 million.

“For decades, our forests lacked sufficient maintenance investments due to the escalating cost of climate change driven wildfires and other natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding,” said Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. “The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is investing billions to improve our national forests and our public facilities for all to enjoy. The Biden Administration’s investments are helping to address our most critical needs so we can better steward the national forests and grasslands that provide so many public benefits.”

Details are available at the [Collaborative Aquatic Landscape Restoration Program](#) and [Legacy Roads and Trails Program](#) websites.

Upcoming Meetings and Webinars

WestFAST Webinars: WestFAST is hosting a [series of webinars](#) to discuss the importance of water resources and community engagement related to wildfire prevention, reduction, recovery, and rehabilitation

WOTUS regional policy workshop follow-up discussion 10/13/22, virtual

2022 WSWC Fall (200th) Meetings
10/19-21/22, Sulphur, Oklahoma

Other Federal News

[BOR 8/2/22. Reclamation approves \\$865,480 to five western states for drought contingency planning grants to improve long-term drought resiliency](#)

[DOI 8/3/22. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of \\$725 Million from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Clean Up Legacy Pollution](#)

[USDA 8/3/22. USDA Increases Funding for Partnerships to Safeguard, Restore Wetland Ecosystems](#)

BOR 8/4/22. Reclamation launches new prize competition looking for improved precipitation measurement devices

DOI 8/4/22. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Continued Progress to Improve Conditions for Salmon and Other Native Fish in the Columbia River Basin

USDA 8/8/22. USDA Boosts Conservation on Grazing Lands and Support for Farmers and Ranchers

EPA 8/10/22. EPA Announces \$79 Million Investment from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Protect and Restore the Columbia River Basin

USDA 8/10/22. USDA to Invest \$15 Million in Innovative Projects for Climate-Smart Agriculture, Urban Agriculture and Addressing Invasive Species

USDA 8/11/22. USDA to Invest \$5 Million in the Wetland Mitigation Banking Program

EPA 8/12/22. EPA Announces \$79 Million Investment from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Protect and Restore the Columbia River Basin

USDA 8/12/22. USDA Investing \$197 Million in Partner-Driven, Locally led Conservation

USDA 8/15/22. USDA Announces New Opportunities to Improve Nutrient Management

NOAA 8/16/22. Statement from NOAA Administrator on signing of historic Inflation Reduction Act

EPA 8/17/22. EPA Announces Availability of \$3.6 Million for Tribes to Protect and Expand Critical Wetland Habitats

DOI 8/17/22. Biden-Harris Administration to Help Rural Communities Grow Outdoor Recreation Economy

NOAA 8/18/22. Pilot project to support Tribal climate resilience in Alaska

FWS 8/23/22. Historic Funding from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Headed to Klamath Basin

BOR 8/25/22. Reclamation provides \$1.2 million in grants to improve water modeling and forecasting to support water management

EPA 8/26/22. EPA Releases Guidance to Support Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Investments in Water /Infrastructure for U.S. Territories and D.C.

BOR 8/30/22. Reclamation awards \$500,000 to winners of the Snowcast Showdown

People

USGS 8/15/22. David Applegate Sworn In as Director of the U.S. Geological Survey

The Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 13 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West. WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council (WSWC), and the Western Governors Association in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water resources.