

RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LAND STEWARDSHIP

In America's rural West, economic, environmental, and community health go hand in hand. Rural communities have the local knowledge needed to restore the nation's forests, rivers, and rangelands, but they cannot do it alone. Federal programs must support communities that want to start and grow local businesses, develop capacity to act as shared stewards of the land, and implement working lands conservation. Congress must sufficiently invest in federal agencies so they can support both vibrant rural communities and healthy landscapes.

Communities play a critical role in sustaining the health of America's land and water. To help rural America meet the rising challenges of longer fire seasons and increasing risk of drought, RVCC recommends the following funding priorities in FY2019.

OUR TOP PRIORITIES

1

RURAL JOBS FOR FOREST AND RANGE STEWARDS

RVCC supports fully funding existing grant and loan programs through **USDA Rural Development** that help support and grow rural stewardship economies, including the **Rural Business Development Program** and **Renewable Energy Assistance Program**. These programs help rural communities start and grow businesses that make public land stewardship possible. Federal agencies can plan projects, but local businesses are necessary to complete work on the ground.

2

SHARED STEWARDSHIP

Investing in partners and community-based organizations to plan and implement projects allows rural community groups to act as full partners in the restoration of America's land and waters. The **Natural Resources Conservation Service** provides essential "boots on the ground" assistance to communities to help implement working lands conservation programs. On federally managed land, the **Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program** is a critical example of a program that utilizes local collaboration to successfully implement landscape scale restoration.

3

CROSS-BOUNDARY RESTORATION

Restoration of natural systems is not effective if it ends at an artificial political boundary. Private working lands play an important role in restoring landscape health. Programs like the **Regional Conservation Partnership Program**, **Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund**, **Conservation Stewardship Program** and the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program** ensure that entire landscapes are being restored, from the publicly owned headwaters to the stream reaches that run through working farms, forests, and ranches.

4

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY BUDGETS

Federal land managers need sufficient baseline budgets to meet their obligations to the land and to rural communities. RVCC supports sufficient and stable funding for the **USDA Forest Service**, **Bureau of Land Management**, **US Fish and Wildlife Service**, and other federal conservation partners. The missions of these agencies do not end at day-to-day planning and project implementation; agency programs such as the **Joint Fire Science Program** also play an important role in funding practical, management-driven research to help expand our knowledge and prioritize restoration efforts.

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.



USDA FOREST SERVICE	FY18 ACTUAL	FY19 PRES. BUDGET	FY19 RVCC REQUEST
National Forest System			
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	\$40	--	\$60
Land Management Planning ¹	\$183	--	\$183
Hazardous Fuels ²	\$390	\$390	\$500
Wildland Fire Management			
Suppression & Preparedness	\$2,379	\$2,505	\$2,505
National Fire Capacity ³	\$78	\$66	\$78
Joint Fire Science Program	--	--	\$7
State & Private Forestry			
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation Program	\$4	--	\$4
Working Forest Lands Program ⁴	\$20	\$20	\$20
Forest Legacy Program	\$67	--	\$67
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	FY18 ACTUAL	FY19 PRES. BUDGET	FY19 RVCC REQUEST
USFWS: Partners for Fish & Wildlife	\$52	\$36	\$52
NOAA: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	\$65	--	\$66
BLM: Wildlife Management	\$103	--	\$103
Joint Fire Science Program	\$3	--	\$6
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	FY18 ACTUAL	FY19 PRES. BUDGET	FY19 RVCC REQUEST
NOAA: National Marine Fisheries Service	\$883	\$837	\$883
USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT	FY18 ACTUAL	FY19 PRES. BUDGET	FY19 RVCC REQUEST
Rural Business Development Program	\$34	--	\$65
Rural Energy for America Program	\$50	--	\$70

*Dollar amounts in millions

Cover photos by Emily Jane Davis (left) and Faith Bernstein (right)
Page 2 photos by Emily Jane Davis (left) and Kendrick Moholt (right)
1) combines Land Mgmt and I&M
2) moved from S&PF to NFS in 2018
3) formerly State Fire Assistance; shifted from WFM to S&PF
4) formerly the Forest Stewardship Program

COALITION PARTNERS

Alaska

Sitka Conservation Society
Southeast Alaska Wilderness Exploration,
Analysis, and Discovery
Sustainable Southeast Partnership*

California

California Center for Rural Policy
ForEverGreen Forestry
Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and
Development Area Council
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
Skunk Ranch LLC
Watershed Research and Training Center*

Colorado

Choose Outdoors
Coalition for the Upper South Platte
Dolores Watershed Resilient Forest Collaborative
FireWise of Southwest Colorado
Grand County Wildfire Council
Panadero Property Owners Association
Public Lands Partnership
San Miguel County Commissioner
Southern Rockies Fire Science Network
West Region Wildfire Council

Idaho

Central Idaho Rangelands Network
Framing Our Community
Salmon Valley Stewardship*

Montana

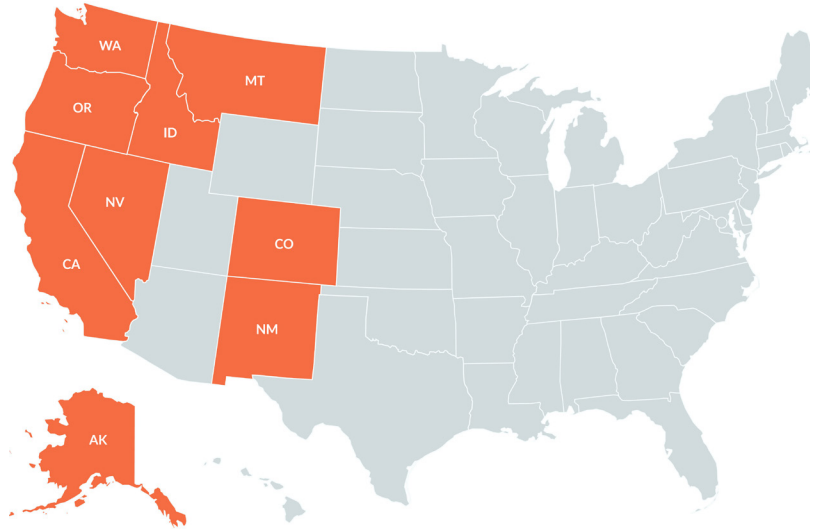
Flathead Economic Policy Center
Heart of the Rockies Initiative*

Nevada

Boies Ranch

New Mexico

Forest Stewards Guild*
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Western Landowners Alliance



Oregon

Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council
Blue Mountain Forest Partners
Ecosystem Workforce Program*
Lake County Resources Initiative
Lomakatsi Restoration Project
Pinchot Institute for Conservation
Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative
Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative
Sustainable Northwest*
Wallowa Resources*
Western Environmental Law Center
Wildland Fire Technologies, Inc.
Suislaw Institute, Inc.*

Washington

Conservation Northwest
Darrington Area Resources Advocates
Darrington Strong
Mount Adams Resource Stewards*

*Denotes RVCC Leadership Team member

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