

## Federal Funding Opportunities

The federal government is a vital source of funding for land and natural resource conservation in the United States. Parks and public lands, productive farms and ranches, vital wildlife habitat, healthy watersheds and more all receive federal dollars. Listed below are current federal conservation program funding opportunities that might be the right match for your next conservation project. Opportunities are organized by deadline date and include opportunities from the Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal and other sources. For a complete listing of current federal funding opportunities available to land trusts, please visit [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

### **INFLATION REDUCTION ACT: OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Restoring Fish Passage Through Barrier Removal Grants (\$175 Million Available)**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Funding for this program is provided through both the IRA and BIL

**DESCRIPTION:**

The principal objective of NOAA's Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Notice of Funding Opportunity is to provide federal financial and technical assistance to fish passage through the removal of dams and other in-stream barriers for native migratory or sea-run fish. Funding will be used for fish passage that rebuilds productive and sustainable fisheries, contributes to the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered species, enhances watershed health, promotes resilient ecosystems and communities, especially in underserved communities, and improves economic vitality, including local employment.

**DEADLINE:** October 16, 2023

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants](#)

#### **Conservation Innovation Grants On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (\$50 Million Available)**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service

**DESCRIPTION:**

NRCS is announcing the availability of Conservation Innovation Grants On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (On-Farm Trials) to stimulate the adoption and evaluation of innovative conservation approaches in partnership with agricultural producers. For 2023, applications will be accepted from eligible entities for projects addressing at least one of the following priorities: irrigation management technologies; feed management and enteric methane reduction; grazing lands; nutrient management; and soil health demonstration (SHD) trials. Up to \$50 million is available for On-Farm Trials in 2023. On-Farm Trials projects may be between 3 and 5 years in duration.

**DEADLINE:**

October 30, 2023

**WEBINARS:**

[September 13, 2023 3 pm Eastern](#)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Conservation Innovation Grants](#)

## **Supporting Underserved and Small-Acreage Forest Landowner Participation in Emerging Private Markets (\$150 Million Available)**

### **FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Support the participation of underserved forest landowners in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience and 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.

### **DEADLINE:**

Track A applications (proposal budgets > or = \$2 million and less than \$25 million) – October 21, 2023

Track B applications (proposal budgets < \$2 million) – August 21, 2024

Track C applications (administer a national competitive regranting program) – August 21, 2024

### **WEBINARS:**

[Track A & B Application Assistance Webinar \(September 6, 3 – 4 p.m. Eastern\)](#)

[Tribal Application Assistance Webinar \(September 7, 3 – 4 p.m. Eastern\)](#)

[FAQ and Track C Application Assistance Webinar \(September 8, 3 – 4 p.m. Eastern\)](#)

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Inflation Reduction Act Forest Landowner Support](#)

## **Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage Through Barrier Removal (\$85 million)**

### **FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Funding for this program is provided through both the IRA and BIL

### **DESCRIPTION:**

The principal objective of the NOAA's Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Funding Opportunity is to provide federal financial and technical assistance to Indian tribes and organizations that represent Indian tribes through formal legal agreements (e.g., tribal commissions, tribal consortia, tribal conservation districts, and tribal cooperatives) (see section III.A for specific Eligibility requirements) to remove barriers to fish passage. NOAA recognizes that healthy fish populations are integral to the living culture of tribes. Funding will be used for fish passage that rebuilds productive and sustainable fisheries, contributes to the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered species, enhances watershed health, promotes resilient ecosystems and communities, and increases tribal capacity to participate in fish passage barrier removal efforts while improving tribal commercial, recreational, subsistence and cultural practice opportunities. Proposed work may be located on tribal lands, throughout traditional use areas, or in coastal watersheds that support fish populations that are or have been integral to the living culture of tribes.

### **DEADLINE:**

November 8, 2023

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage Through Barrier Removal](#)

## **Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience (\$240 Million Available)**

### **FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Funding for this program is provided through both the IRA and BIL

**DESCRIPTION:**

Projects selected through this funding opportunity will have a transformative impact for coastal communities and tribes across the country. They will help sustain our nation's fisheries, make significant strides in the recovery of threatened and endangered species, and help protect coastal communities and ecosystems from the impacts of climate change. They will support efforts such as reconnecting rivers to their historic floodplains, outplanting corals to rebuild reefs, building living shorelines that protect coasts from erosion and sea level rise, and more.

**DEADLINE:**

November 17, 2023

**WEBINARS:**

NOAA will hold two live webinars with information for potential applicants:

[September 6, 2 – 3 p.m. Eastern](#)

[September 13, 3 – 4 p.m. Eastern](#)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants](#)

### **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (IRA Allocated \$1.4 Billion Over 4 Years)<sup>1</sup>**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service

**DESCRIPTION:**

To help landowners, land trusts and other entities protect the agricultural viability and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting nonagricultural uses which negatively affect agricultural uses and conservation values, protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring or conserving eligible grazing land and protecting and restoring and enhancing wetlands on eligible land.

**DEADLINE:**

The FY23 IRA funding opportunity is closed, but NRCS accepts applications year-round. If you apply after the program ranking date, NRCS will automatically consider your application during future funding cycles.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Agricultural Conservation Easement Program](#)

### **Conservation Stewardship Program (IRA Allocated \$3.25 Billion Over 4 Years)<sup>2</sup>**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service

**DESCRIPTION:**

NRCS works one-on-one with producers to develop a conservation plan that outlines and enhances existing efforts, using new conservation practices or activities, based on management objectives for your operation. Producers implement practices and activities in their conservation plan that expands on the benefits of cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat, all while improving their agricultural operations. CSP offers annual payments for implementing these practices on your land and operating and maintaining existing conservation efforts. CSP also offers bundles where you can select a suite of enhancements and receive a higher payment rate.

**DEADLINE:**

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<sup>1</sup> FY 2023 - \$100 million, FY 2024 - \$200 million, FY 2025 - \$500 million, FY 2026 - \$600 million

<sup>2</sup> FY 2023 - \$250 million, FY 2024 - \$500 million, FY 2025 - \$1 billion, FY 2026 - \$1.5 billion



Year round. By [state ranking date](#) for current cycle.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Conservation Stewardship Program](#)

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (IRA Allocated \$8.45 Billion Over 4 Years)<sup>3</sup>**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service

**DESCRIPTION:**

NRCS works one-on-one with producers to develop a conservation plan that outlines conservation practices and activities to help solve on-farm resource issues. Producers implement practices and activities in their conservation plan that can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat, all while improving their agricultural operations. EQIP helps producers make conservation work for them. Financial assistance for practices may be available through EQIP. Some producers may also qualify for advance payment.

**DEADLINE:**

Year round. By [state ranking date](#) for current cycle.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#)

**Forest Legacy Program (\$250 Million Available)**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service

**DESCRIPTION:**

The purpose of the Forest Legacy Program is to identify and conserve environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Providing economic incentives to landowners to keep their forest as forests encourages sustainable forest management and supports strong markets for forest products. Landowners may participate in the Forest Legacy Program by either selling their property outright or by retaining ownership and selling only a portion of the property’s development rights; both are held by state agencies or another unit of government. The use of a conservation easement, a legal agreement between a landowner and a non-profit land trust or governmental agency, allows the land to remain in private ownership while ensuring that its environmental values are retained.

**DEADLINE:**

There will be two submission and review processes for IRA funding consideration – one round in the winter (December 11, 2023, national deadline) and one round in the summer (May 20, 2024, national deadline).

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Fiscal Year 2024 Project Selection Process for the Forest Legacy Program Inflation Reduction Act Project Funds](#)

**BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEAL: OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Community Wildlife Defense Grant Program (\$250 Million Available)**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

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<sup>3</sup> FY 2023 - \$250 million, FY 2024 - \$1.75 billion, FY 2025 - \$3 billion, FY 2026 - \$3.45 billion



United States Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service

**DESCRIPTION:**

The purpose of the Community Wildfire Defense Grant is to assist at-risk local communities and Indian Tribes with planning and mitigating against the risk created by wildfire. The Act prioritizes at-risk communities in an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential, are low-income, and/or have been impacted by a severe disaster.

**DEADLINE:**

October 31, 2023

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Community Wildlife Defense Grant Program](#)

**National Fish Passage Program BIL Funding (\$38 Million Available)**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Interior’s Fish and Wildlife Service

**DESCRIPTION:**

This funding opportunity announcement outlines the criteria and process to select projects for NFPP BIL FY2023 funding. The NFPP is a voluntary program that provides direct technical and financial assistance to partners to remove instream barriers and restore aquatic organism passage and aquatic connectivity for the benefit of Federal trust resources. In doing so, NFPP aims to maintain or increase fish populations to improve ecosystem resiliency and provide quality fishing experiences for the American people. Activities that restore fish passage also support the modernization of the country’s infrastructure such as road culverts, bridges, and water diversions contributing to enhanced community resilience to the impacts from climate change and other public safety hazards. NFPP funds a variety of project types including, but not limited to, dam removals, culvert replacements, floodplain restoration, and the installation of fishways. The NFPP is delivered through the Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program (FAC) across all States and territories. FAC staff coordinate with project partners, stakeholders, and other Service programs to identify and collaboratively implement projects within regional priority areas. Project work plans are developed strategically, in coordination with partners, and with substantial involvement from FAC staff. Projects must be based upon sound scientific principles, advance the Service mission, and promote biological diversity. Applicants seeking funding under this program should contact the regional NFPP Coordinator that corresponds to the location of the project for additional information on regional priorities and coordination with FAC staff prior to applying for funding. Contacts are listed at the end of the announcement.

**DEADLINE:**

December 31, 2023

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[National Fish Passage Program](#)

**OTHER OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Partners for Fish and Wildlife (\$15 Million Available)**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Interior’s Fish and Wildlife Service

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program is a voluntary, incentive-based program that provides direct technical assistance and financial assistance in the form of cooperative and grant agreements to private landowners to restore and conserve fish and wildlife habitat for the benefit of federal trust



resources. The PFW Program is delivered through more than 250 full-time staff, active in all 50 States and territories. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program staff coordinate with project partners, stakeholders and other Service programs to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation priorities within these focus areas. Geographic focus areas define where the program directs resources to conserve habitat for federal trust species. Project work plans are developed strategically, in coordination with partners, and with substantial involvement from Service field staff.

**DEADLINE:**

September 30, 2023

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Partners for Fish and Wildlife](#)

## **Coastal Program**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Interior’s Fish and Wildlife Service

**DESCRIPTION:**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Coastal Program is a voluntary, community-based program that provides technical and financial assistance through cooperative agreements to coastal communities, conservation partners, and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands. The Coastal Program staff coordinates with partners, stakeholders and other Service programs to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation goals and priorities within these focus areas. Geographic focus areas are where the Coastal Program directs resources to conserve habitat for Federal trust species. Projects are developed in collaboration with partners, and with substantial involvement from Service field staff. Coastal Program projects must support the missions of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), and the Coastal Program, and be based on biological principles and the best available science. The Coastal Program takes an adaptive approach to designing and implementing coastal habitat protection and restoration strategies that anticipate and ameliorate the impacts of climate change and other environmental stressors. Coastal Program habitat improvement projects strive to increase coastal resiliency by improving the ability of coastal ecosystems to adapt to environmental changes and supporting natural and nature-based infrastructure projects to protect and enhance coastal habitats.

Applicants seeking technical or financial assistance from the Coastal Program are requested to consult with the regional or local Coastal Program office BEFORE developing or submitting an application.

**DEADLINE:**

September 30, 2023

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Coastal Program](#)

## **Candidate Species Conservation Fund (\$500K Available)**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Interior’s Fish and Wildlife Service

**DESCRIPTION:**

The principal objective of this Candidate Species Conservation funding opportunity is to accomplish conservation tasks for high priority candidate species (based on our annual Candidate Species Assessments) or other at-risk species in the United States, such that identified threats to the species may be reduced or eliminated.



These efforts are based on cooperative relationships with states, non-governmental organizations, private landowners and those interested in habitat restoration or undertaking candidate and at-risk species research, surveys and monitoring, or educational outreach efforts.

**DEADLINE:**

September 30, 2023

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Candidate Species Conservation Fund](#)

### **North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grants Program (\$3 Million Available)**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Interior’s Fish and Wildlife Service

**DESCRIPTION:**

The U.S. Small Grants Program is a competitive, matching grants program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States that further the goals of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Projects must involve only long-term protection, restoration, enhancement and/or establishment of wetland and associated upland habitats to benefit migratory birds. The program requires a 1:1 non-federal match and research funding is ineligible. This program supports the DOI and FWS mission of protecting and managing the nation's natural resources by collaborating with partners and stakeholders to conserve land and water and to expand outdoor recreation and access.

**DEADLINE:**

October 12, 2023

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grants Program](#)

### **Conservation Innovation Grants Classic Program (\$15 Million Available)**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service

**DESCRIPTION:**

NRCS is announcing the availability of up to \$15 million in Conservation Innovation Grants funding to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in conjunction with agricultural production. CIG projects are expected to lead to the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches (such as market-based systems) to agricultural producers through the development of technical manuals, guides and for practical instruction for the private sector.

**DEADLINE:**

October 30, 2023

**WEBINARS:**

[September 12, 2023 2pm Eastern](#)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Conservation Innovation Grants](#)

### **Chesapeake Gateways Grants**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Interior’s National Park Service



**DESCRIPTION:**

All grant submissions shall present projects or programs which: (A) identify, conserve, restore, and/or interpret natural, recreational, historical, and/or cultural resources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed ; and (B) identify and utilize the collective resources as Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites for enhancing public education of and access to the Chesapeake Bay. C) Grant submissions must also clearly provide a public purpose. Public purpose means for the purpose of providing facilities, programs, or services for the benefit of the public. These grants should represent a public purpose by enhancing public education of and public access to the Chesapeake Bay and its waterways and landscapes, by target communities and the general public.

**DEADLINE:**

November 3, 2023

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Chesapeake Gateways Grants](#)

### **Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program – West**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service

**DESCRIPTION:**

The purpose of the Landscape Scale Restoration competitive grant program is to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority rural forest landscapes. This program supports high impact projects that lead to measurable outcomes on the landscape, leverage public and private resources, and further priorities identified in a State Forest Action Plan or equivalent science-based restoration strategy.

**DEADLINE:**

November 17, 2023

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program](#)

### **Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program – Northeast and Midwest**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service

**DESCRIPTION:**

The purpose of the Landscape Scale Restoration competitive grant program is to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority rural forest landscapes. This program supports high impact projects that lead to measurable outcomes on the landscape, leverage public and private resources, and further priorities identified in a State Forest Action Plan or equivalent science-based restoration strategy.

**DEADLINE:**

November 30, 2023

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program](#)

### **Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program – Southern**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service

**DESCRIPTION:**





The purpose of the Landscape Scale Restoration competitive grant program is to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority rural forest landscapes. This program supports high impact projects that lead to measurable outcomes on the landscape, leverage public and private resources, and further priorities identified in a State Forest Action Plan or equivalent science-based restoration strategy.

**DEADLINE:**

December 15, 2023

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program](#)

**National Fish Passage Program (\$9.2 Million Available)**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

United States Department of Interior’s Fish and Wildlife Service

**DESCRIPTION:**

The National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) is a voluntary program that provides direct technical and financial assistance to partners to remove instream barriers and restore aquatic organism passage and aquatic connectivity for the benefit of Federal trust resources. In doing so, NFPP aims to maintain or increase fish populations to improve ecosystem resiliency and provide quality fishing experiences for the American people. Activities that restore fish passage also support the modernization of the country’s infrastructure such as road culverts, bridges, and water diversions contributing to enhanced community resilience to the impacts from climate change and other public safety hazards. NFPP funds a variety of project types including, but not limited to, dam removals, culvert replacements, floodplain restoration, and the installation of fishways. This funding is available through annual appropriations to the NFPP and is separate from NFPP funding provided through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law).

**DEADLINE:**

December 31, 2023

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

[National Fish Passage Program](#)