

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 119–22**  
**OFFERED BY MR. PANETTA OF CALIFORNIA**

Add at the end the following new title:

1           **TITLE XIII—EMERGENCY**  
2           **WILDFIRE ACT OF 2023**  
3       **Subtitle A—Landscape-scale Forest**  
4           **Restoration**

5       **SEC. 13101. DEFINITIONS.**

6           In this subtitle:

7               (1) CONSERVATION FINANCE AGREEMENT.—

8           The term “conservation finance agreement” means a  
9           mutual benefit agreement (excluding a procurement  
10          contract, grant, or cooperative agreement described  
11          in chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code) for a  
12          conservation finance project—

13               (A) the term of which is not less than 2,  
14               and not more than 20, years;

15               (B) that may provide that performance  
16               under the agreement during the second and  
17               subsequent years of the agreement is contingent  
18               on the appropriation of funds or receipt of col-  
19               lections; and

1 (C) that may provide for a cancellation  
2 payment to be made to the conservation finance  
3 project developer if those appropriations are not  
4 made or collections are not received.

5 (2) CONSERVATION FINANCE PROJECT.—The  
6 term “conservation finance project” means a  
7 project—

8 (A) conducted on National Forest System  
9 land and may include land adjoining National  
10 Forest System land;

11 (B) that would—

12 (i) protect, restore, or improve Na-  
13 tional Forest System land; and

14 (ii) use a conservation finance model  
15 that employs a debt financing approach  
16 that uses loaned capital from a conserva-  
17 tion finance project investor to cover up-  
18 front project costs, with the loaned capital  
19 repaid over time by conservation finance  
20 project beneficiaries; and

21 (C) the purpose of which is to conduct eco-  
22 logical restoration treatments that, at the time  
23 of selection for a conservation finance agree-  
24 ment under the pilot program established under  
25 section 103(a)—

1 (i) are conducted under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program established under section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303);

2 (ii)(I) were previously conducted under the Program described in clause (i);

3 (II) are no longer eligible for funding under that Program due to a time limitation under subsection (b)(1)(B) or (d)(4)(B) of that section; and

4 (III) are otherwise eligible for funding under that Program;

5 (iii) are conducted by a water source investment partnership established under section 303(c) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542(c));

6 or

7 (iv) are conducted under the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Program established under section 40808 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592d).

8 (3) CONSERVATION FINANCE PROJECT BENEFICIARY.—The term “conservation finance project

1 beneficiary” means a nonprofit, for-profit, or Fed-  
2 eral, State, local, or Tribal governmental entity or  
3 individual that—

4 (A) benefits from conservation finance  
5 project outcomes; and

6 (B)(i) provides capital directly to fund a  
7 conservation finance project; or

8 (ii) repays to a conservation finance  
9 project investor up-front loaned capital for a  
10 conservation finance project at a rate of return  
11 agreed to by the entity or individual and the  
12 conservation finance project investor.

13 (4) CONSERVATION FINANCE PROJECT DEVEL-  
14 OPER.—The term “conservation finance project de-  
15 veloper” means a nonprofit or for-profit inter-  
16 mediary that assists in developing, financing, fund-  
17 ing, or implementing a conservation finance project.

18 (5) CONSERVATION FINANCE PROJECT INVES-  
19 TOR.—The term “conservation finance project inves-  
20 tor” means a nonprofit, for-profit, or State, local, or  
21 Tribal governmental entity or individual that pro-  
22 vides up-front loaned capital for a conservation fi-  
23 nance project.

24 (6) ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY.—The term “eco-  
25 logical integrity” has the meaning given the term in

1 section 219.19 of title 36, Code of Federal Regula-  
2 tions (as in effect on the date of enactment of this  
3 Act).

4 (7) LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY.—The term “low-  
5 income community” has the meaning given the term  
6 in section 45D(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
7 1986.

8 (8) RESTORATION.—The term “restoration”  
9 has the meaning given the term in section 219.19 of  
10 title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on  
11 the date of enactment of this Act).

12 (9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
13 the Secretary of Agriculture.

14 (10) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term  
15 “wildland-urban interface” has the meaning given  
16 the term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Res-  
17 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

18 **SEC. 13102. PURPOSE.**

19 The purpose of this subtitle is to increase the pace  
20 and scale of forest restoration and land management  
21 projects across the National Forest System by—

22 (1) authorizing a pilot program with conserva-  
23 tion finance agreement authority to leverage other  
24 Federal and non-Federal investment (in addition to  
25 funds appropriated to the Forest Service) in land-

1       scape-scale, multistakeholder land management ac-  
2       tivities and related natural and built infrastructure  
3       and associated local employment opportunities;

4           (2) encouraging project planning and analysis  
5       that effectively scale up to the landscape level of  
6       100,000 acres or more;

7           (3) supporting projects that emphasize—

8               (A) the reintroduction of characteristic  
9       fire, based on forest ecology and reference con-  
10      ditions, through the use of prescribed fire, wild-  
11      fire managed for resource benefits, or both;

12            (B) restoring terrestrial and aquatic areas  
13      that lack ecological integrity; or

14            (C) reducing the risk of uncharacteristic  
15      wildfire and improving forest resiliency;

16           (4) requiring ecological standards and collabo-  
17      ration for landscape-scale projects; and

18           (5) coordinating with Federal, State, local, and  
19      Tribal entities to support the pilot program de-  
20      scribed in paragraph (1) by taking full advantage of  
21      existing interagency agreements and authorities.

22   **SEC. 13103. CONSERVATION FINANCE AGREEMENTS.**

23       (a) **PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary  
24      shall establish a pilot program under which the Secretary  
25      may enter into a conservation finance agreement with a

1 public or private person, including a for-profit or nonprofit  
2 organization, to carry out a conservation finance project  
3 if the Secretary finds each of the following:

4 (1) There is a reasonable expectation that,  
5 throughout the contemplated agreement period, the  
6 Secretary will request funding for the agreement at  
7 the level required to avoid agreement cancellation.

8 (2) The environmental analysis for the project  
9 demonstrates that there is a supply sufficient to sup-  
10 port a conservation finance agreement of—

11 (A) small-diameter material; or

12 (B) other hazardous fuels, the removal of  
13 which would reduce the risk of uncharacteristic  
14 wildfire.

15 (3) The use of the conservation finance agree-  
16 ment will assist in achieving the purpose described  
17 in section 102.

18 (4) The project involves a conservation finance  
19 project developer.

20 (b) LIMITED DELEGATION.—The Secretary may not  
21 delegate the pilot program authority under subsection (a)  
22 to a Federal official that serves under the Chief of the  
23 Forest Service.

24 (c) LIMITATIONS.—The pilot program authority  
25 under subsection (a)—

1           (1) may not be used to enter into more than 20  
2           conservation finance agreements;

3           (2) may be used for the obligation under con-  
4           servation finance agreements of—

5                   (A) during the 10-year period beginning on  
6                   the date of enactment of this Act, not more  
7                   than \$250,000,000 in the aggregate; and

8                   (B) not more than \$50,000,000 for any 1  
9                   conservation finance agreement; and

10           (3) may not be used to reimburse for interest  
11           paid to any other entity providing funds for the ap-  
12           plicable conservation finance project.

13           (d) PRIORITY.—In entering into conservation finance  
14           agreements under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give  
15           priority to projects described in that subsection that are  
16           based on restoration strategies addressing larger land-  
17           scapes, particularly landscapes of 100,000 acres or more.

18           (e) CANCELLATION, TERMINATION, OR MODIFICA-  
19           TION FOR INSUFFICIENT FUNDING.—

20                   (1) IN GENERAL.—

21                           (A) INSUFFICIENT FUNDING.—If funds are  
22                           not made available for the continuation of a  
23                           conservation finance agreement made under  
24                           this section into a subsequent fiscal year, the

1 agreement shall be canceled, terminated, or  
2 modified.

3 (B) PAYMENT OF COSTS.—If the Secretary  
4 determines that it is necessary to cancel or ter-  
5minate a conservation finance agreement pursu-  
6ant to subparagraph (A), and the conservation  
7finance agreement includes a cancellation or  
8termination provision as described in paragraph  
9(2)(A), the Secretary may pay the costs of that  
10cancellation or termination using any of the fol-  
11lowing amounts:

12 (i) Appropriations originally available  
13 for the performance of the applicable con-  
14servation finance agreement.

15 (ii) Appropriations currently available  
16 for the type of services concerned under  
17 the applicable conservation finance agree-  
18ment, and not otherwise obligated.

19 (iii) Funds appropriated for payment  
20 of the costs of cancellation or termination.

21 (2) PROVISIONS IN AGREEMENTS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may in-  
23clude cancellation or termination provisions in  
24conservation finance agreements under this sec-  
25tion to the extent that those provisions are nec-

1           essary and in the best interests of the United  
2           States.

3                   (B) CONSIDERATIONS.—The cancellation  
4           or termination provisions described in subpara-  
5           graph (A) may include consideration of the re-  
6           curring and nonrecurring costs of the conserva-  
7           tion finance project developer under the applica-  
8           ble conservation finance agreement.

9                   (3) CANCELLATION AND TERMINATION  
10          COSTS.—

11                   (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may ob-  
12           ligate funds in stages that are economically or  
13           programmatically viable to cover any potential  
14           cancellation or termination costs related to the  
15           Federal share of the costs under a conservation  
16           finance agreement under paragraph (1)(B) and  
17           implement the agreement pursuant to this sec-  
18           tion.

19                   (B) ADVANCE NOTICE TO CONGRESS OF  
20           CANCELLATION OR TERMINATION COSTS IN EX-  
21           CESS OF \$25,000,000.—Not later than 30 days  
22           before entering into a conservation finance  
23           agreement under this section that includes can-  
24           cellation or termination costs in excess of  
25           \$25,000,000, but does not include proposed

1 funding for the costs of cancelling or termi-  
2 nating the agreement up to the maximum can-  
3 cellation or termination costs in the agreement,  
4 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on  
5 Energy and Natural Resources and the Com-  
6 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
7 of the Senate and the Committee on Natural  
8 Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of  
9 the House of Representatives a written notice  
10 that includes—

11 (i) a description of the cancellation or  
12 termination cost amounts proposed for  
13 each program year in the agreement;

14 (ii) the reasons why the cancellation  
15 or termination cost amounts described  
16 under clause (i) were selected;

17 (iii) a description of the extent to  
18 which the costs of agreement cancellation  
19 or termination are not included in the  
20 budget for the agreement; and

21 (iv) an assessment of the financial  
22 risk of not including budgeting for the  
23 costs of agreement cancellation or termi-  
24 nation.

1 (C) TRANSMITTAL OF NOTICE TO OMB.—  
2 Not later than 14 days after the date on which  
3 written notice is provided under subparagraph  
4 (B), the Secretary shall transmit a copy of the  
5 notice to the Director of the Office of Manage-  
6 ment and Budget.

7 (D) DETERMINATION OF CANCELLATION  
8 OR TERMINATION COSTS SPECIFIC TO A CON-  
9 SERVATION FINANCE AGREEMENT.—The Sec-  
10 retary may enter into a conservation finance  
11 agreement pursuant to this section that in-  
12 cludes conservation finance project developer  
13 services in return for payments by the Sec-  
14 retary in future years that are contingent on  
15 the appropriation of funds, subject to the re-  
16 quirement that the Secretary shall pay the con-  
17 servation finance project developer the Federal  
18 share of the cancellation or termination costs  
19 under the agreement pursuant to paragraph  
20 (1)(B) up to the limitation on cancellation or  
21 termination costs applicable to the agreement if  
22 funding for the completion of the agreement is  
23 not appropriated.

24 (f) NON-FEDERAL COST SHARE.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The non-Federal share of  
2           the costs of implementing a conservation finance  
3           agreement carried out using amounts made available  
4           under this subtitle shall be not less than 40 percent  
5           of the costs of implementing the conservation fi-  
6           nance agreement, of which, subject to paragraph  
7           (2)—

8                   (A) up to 50 percent may be reimbursed  
9                   by the Forest Service, subject to the availability  
10                  of appropriations and subsections (c)(3) and  
11                  (e); and

12                  (B) not less than 50 percent shall be cov-  
13                  ered by non-Federal funding, which may include  
14                  in-kind contributions.

15           (2) COST SHARE FOR LOW-INCOME COMMU-  
16           NITIES.—In the case of a conservation finance  
17           project that the Secretary determines would pri-  
18           marily benefit 1 or more low-income communities  
19           and for which the non-Federal entities involved can-  
20           not meet the cost share requirement under para-  
21           graph (1)—

22                   (A) subparagraph (A) of that paragraph  
23                   shall be applied by substituting “75 percent”  
24                   for “50 percent”; and

1 (B) subparagraph (B) of that paragraph  
2 shall be applied by substituting “25 percent”  
3 for “50 percent”.

4 (3) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this sub-  
5 section limits additional non-Federal financing or  
6 funding for a conservation finance project above the  
7 40 percent minimum non-Federal cost share de-  
8 scribed in paragraph (1).

9 (g) STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CONTRACTING  
10 PROJECT AUTHORITIES.—A conservation finance agree-  
11 ment developed under this section may incorporate the au-  
12 thorities provided to the Secretary and the Chief of the  
13 Forest Service to enter into stewardship contracting  
14 projects under section 604 of the Healthy Forests Res-  
15 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c).

16 **SEC. 13104. REPORT EVALUATING IMPLEMENTATION.**

17 Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment  
18 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee  
19 on Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropria-  
20 tions of the House of Representatives and the Committee  
21 on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on  
22 Appropriations of the Senate a report evaluating the im-  
23 plementation of this subtitle, including—

24 (1) a list of conservation finance agreements  
25 entered into under this subtitle and the accomplish-

1       ments under the projects carried out under those  
2       agreements; and

3               (2) an evaluation of the pilot authority for con-  
4       servation finance agreements described in section  
5       103, including whether that authority has—

6               (A) increased the availability of non-Fed-  
7       eral funding sources to assist in landscape-scale  
8       forest restoration projects;

9               (B) promoted private or other non-Federal  
10       investment in—

11               (i) new or existing infrastructure and  
12       related equipment that can make use of  
13       the byproducts of forest restoration;

14               (ii) the use of prescribed fire at a  
15       greater scale;

16               (iii) related economic development and  
17       workforce training and development;

18               (iv) land management activities en-  
19       hancing natural infrastructure with bene-  
20       fits for downstream water users; or

21               (v) mitigating the risk of  
22       uncharacteristic wildfire; and

23               (C) any barriers limiting the broader use  
24       or implementation of the pilot project authority  
25       to additional projects, including risks that may

1           discourage further participation and investment  
2           by outside parties.

3       **Subtitle B—Increasing Community**  
4           **Resilience to Wildfire**

5       **SEC. 13201. CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND MICROGRID**  
6           **PROGRAM.**

7           (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8               (1) CRITICAL FACILITY.—

9                   (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “critical fa-  
10                   cility” means a facility that provides services or  
11                   may be used—

12                           (i) to save lives;

13                           (ii) to protect property, public health,  
14                           and public safety; or

15                           (iii) to lessen or avert the threat of a  
16                           catastrophe.

17                   (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “critical facil-  
18                   ity” includes—

19                           (i) a hospital;

20                           (ii) an outpatient clinic;

21                           (iii) a nursing home;

22                           (iv) a police station;

23                           (v) an emergency operation center;

24                           (vi) a jail or prison;

25                           (vii) a fire station;

1 (viii) a facility in the communications  
2 sector, as determined by the Secretary;

3 (ix) a facility in the chemical sector,  
4 as determined by the Secretary;

5 (x) a school or other large building  
6 that may serve as a temporary gathering  
7 space;

8 (xi) a utility station, such as a water  
9 station, wastewater station, community  
10 water system, or irrigation works;

11 (xii) a facility described in subpara-  
12 graph (A) that is owned or operated by, or  
13 provides services to, an Indian Tribe (as  
14 defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-De-  
15 termination and Education Assistance Act  
16 (25 U.S.C. 5304));

17 (xiii) a Federal facility, including a  
18 military base or installation; and

19 (xiv) any other facility described in  
20 subparagraph (A), as determined by the  
21 Secretary.

22 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
23 the Secretary of Energy.

24 (b) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND MICROGRID  
25 PROGRAM.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish  
2           a program—

3                   (A) to improve the energy resilience and  
4                   power needs of critical facilities through the de-  
5                   velopment and use of microgrids, renewable en-  
6                   ergy, energy efficiency, reduced electricity de-  
7                   mand, and on-site storage;

8                   (B) to improve the energy efficiency of  
9                   critical facilities by decreasing the size and cost  
10                  of generators;

11                  (C) to provide technical assistance and fa-  
12                  cilitate the distribution and sharing of informa-  
13                  tion to develop more resilient electricity systems  
14                  (including bulk systems and localized systems);  
15                  and

16                  (D) to promulgate consumer-facing infor-  
17                  mation and resources to inform the public on  
18                  best practices and resources related to increas-  
19                  ing resilience of electricity systems and reducing  
20                  the impacts of extreme weather events on elec-  
21                  tricity systems.

22           (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the pro-  
23           gram established under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
24           shall ensure, with respect to critical facilities—

1 (A) provision of on-site back-up power with  
2 renewable resources, low-carbon liquid fuels,  
3 and on-site energy storage technologies; and

4 (B) installation, at the transmission and  
5 distribution level, of interoperable technologies,  
6 advanced power flow control, dynamic line rat-  
7 ing, topology optimization, and communications  
8 systems.

9 (3) INTERESTED PARTY INPUT.—In estab-  
10 lishing the program under paragraph (1), the Sec-  
11 retary shall seek the input of State energy regu-  
12 lators, electric utilities (as defined in section 3 of the  
13 Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796)), regional trans-  
14 mission organizations and independent system oper-  
15 ators, electric utility customers and ratepayer orga-  
16 nizations, local governments, community choice  
17 aggregators or regional energy collaboratives, and  
18 other interested parties.

19 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
21 appropriated to the Secretary \$100,000,000 to carry  
22 out this section, to remain available until expended.

23 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of the amount  
24 used to carry out this section, not more than 10 per-  
25 cent shall be used for salaries and expenses, admin-



1           “(E) owners of such dwelling units shall  
2           use fire- and drought-resistant building mate-  
3           rials, including mass timber, and incorporate  
4           wildfire and drought prevention and mitigation  
5           planning, as directed by the State.”.

6           (2) LIMITATIONS.—Section 415(c) of the En-  
7           ergy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C.  
8           6865(c)) is amended—

9           (A) in paragraph (1)—

10           (i) by redesignating subparagraphs  
11           (A) through (E) as clauses (i) through (v),  
12           respectively, and indenting appropriately;

13           (ii) in the matter preceding clause (i)  
14           (as so redesignated), in the second sen-  
15           tence, by striking “Labor” and all that fol-  
16           lows through “to—” and inserting the fol-  
17           lowing:

18           “(B) LABOR AND WEATHERIZATION MATE-  
19           RIALS.—Labor, weatherization materials, and  
20           related matter described in subparagraph (A)  
21           includes—”;

22           (iii) by striking “(c)(1) Except” and  
23           inserting the following:

24           “(c) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

25           “(1) AVERAGE COST.—

- 1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except”;
- 2 (iv) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
- 3 ignated)—
- 4 (I) by striking “exceed an aver-
- 5 age of \$6,500” and inserting the fol-
- 6 lowing: “exceed—
- 7 “(i) an average of \$13,000 (adjusted
- 8 annually for inflation)”;
- 9 (II) in clause (i) (as so des-
- 10 ignated), by striking the period at the
- 11 end and inserting “; or”; and
- 12 (III) by adding at the end the
- 13 following:
- 14 “(ii) another average amount that is
- 15 greater than the amount described in
- 16 clause (i), if the Secretary determines it
- 17 necessary to waive or adjust the average
- 18 amount established under that clause.”;
- 19 and
- 20 (v) in subparagraph (B) (as so des-
- 21 ignated)—
- 22 (I) in clause (iv) (as so redesign-
- 23 nated), by striking “, and” and insert-
- 24 ing “; and”; and

1 (II) in clause (v) (as so redesignig-  
2 nated), by adding a period at the end;  
3 and

4 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$3,000”  
5 and inserting “\$6,000 (adjusted annually for  
6 inflation)”.

7 **SEC. 13203. WILDFIRE DETECTION, MONITORING, AND**  
8 **ANALYSIS EQUIPMENT.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VI of the Healthy Forests  
10 Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591 et seq.) is  
11 amended by adding at the end the following:

12 **“SEC. 607. WILDFIRE DETECTION, MONITORING, AND ANAL-**  
13 **YSIS EQUIPMENT.**

14 “To the extent practicable, the Secretary of Agri-  
15 culture and the Secretary of the Interior shall—

16 “(1) expedite the placement of wildfire detec-  
17 tion equipment, such as sensors, cameras, and other  
18 relevant equipment, in areas at risk of wildfire;

19 “(2) expand the use of satellite and remote  
20 sensing data and mobile technologies to assist wild-  
21 fire response, management, and firefighter safety  
22 through improved situational awareness;

23 “(3) expedite any permitting required by the  
24 Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the In-

1       terior for the installation, maintenance, or removal  
2       of wildfire detection equipment;

3           “(4) review permitting described in paragraph  
4       (3) and procurement requirements for wildfire detec-  
5       tion equipment within the context of modern and in-  
6       novative technology;

7           “(5) pursuant to the OPEN Government Data  
8       Act (title II of Public Law 115–435; 132 Stat.  
9       5534), the amendments made by that Act, and any  
10      guidance issued by the Director of the Office of  
11      Management and Budget under that Act or those  
12      amendments, support the disclosure to the public of  
13      nonconfidential data assets the disclosure of which  
14      does not pose security risks to the public so that  
15      wildland fire data is discoverable, understandable,  
16      and actionable; and

17          “(6) utilize new and existing technologies to  
18      analyze performance measurements and suppression  
19      effectiveness of wildland fire incidents.”.

20      (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
21      for the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16  
22      U.S.C. 6501 note; Public Law 108–148) is amended by  
23      adding at the end of the items relating to title VI the fol-  
24      lowing:

“Sec. 607. Wildfire detection, monitoring, and analysis equipment.”.

1       **Subtitle C—Research, Training,**  
2                   **and Capacity Building**

3   **SEC. 13301. WESTERN PRESCRIBED FIRE CENTERS.**

4       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture and  
5 the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section  
6 as the “Secretaries”) shall establish 1 or more centers to  
7 train individuals in prescribed fire methods and other  
8 methods relevant to the mitigation of wildfire risk (re-  
9 ferred to in this section as a “center”).

10       (b) HOST INSTITUTIONS.—The 1 or more centers  
11 shall be—

12               (1) located at 1 or more institutions of higher  
13 education; or

14               (2) developed in collaboration with 1 or more  
15 institutions of higher education.

16       (c) GOALS.—The 1 or more centers shall advance the  
17 following goals:

18               (1) Training individuals and conducting re-  
19 search on prescribed fire methods and other restora-  
20 tion methods relevant to the mitigation of wildfire  
21 risk.

22               (2) Developing and advancing interdisciplinary  
23 science relating to wildfire, including social science  
24 and human dimensions of wildfire, in consultation  
25 with stakeholders who—

1 (A) need that science;

2 (B) will benefit from the outcomes of that  
3 science; and

4 (C) will coordinate with 1 or more other  
5 centers in developing and advancing that  
6 science.

7 (3) Conducting ongoing and forward-looking  
8 needs assessments among stakeholders, including  
9 Federal and State agencies and Indian Tribes, to de-  
10 termine common need requirements and emerging  
11 challenges to reduce wildfire risk and adapt commu-  
12 nities to increased risk from wildfire, including the  
13 following hazard-related focus areas:

14 (A) Increasing disaster resilience.

15 (B) Mitigation and management methods.

16 (C) Air quality.

17 (D) Firestorm weather forecasting and  
18 burn-area debris flow forecasting, including em-  
19 pirical and modeling research.

20 (4) Collaborating with Federal wildfire sci-  
21 entists at the Forest Service, the Department of the  
22 Interior, and other related agencies.

23 (5) Identifying, through a detailed engagement  
24 process targeting defined end-users, the require-  
25 ments and delivery mechanisms for products and

1 services that are practical and will have an impact  
2 on mitigating wildfire risk.

3 (6) Promoting technology transfer with path-  
4 ways for dissemination, implementation, and applica-  
5 tion of research results on the ground, using and en-  
6 hancing previous research.

7 (7) Ensuring the connectivity and interoper-  
8 ability of distributed services to maximize synergies  
9 and benefits across services.

10 (8) Developing open digital infrastructure to  
11 make research data, science, and models open for all  
12 sectors to use.

13 (9) Understanding the effectiveness of historical  
14 and current wildfire management and suppression  
15 strategies, including on wildfires that start in wilder-  
16 ness areas, wilderness study areas, or inventoried  
17 roadless areas.

18 (d) LOCATION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The 1 or more centers shall  
20 be located in any State the entirety of which is lo-  
21 cated west of the 100th meridian.

22 (2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretaries shall con-  
23 sult with the Joint Fire Science Program to solicit  
24 and evaluate proposals for the location of the 1 or  
25 more centers.



1           (2) FORESTRY AND FIRE MANAGEMENT.—The  
2 term “forestry and fire management” includes the  
3 areas of fields relating to forests described in sub-  
4 paragraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1).

5           (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
6 the Secretary of Agriculture.

7           (b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall es-  
8 tablish a competitive grant program—

9           (1) to assist in the development and utilization  
10 of innovative activities relating to workforce develop-  
11 ment in forestry and fire management and opportu-  
12 nities for careers in forestry and fire management;  
13 and

14           (2) to expand public awareness about forestry  
15 and fire management and connect individuals to ca-  
16 reers in forestry and fire management.

17           (c) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—In award-  
18 ing grants under subsection (b), the Secretary shall, to  
19 the extent practicable, select nonprofit professional or  
20 service organizations, labor organizations, State agencies,  
21 community colleges, institutions of higher education, or  
22 other training and educational institutions—

23           (1) that have qualifications and experience—

1 (A) in the development of training pro-  
2 grams and curricula relevant to the workforce  
3 needs of forestry and fire management;

4 (B) working in cooperation with forestry  
5 and fire management; or

6 (C) developing public education materials  
7 appropriate for communicating with groups of  
8 various ages and educational backgrounds; and

9 (2) that will address the human resources and  
10 workforce needs of forestry and fire management.

11 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under sub-  
12 section (b) may be used for activities such as—

13 (1) targeted internships, apprenticeships, pre-  
14 apprenticeships, and post-secondary bridge programs  
15 for skilled forestry and fire management trades that  
16 provide—

17 (A) on-the-job training;

18 (B) skills development;

19 (C) test preparation for skilled trade ap-  
20 prenticeships;

21 (D) advance training in forestry and fire  
22 management relating to jobs as forest  
23 restorationists, members of hand crews,  
24 wildland fire fighters, machine operators, li-  
25 censed timber operators, registered professional

1 foresters, ecologists, biologists, or workers in  
2 construction in support of resilient infrastruc-  
3 ture, including residential buildings; or

4 (E) other support services to facilitate  
5 post-secondary success;

6 (2) education programs designed for elemen-  
7 tary, secondary, and higher education students  
8 that—

9 (A) inform people about the role of for-  
10 estry, vegetation management, and ecological  
11 restoration in the communities of those people;

12 (B) increase the awareness of opportunities  
13 for careers in forestry and fire management  
14 and exposure of students to those careers  
15 through various work-based learning opportuni-  
16 ties inside and outside the classroom; and

17 (C) connect students to pathways to ca-  
18 reers in forestry and fire management;

19 (3) the development of a model curriculum and  
20 related vocational programs to be adopted by com-  
21 munity colleges, which, to the extent practicable and  
22 feasible, shall—

23 (A) provide professional training in imple-  
24 menting prescribed fire projects, including the  
25 knowledge and skills necessary to plan and im-

1           plement broad-scale surface and ladder fuel  
2           treatments within the wildland-urban interface,  
3           wildlands, and urbanized areas, as appropriate;

4           (B) include a focus on the ecological con-  
5           cerns, economics, and practices necessary to im-  
6           prove community safety and forest resilience;  
7           and

8           (C) train students in—

9           (i) the retrofitting of houses, including  
10          the use of fire-resistant materials and the  
11          maintenance of defensible space;

12          (ii) urban forestry; and

13          (iii) policies or guidance relating to  
14          the management of vegetation near utility  
15          infrastructure and relevant portions of  
16          electric utility wildfire mitigation plans;

17          (4) regional industry and workforce develop-  
18          ment collaborations, including the coordination of  
19          candidate development, particularly in areas of high  
20          unemployment;

21          (5) integrated learning laboratories in sec-  
22          ondary educational institutions that provide students  
23          with—

24                (A) hands-on, contextualized learning op-  
25                portunities;

1 (B) dual enrollment credit for post-sec-  
2 ondary education and training programs; and

3 (C) direct connection to industry or gov-  
4 ernment employers; and

5 (6) leadership development, occupational train-  
6 ing, mentoring, or cross-training programs that en-  
7 sure that workers are prepared for high-level super-  
8 visory or management-level positions.

9 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
10 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
11 out this section such sums as are necessary.

12 **SEC. 13303. NATIONAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND LAND**  
13 **STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.**

14 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) COMMUNITY CAPACITY.—The term “com-  
16 munity capacity” means the ability of an eligible en-  
17 tity to carry out or assist in a land stewardship ac-  
18 tivity.

19 (2) DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY.—The term  
20 “disadvantaged community” means—

21 (A) a low-income community (as defined in  
22 section 45D(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
23 1986); and

24 (B) a community that includes a signifi-  
25 cant population that has been systematically de-

1           nied a full opportunity to participate in aspects  
2           of economic, social, and civic life based on a  
3           particular characteristic, such as Black, Latino,  
4           Indigenous, and Native American persons,  
5           Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and other  
6           persons of color.

7           (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
8           ty” means any the following entities that is located  
9           in or represents a disadvantaged community:

10                   (A) An organization described in section  
11                   501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986  
12                   and exempt from taxation under section 501(a)  
13                   of that Code.

14                   (B) A collaborative group fiscally spon-  
15                   sored by an organization described in subpara-  
16                   graph (A).

17                   (C) A unit of local government.

18                   (D) An Indian Tribe.

19                   (E) A special district government, as de-  
20                   fined by the Director of the Bureau of the Cen-  
21                   sus.

22           (4) ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY.—The term “eco-  
23           logical integrity” has the meaning given the term in  
24           section 219.19 of title 36, Code of Federal Regula-

1 tions (as in effect on the date of enactment of this  
2 Act).

3 (5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”  
4 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the  
5 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
6 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

7 (6) LAND STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY.—The term  
8 “land stewardship activity” means any of the fol-  
9 lowing activities, as applied to a qualifying project:

10 (A) Planning.

11 (B) Collaboration and building community  
12 support.

13 (C) Implementation on land other than  
14 National Forest System land.

15 (D) Monitoring, including multiparty moni-  
16 toring, and adaptive management.

17 (7) QUALIFYING PROJECT.—The term “quali-  
18 fying project” means any of the following activities  
19 that takes place at least in substantial part on Na-  
20 tional Forest System land or national grasslands:

21 (A) Restoration of the ecological integrity  
22 of a forest, meadow, grassland, prairie, or other  
23 habitat.

24 (B) Tribal management for aligned cul-  
25 tural and ecological values.

1 (C) Enhancing community wildfire resili-  
2 ence in the wildland-urban interface.

3 (D) Increasing equitable access to environ-  
4 mental education and volunteerism opportuni-  
5 ties.

6 (8) RESTORATION.—The term “restoration”  
7 has the meaning given the term in section 219.19 of  
8 title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on  
9 the date of enactment of this Act).

10 (9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
11 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through—

12 (A) the regional offices of the State and  
13 Private Forestry Deputy Area of the Forest  
14 Service; and

15 (B) as appropriate, regional offices of  
16 other Deputy Areas of the Forest Service.

17 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to sup-  
18 port increasing community capacity, partnerships, and col-  
19 laborations within and involving disadvantaged commu-  
20 nities for land stewardship activities and restoration of ec-  
21 ological integrity on—

22 (1) National Forest System land;

23 (2) national grasslands; and

1           (3) adjacent private, State, and trust land asso-  
2           ciated with the health and resilience of land de-  
3           scribed in paragraphs (1) and (2).

4           (c) ADMINISTRATION.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may issue  
6           grants to eligible entities for increasing community  
7           capacity for land stewardship activities and related  
8           activities based on the criteria described in sub-  
9           section (d).

10          (2) FEDERAL COST-SHARE.—

11           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
12           fund up to 100 percent of the cost of land stew-  
13           ardship activities and related activities carried  
14           out using a grant issued under paragraph (1).

15           (B) MATCHING ELIGIBILITY.—A grant  
16           issued under this section may be considered a  
17           non-Federal matching contribution from the eli-  
18           gible entity that received the grant towards  
19           other sources of Federal funding.

20          (3) DURATION.—The Secretary may issue a  
21           grant under paragraph (1) for a period of 1 or more  
22           years.

23          (4) MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of  
24           a grant issued under paragraph (1) shall be not  
25           more than \$50,000 per year.

1           (5) APPLICABLE LAWS.—The Secretary shall  
2 administer grants under paragraph (1) in accord-  
3 ance with all applicable Federal and State laws.

4 (d) CRITERIA FOR AWARDING GRANTS.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
6 the Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities  
7 under subsection (c)(1) on a competitive basis in ac-  
8 cordance with the following criteria:

9           (A) The extent to which the proposed land  
10 stewardship activities benefit units of the Na-  
11 tional Forest System and national grasslands  
12 over the short and long term.

13           (B) The extent to which valuable ecologi-  
14 cal, economic, and social benefits to disadvan-  
15 taged communities, including job creation and  
16 business development or retention, are likely to  
17 result from the scope of the land stewardship  
18 activities.

19           (C) The extent to which the grant would  
20 benefit disadvantaged communities that have  
21 historically received less investment in collabo-  
22 rative capacity.

23           (D) The extent to which the proposal  
24 brings together diverse interests through plan-  
25 ning, collaboration, implementation, or moni-

1           toring of land stewardship activities to benefit  
2           units of the National Forest System or national  
3           grasslands.

4           (E) The extent to which the grant funds  
5           appear to be critical for the success of the eligi-  
6           ble entity and the identified land stewardship  
7           activities.

8           (F) The extent to which the budget for the  
9           land stewardship activities is reasonable given  
10          the anticipated outcomes.

11          (2) SET-ASIDE FOR INDIAN TRIBES.—The Sec-  
12          retary shall allocate not less than 10 percent of the  
13          funding awarded under this section to Indian Tribes  
14          or eligible entities representing Indian Tribes.

15          (e) ANNUAL REVIEWS.—

16           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish  
17           and maintain an advisory panel composed of not  
18           more than 15 members to provide feedback each  
19           year to each regional office of the State and Private  
20           Forestry Deputy Area of the Forest Service on the  
21           extent to which the implementation of this section by  
22           the regional office is fulfilling the purpose described  
23           in subsection (b).

24           (2) INCLUSIONS.—The advisory panel estab-  
25           lished under paragraph (1) shall include representa-

1       tion from a diversity of public land stakeholders  
2       from across interest groups, including—

3               (A) not fewer than 8 members rep-  
4               resenting the interests of a diversity of dis-  
5               advantaged communities; and

6               (B) not fewer than 2 members rep-  
7               resenting not fewer than 2 Indian Tribes.

8               (3) EXEMPTION.—The advisory panel estab-  
9               lished under paragraph (1) shall be exempt from the  
10              Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

11             (f) REPORT EVALUATING PROGRAM IMPLEMENTA-  
12             TION.—

13               (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after  
14               the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
15               shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources  
16               and the Committee on Appropriations of the House  
17               of Representatives and the Committee on Energy  
18               and Natural Resources and the Committee on Ap-  
19               propriations of the Senate a report evaluating the  
20               implementation of this section, including—

21               (A) a list of the eligible entities and land  
22               stewardship activities selected for funding under  
23               this section and the accomplishments of those  
24               activities; and

1 (B) an evaluation of the extent to which  
2 the implementation of this section is fulfilling  
3 the purpose described in subsection (b).

4 (2) CONSULTATION; CONTRACTING.—In pre-  
5 paring the report under paragraph (1), the Sec-  
6 retary—

7 (A) shall consult with the advisory panel  
8 established under subsection (e)(1); and

9 (B) may contract with a third party to  
10 complete an evaluation of the implementation of  
11 this section to inform the report.

12 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
14 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this sec-  
15 tion \$50,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2024  
16 through 2028.

17 (2) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall dis-  
18 tribute amounts made available under paragraph (1)  
19 to the regional offices of the State and Private For-  
20 estry Deputy Area and, as appropriate, regional of-  
21 fices of other Deputy Areas, of the Forest Service to  
22 administer the grants under this section.

23 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than  
24 10 percent of any amounts made available to carry

- 1 out this section may be used for administrative man-
- 2 agement and program oversight.

