

Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition: Comparison of House and Senate Farm Bills with Recommendations

Funding

Program	FIFB Funding Request	House Bill <i>All citations to House Engrossed Bill</i>	Senate Bill <i>All citations to Engrossed Senate Amendment</i>
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	At a minimum, maintain funding	<p>Funding increased to \$3B by FY23. \$2B for FY19; \$2.5B for FY20; \$2.75B for FY21; \$2.935B for FY22; \$3B for FY23</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Sec. 2501(a)(6)]</i></p> <p>Eliminates 60% set aside for livestock, maintains minimum 5% for wildlife</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Sec. 2302(b)]</i></p> <p>Adds ability for “stewardship contracts” in EQIP, modeled after CSP, that provide annual payments for up to 10 years, to adopt/install, manage, and maintain increased conservation stewardship. Payments capped at \$50k. no more than 50% of EQIP funds can be used for these contracts.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Sec. 2302(d)]</i></p> <p>Maintains EQIP payment limit at \$450k</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Sec. 2303]</i></p> <p>Caps Conservation Innovation Grants at \$25M</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Sec. 2304(a)(1)]</i></p>	<p>Funding increased to \$1.595B by FY23 \$1.473B for FY19; \$1.478B for FY20; \$1.541B for FY21; \$1.571B for FY22; and \$1.595B for FY23.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Sec. 2501(a)(4)]</i></p> <p>Allocates 50% of funds for livestock/grazing</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Sec. 2303(4)]</i></p> <p>Continues wildlife funding allocation</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Sec. 2303(2)(B)]</i></p> <p>Maintains current payment limits</p>
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	At a minimum, maintain acreage levels	<p>Repeals CSP; merged with EQIP</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Sec. 2801]</i></p>	<p>Cuts annual enrollment acreage to 8.797M from 10M acres currently.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Sec. 2204(1)(b)]</i></p>

Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition: Comparison of House and Senate Farm Bills with Recommendations

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	At a minimum, maintain acreage levels	29M acres by 2023 (increase from 24M) <i>[Sec. 2201(b)(1)(C)]</i>	Increases CRP acreage by 1M acres to 25M acres each year through 2023 <i>[Sec. 2101(3)(A)]</i>
CRP incentive payments for pine stand management	\$10M over life of the bill	Maintained at \$10M , incentive reduced to 100% from 150%. <i>[Sec. 2205(b)(3)]</i>	Increases funding to \$11M over life of the bill <i>[Sec. 2501(a)(2)(A)]</i>
Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)	At a minimum, restore funding to 2017 authorized level of \$500M	\$500M in annual mandatory funding <i>[Sec. 2501(a)(3)(C)]</i>	\$400M FY19-21 \$425M FY22 \$450M FY23 <i>[Sec. 2501(a)(3)]</i>
Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)	At a minimum, maintain funding	Caps at \$25M, roughly on par with current spending levels. <i>[Sec. 2304(a)(1)]</i>	Maintains current funding authority but merges with the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program <i>[Sec. 2407]</i>

Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition: Comparison of House and Senate Farm Bills with Recommendations

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	At a minimum, maintain funding	<p>\$250M in mandatory funding provided, roughly on par with 2018 spending. <i>[Sec. 2704]</i></p> <p>7% set aside from each Program is eliminated <i>[Sec. 2704]</i></p> <p>Adds CRP as “covered program” <i>[Sec. 2701(a)(2)]</i></p> <p>Allows agreements longer than 5 years <i>[Sec. 2702(a)]</i></p>	<p>Provides \$200M in funding plus 7 percent of covered program funds. Increases allocation to state projects to 40% and CCAs to 60% <i>[Sec. 2411(e)(1)]</i></p> <p>Allows “reasonable” amounts of funding for partner TA an outreach <i>[Sec. 2411(e)(4)(B)]</i></p> <p>Adds CRP to list of “covered program” <i>[Sec. 2411(b)(1)(B)]</i></p> <p>Limits partnership agreements to 5 years, with some exceptions <i>[Sec. 2411(c)(2)]</i></p> <p>Allows new RCPP arrangements with partners to aggregate funds through a grant to the partner and implement activities collectively on the land <i>[Sec. 2411 (d)(2)(B)]</i></p>
Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)	\$12M annually in mandatory funding, and allow RCPP funding	\$12M discretionary authorization maintained (no mandatory funding), still eligible for RCPP funding <i>[Sec. 8107(a)(8)]</i>	\$12M discretionary authorization maintained (no mandatory funding), still eligible under RCPP. <i>[Sec. 8406]</i> <i>[Hyde-Smith Amendment 4]</i>
Rural Development Programs	At a minimum, maintain funding	Maintained <i>[Title VI]</i>	Maintained <i>[Title VI]</i>

Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition: Comparison of House and Senate Farm Bills with Recommendations

Community Wood Energy Program (CWEP)	\$50M annually in mandatory funding	Discretionary authorization increased to \$20M, but no mandatory funding <i>[Sec. 8106]</i>	Maintains current law, which is a \$5 funding authorization <i>[Sec. 9112]</i>
Biomass Research and Development Program	At a minimum, restore funding to 2017 authorized level of \$3M	Authorizes \$20M annually but does not provide \$3M in mandatory <i>[Sec. 7509]</i>	Maintains mandatory \$3M funding <i>[Sec. 7409(4)(A)]</i> Maintains \$20M discretionary funding authorization <i>[Sec. 7409(4)(B)]</i>
Bio-based Markets Program	At a minimum, maintain funding	Authorizes \$2M in discretionary funding; does not provide mandatory funding <i>[Sec. 6402(1)]</i>	Maintains \$3M in mandatory funding <i>[Sec. 9102(6)(A)]</i> Authorizes \$2M discretionary funding <i>[Sec. 9102(6)(B)]</i>
Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program	At a minimum, maintain funding	Maintains \$10M in mandatory funding and maintains \$20M discretionary authorization <i>[Sec. 11201(1)]</i>	Merges program with the “Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Grant Program” and provides \$50M in annual mandatory funding and authorizes another \$50M in annual discretionary funding. Now called the “Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach Program” <i>[Sec. 12301]</i>

Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition: Comparison of House and Senate Farm Bills with Recommendations

Grow Jobs and Rural Economies Through Forestry

FIFB Recommends	House Bill	Senate Bill
Enacting the Timber Innovation Act (H.R. 1380/S. 538).	Includes only research portion, does not include Wood Innovation Grants, Tall Wood Building Competition <i>[Sec. 8501]</i>	Includes both research and Wood Innovation Grants provisions in TIA <i>[Sec. 8641, 8642, 8643]</i>
Continuing authority for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Research & Promotion Programs (a.k.a. “check-offs”) in their current form.	Maintains current authority <i>(Not specifically addressed)</i>	Maintains current authority <i>(Not specifically addressed)</i>
Maintaining mandatory funding for Rural Development business, housing, and utilities programs and making the programs more accessible to forest-related entities and businesses by broadening the categories of eligible matching funds and clarifying that logging equipment is eligible for loan guarantees.	Current funding maintained by not further clarifications for forest-related entities included <i>[Title VI, Sec. 6212]</i>	Current funding levels maintained by not further clarifications for forest-related entities included <i>[Title VI, Sec. 6110]</i>
Maintaining mandatory funding for the Biomass Research and Development Initiative and the Bio-based Markets Program as important economic development tools in heavily forested regions.	Authorizes \$20M annually and \$3M annually, no mandatory funds <i>[Sec. 7509, Sec. 6402]</i>	BioBased Markets: Maintains \$3M in mandatory funding and authorizes \$2M discretionary funding <i>[Sec. 9102(6)]</i> Biomass Research: Maintains mandatory \$3M funding and \$20M discretionary authorization <i>[Sec. 7409(4)]</i>
Reauthorizing and revising the Community Wood Energy Program and providing \$50M in annual, mandatory funding.	Includes all FIFB requested policy changes, increases discretionary authorization to \$25M but does not include requested mandatory funding <i>[Sec. 8106]</i>	Maintains current law, which does not expand program nor increase funding <i>[Sec. 9112]</i>

Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition: Comparison of House and Senate Farm Bills with Recommendations

Conserve and Enhance Habitat for Forest-Dependent Wildlife

FIFB Recommends	House Bill	Senate Bill
Reauthorizing and providing \$12M in annual mandatory funding for the Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP), maintaining HFRP program eligibility within the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and amending HFRP.	Includes all FIFB requested policy changes, maintains discretionary funding level and RCPP eligibility, does not include requested mandatory funding. <i>[Sec. 8107]</i>	Includes FIFB requested policy changes but no mandatory funding and does not extend discretionary funding. Maintains RCPP eligibility <i>[Sec. 2426]</i>
At a minimum, maintaining Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage levels and strengthening and improving CRP's forest-related components.	<p>Encourages mid-contract management and maintains \$10M in funding, reduces payment amounts from 150% of the cost of forest management to 100% of cost. <i>[Sec. 2205(b)]</i></p> <p>Requires up to 3M acres of grasslands in CRP by 2023 <i>[Sec. 2201(b)(2)]</i></p> <p>Requires 15 or 30-year contracts for certain continuous signups including treed buffer strips and land devoted to permanent wildlife habitat <i>[Sec. 2201(c)]</i></p> <p>Limits CRP lands in hardwood trees to one reenrollment <i>[Sec. 2201(d)(2)]</i></p> <p>Requires owners to agree to proper management of CRP treed lands <i>[Sec. 2203(a)(2)]</i></p> <p>Reduces cost-share payments to cover only 40% of cost (from 50%) and eliminates any incentive payments <i>[Sec. 2205(a)(1)]</i></p>	<p>Increases CRP acreage by 1M acres to 25M acres each year through 2023 <i>[Sec. 2101(3)(A)]</i></p> <p>Includes focus on protecting at-risk wildlife and creates a new permanent easement authority for certain lands enrolled in CRP including state acres for wildlife enhancement <i>[Sec. 2107]</i></p> <p>Does not include exact FIFB recs but does provide for increased focus and stronger wildlife provisions</p>

Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition: Comparison of House and Senate Farm Bills with Recommendations

	Caps rental payments at 80% of the average county rental rate (vs 100%), and further reduces rental payments for subsequent reenrollments <i>[Sec. 2205(c)(2)(A)]</i>	
--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

Keep Forests as Forests

FIFB Recommends	House Bill	Senate Bill
Developing a 5-year dedicated National Reforestation Initiative that establishes a priority for such purposes within Forestry Title programs and directs the Forest Resource Coordinating Committee (FRCC) to put together a plan for incentivizing reforestation within priority areas using Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), and USFS programs.	Report includes language expressing concern over the loss of private forestland in the US and directing the Secretary, through the Forest Resource Coordinating Committee, to develop a National Reforestation Initiative that generates a strategic plan to address the threats to private forest retention within 24 months from the date of enactment. <i>[H. Rpt 115–661, Page 238]</i>	Not addressed
Requiring the Secretary to establish a federal government-wide technical and policy working group, with key science, economics, industry, and citizen participation, to produce a plan within 18 months that identifies existing, and recommends additional, federal and private sector funding and cost share efforts that provide private forest land owners resources to implement management actions that protect downstream water quality and enhance regulated flows of flood waters.	Not addressed	Not addressed
Restoring the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)/Agricultural Land Easement Program (ALE) funding level to \$500M annually, through the life of the Farm Bill and modifying the program.	Provides \$500M for each year through 2023. <i>[Sec. 2501(a)(3)]</i> Allows enrollment of parcels that are 100% forested if the Secretary determines provides significant conservation benefit. <i>[Sec. 2602(b)]</i> Does not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include FIFB recs to enable “buy-protect-sell” model, 	Funding: \$400M FY19-21 \$425M FY22 \$450M FY23 <i>[Sec. 2501(a)(3)]</i> Allows for flexibility for land trusts to own land and enroll in program provided its sold

Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition: Comparison of House and Senate Farm Bills with Recommendations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allow a co-eligible entity process, • allow for increased cost share for forests of special significance, • requires forest projects to have forest management plan. 	<p>immediately to a farmer/rancher <i>[Sec. 2410(c)(2)(F)(i)]</i></p> <p>Does not expand eligibility to 100% forested tracts or include other FIFB recs.</p>
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Address Fire and Forest Health

FIFB Recommends	House Bill	Senate Bill
Increasing prescribed fire occurrence on forested lands where appropriate by authorizing State Prescribed Fires Teams, establishing a competitive Farm Bill program with a \$5M authorization level to fund innovative strategies and activities, and encouraging State Prescribed Fire Teams to submit applications to this fund.	Does not include any provisions for prescribed fire, but prescribed fire practices continue to be eligible for various program funds.	Not addressed
Supporting cross-boundary work to reduce hazardous fuels by allowing a portion (20 percent or \$20M, whichever is greater) of US Forest Service wildland fire hazardous fuels funding, when amounts exceed \$300M, to be used by states, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations, for work on cross-boundary projects on non-federal lands, prioritizing high risk areas.	Includes language similar to Daines-Klobuchar legislation that supports use of hazardous fuels funding for work across ownership boundaries. <i>[Sec. 8104]</i>	Includes language similar to Daines-Klobuchar addressing landscape-scale efforts and cross-boundary work <i>[Sec. 8101]</i> Provides \$20M of hazardous fuel funds for cross-boundary projects but does not allow funding to increase as the hazardous fuels funding increases <i>[Sec. 8101]</i>
Increasing access to funding for emergency invasive forest pest response before they have a direct impact on trees in North America by amending the Plant Protection Act to clarify the Secretary’s authority to use up to \$10M from existing sources of funds (Commodity Credit Corporation) to deal with invasive species emergencies, including when the immediate threat to agriculture is “indirect” – i.e., urban trees.	Not addressed	Not addressed

Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition: Comparison of House and Senate Farm Bills with Recommendations

Prioritizing long-term funding for research to restore forest tree species severely damaged by non-native pests within the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture to support research through competitive grants.	Not addressed	Not addressed
Creating authority for Accelerated Landscape Scale Restoration on National Forest System lands with certain characteristics.	Not addressed	Not addressed

Improve and Streamline Forest and Conservation Programs

FIFB Recommends	House Bill	Senate Bill
Allowing the Secretary to waive Adjusted Gross Income limitations for all Conservation Title programs if the Secretary determines such a waiver is necessary to fulfill the objectives of the program and address high priority, high impact conservation projects with multiple resource benefits.	Allows secretary to waive AGI limitation if the Secretary determines that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected as a result of such waiver <i>[Sec. 1604]</i>	Further lowers AGI threshold to 700,000 from 900,000. <i>[Sec. 1706]</i> Does not allow waiver of AGI (except for RCPP which is current practice)
Increasing payment limitations on Conservation Title programs to reflect changing economic conditions in agriculture and forestry that, if not increased, would reduce program participation.	Maintains current payment limits	Maintains current payment limits
Providing continued funding for forest owner assistance for obtaining clear title and estate planning that encourages long-term retention of forest land, through the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program, authorized in Section 2501 of the Farm Bill.	Maintains current authorities. <i>[Sec. 11201]</i>	Merges program with the “Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Grant Program” and provides \$50M in annual mandatory funding and authorizes another \$50M in annual discretionary funding. Now called the “Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach Program” <i>[Sec. 12301]</i>
Codifying the US Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) program to support state Forest Action Plans, including establishing a system for measuring results of the Program consistent with systems of other federal programs delivered by State Foresters, allowing levels above a base level of	Codifies the USFS current Landscape Scale Restoration program, similar to Daines-Klobuchar legislation. <i>[Sec. 8104]</i> Caps authorization at \$10M	Creates the LSR program, although different from Klobuchar-Daines legislation. <i>[Sec. 8101]</i> Provides \$20M authorization <i>[Sec. 8101]</i>

Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition: Comparison of House and Senate Farm Bills with Recommendations

<p>competitive funding (suggestion \$14M) to be allocated for flexible non-competitive projects, and ensuring the competitive portion is higher than the flexible funding portion.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Sec. 8104]</i></p>	
<p>Modifying the permanent Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) included in the 2014 Farm Bill to allow states to perform road reconstruction, restoration, and repair as part of GNA agreements.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Addressed In FY18 Omnibus.</i></p> <p>Expands GNA to allow tribes to implement authority.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Sec. 8331]</i></p>	<p>Expands use of GNA to tribes and use of GNA agreements on tribal lands</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Sec. 8624(a)]</i></p>
<p>Improving stewardship contracting authorities by expanding to all other federal land management agencies, allowing up to 5 percent of stewardship retained receipts for planning and NEPA for future stewardship projects within the same region/forest, and expanding land management goals to allow for road maintenance to improve public safety and enhance public access (not to be expanded to road building).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Stewardship Contracting Issues Were Addressed In FY18 Omnibus.</i></p> <p>Puts a clock on response to tribal request for stewardship contract.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Sec. 8331]</i></p>	<p>Not addressed</p>
<p>Streamlining forest management plan requirements in conservation programs by eliminating the need for agencies to require landowners to have duplicative forest management plans to participate in the USFS Forest Stewardship Program and NRCS programs, and allowing landowners who utilize an area-wide or landscape-scale multi-ownership plan, developed by or in partnership with state forestry or wildlife agencies, to qualify for USDA Conservation Programs without also needing an individual forest management plan or Forest Stewardship Plan.</p>	<p>Report includes language encouraging NRCS to work with the USFS to consolidate management plan requirements.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[H. Rpt 115-661, Page 195]</i></p>	<p>Not addressed</p>
<p>Amending conservation program authority, including RCPP, to allow NRCS to pilot test aggregating financial assistance payments in priority landscapes to a landowner cooperative or similar non-governmental entity, where the aggregation allows leveraging of non-governmental organization and/or water utility funds</p>	<p>Addressed in report language. Recognizes private forests as important for watershed management and encourages flexibility to create public-private partnerships in watersheds. Encourages at least one pilot to experiment with private sector co-investing in watershed restoration w/ NRCS.</p>	<p>Amendments in RCPP (see above) will likely address most of this recommendation</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Sec. 2411 (d)(2)(B)(iv)]</i></p>

Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition: Comparison of House and Senate Farm Bills with Recommendations

for practices that enhance or maintain water quality and quantity from forested landscapes.	<i>[H. Rpt 115–661, Page 197]</i>	
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--

Support Forest Research, Education, and Information Needs

FIFB Recommends	House Bill	Senate Bill
Directing the US Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis Program to incorporate remote sensing technologies when appropriate and to implement a nationwide sample-based assessment design with an annual reporting of results for the Timber Products Output Program. Further encourage the US Forest Service to continue delivering a strong Forest Inventory and Analysis program, with specific focus on meeting the requirements of 20 percent annual plot re-measurement and continuing to implement the National Woodland Owner Survey.	Report includes language urging USFS to place a priority on the FIA Strategic Plan, including the annual Timber Products Output Program, and to find efficiencies through the use of remote sensing technologies, where appropriate. <i>[H. Rpt 115–661, Page 237]</i>	Language included directing the US Forest Service to find efficiencies in the operations of the forest inventory and analysis program through improved use and integration of remote sensing technologies, where appropriate, and to partner with states and stakeholders to carry out the program. <i>[Sec. 12621]</i> <i>[Collins Amendment 3160]</i>
Reauthorizing McIntire-Stennis and Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) authorities, maintaining funding authorization levels, and allowing Tribal Colleges to be eligible for funding under RREA and McIntire- Stennis provided they meet the same requirements as other eligible entities and if funding above current funding levels is provided to accommodate these colleges.	Reauthorizes the Renewable Resources Extension Act (McIntire-Stennis is maintained as permanent authority). <i>[Sec. 7505]</i> Does not include provisions to allow tribal college eligibility	Reauthorizes the Renewable Resources Extension Act (McIntire-Stennis is maintained as permanent authority). <i>[Sec. 7406]</i> Does not include provisions to allow tribal college eligibility
Requiring 10-year updates of State Forest Action Plans and establishing a funding authorization to assist state agencies and their partners with the plan updates.	Does not include a specific funding authorization, instead continues to allow use of Cooperative Forestry funds for Plan development. <i>[Sec. 8101]</i>	Not addressed