



## **RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LAND STEWARDSHIP**

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

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

## **OUR TOP PRIORITIES**

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1

### **RURAL JOBS FOR FOREST AND RANGE STEWARDS**

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

## 2

### SHARED STEWARDSHIP

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

## 3

### CROSS-BOUNDARY RESTORATION

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

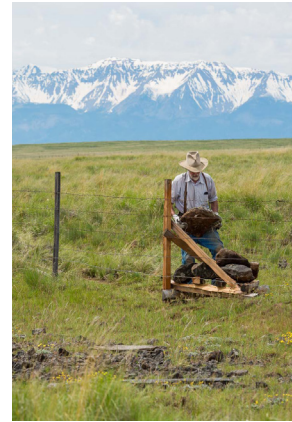
## 4

### RESPONSIBLE AGENCY BUDGETS

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

**RVCC** looks forward to working with Congress and the Administration to fulfill commitments and promises to the rural communities they serve, and upon which the well-being of our nation depends.

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USDA FOREST SERVICE	FY18 ACTUAL	FY19 PRES. BUDGET	FY19 RVCC REQUEST
<b>National Forest System</b>			
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	\$40	--	\$60
Land Management Planning <sup>1</sup>	\$183	--	\$183
Hazardous Fuels <sup>2</sup>	\$430	\$430	\$500
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>			
Suppression & Preparedness	\$2,379	\$2,505	\$2,505
National Fire Capacity <sup>3</sup>	\$78	\$66	\$78
Joint Fire Science Program	--	--	\$7
<b>State &amp; Private Forestry</b>			
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation Program	\$4	--	\$4
Working Forest Lands Program <sup>4</sup>	\$20	\$20	\$20
Forest Legacy Program	\$67	--	\$67
<b>DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR</b>			
USFWS: Partners for Fish & Wildlife	\$52	\$36	\$52
NOAA: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	\$65	--	\$66
BLM: Wildlife Management	\$103	--	\$103
Joint Fire Science Program	\$3	--	\$6
<b>DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b>			
NOAA: National Marine Fisheries Service	\$883	\$837	\$883
<b>USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business Development Program	\$34	--	\$65
Rural Energy for America Program	\$50	--	\$70

\*Dollar amounts in millions

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



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# COALITION PARTNERS

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## Alaska

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

## California

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

## Colorado

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

## Idaho

Central Idaho Rangelands Network  
Framing Our Community  
Salmon Valley Stewardship\*

## Montana

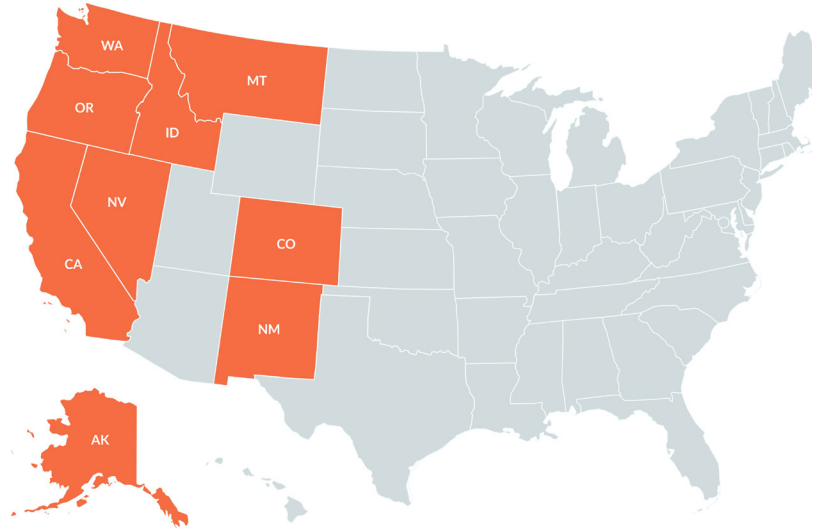
Flathead Economic Policy Center  
Heart of the Rockies Initiative\*

## Nevada

Boies Ranch

## New Mexico

Forest Stewards Guild\*  
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps  
Western Landowners Alliance



## Oregon

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

## Washington

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

\*Denotes RVCC Leadership Team member

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## CONTACT RVCC

Karen Hardigg, Director, [karen@wallowaresources.org](mailto:karen@wallowaresources.org)  
Tyson Bertone-Riggs, Program Manager, [tyson@wallowaresources.org](mailto:tyson@wallowaresources.org)

541.426.8053  
[www.ruralvoicescoalition.org](http://www.ruralvoicescoalition.org)

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