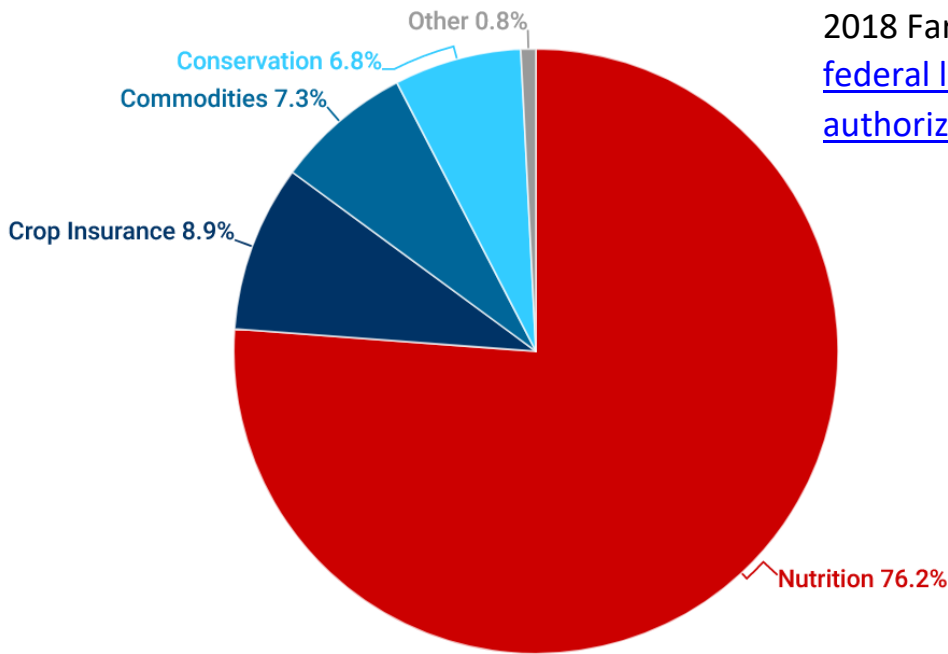


Farm Bill 2018 and 2023 in relation to forestry



2018 Farm Bill is [bipartisan federal legislation that authorized \\$428.3 billion](#)

[Good Neighbor Authority \(GNA\)](#) allows the U.S. Forest Service to enter into agreements with state and local land management agencies to engage in joint forest management. The 2018 Farm Bill expanded GNA to federally recognized tribes, allowing for the use of GNA agreements on tribal land.

[Federal Stewardship Contracting](#) allows the USFS and the DOI-BLM to contract with state land agencies to promote more effective management of federal forests and rangeland.

Forestry Section (Title VIII) Funding in Farm Bill 2018

These tables are pulled from [NC State Extension brief](#) for forest landowners.

Program	Description	2018 Funding
Landscape Scale Restoration Program	Supports innovative regional or national forest restoration projects	Establishes the state and private forest landscape-scale restoration fund of \$20 million annually. Funding for projects requires a 50% cost-share match.

Program	Description	2018 Funding
Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects on national forest system (NFS) land	Protects at-risk communities and defines the wildland urban interface (WUI)	Up to \$20 million annually to provide financial assistance to states for cross-boundary hazardous fuels reduction. Specifies at least 50% of the funds to projects on federal lands within the WUI
Wood Innovation Grant Program	This former NFS grant system is now an official program. Facilitates the use of innovative wood products, mass timber and tall wood buildings	A 50% cost-share to establish research, education and technical assistance program for expanding wood energy and wood product markets
Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Program	Provides financial assistance to install public or private wood energy systems or to construct plants that use or produce innovative wood products including mass timber	\$25 million annually, subject to appropriations. The percentage in cost-share can vary with the highest possible percent capped at 50%.
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program	Provides financial assistance to local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations to establish community forests	\$5 million annually, but eliminated permanent authority to receive annual appropriations
Forest Legacy Program	This program protects forests from being converted into non-forest uses.	Authorizes \$35 million annually, but eliminated permanent authority to receive annual appropriations
Water Source Protection Program on NFS land	Watershed restoration or protection projects under a water source management plan	\$10 million in annual appropriations
Healthy Forests Reserve Program	Assists private and tribal landowners in restoring and enhancing forest ecosystems using long-term contracts and easements	\$12 million annually, subject to appropriations
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program	This program selects and provides funding for collaboratively-developed forest restoration projects on NFS, federal, state, or private land	\$80 million annually
Rural Revitalization Technologies Program	Provides technical and financial assistance to facilitate biomass or other small-diameter wood product use for small-scale business enterprise	Up to \$5 million annually, funded through allocation from the hazardous fuels management program.

Program	Description	2018 Funding
Statewide forest resource assessments and strategies		Reauthorizes funding of up to \$10 million annually

Forestry in Conservation (Title II) and Energy (Title IX) Programs of Farm Bill 2018

Program	Description	Notable Changes in Funding
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	This program is meant to optimize production and environmental benefits by assisting producers. It is a primary program to address multiple natural resource concerns including various forestry areas. It has now been expanded to include climate adaptation. Similarly, it is now required to spend 10% of payments on wildlife habitat contracts.	Annual funding raises from \$1.75 billion in FY 2019 to \$2.03 billion in FY 2023.
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)	This program provides financial and technical assistance through agriculture land (including non-industrial forests) and wetland easements. Private landowners are no longer required to equal or match 50% of the funding by the federal government if those landowners contribute their own funds	Funding was set to \$450 million in mandatory funding annually. Previous funding varied greatly by year.
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	The largest land retention program offers annual rental payments to landowners to conserve land that is highly-erodible or environmentally sensitive. Annual payments have been reduced in general to make up for the increase in annual acres. Payments for forest thinning have been reduced from 150% of cost to 100% of cost.	CRP funding has been increased to \$12 million for forest thinning, \$50 million for transition contracts, and \$5 million for technical assistance between 2019 and 2023.
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	This program is responsible for encouraging producers to address resource concerns by offering payments in exchange for performing conservation activities.	CSP is now a part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	The program is responsible for furthering conservation, restoration and sustainability on a regional or watershed scale. The role of the RCPP has been expanded to include flexible delivery of conservation assistance, the coordination of conservation projects, and engagement with eligible producers.	Funding \$200 million annually. Agreements are now more flexible as they can now be longer than five years and be renewed if objectives are met or exceeded

Program	Description	Notable Changes in Funding
Biobased Markets Program	This program promotes the purchase of biobased products through requiring federal agencies to purchase biobased products and offering voluntary labeling for biobased products.	\$3 million in mandatory funding annually and up to \$3 million in appropriations annually
Biomass Crop Assistance Program	This program provides payments to owners and operators of agricultural land and non-industrial forests that establish, produce, and deliver biomass to eligible processing plants.	Funding is replaced with up to \$25 million annually in appropriations.

Note that the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act increased funding in certain programs.

Additional programs in the Farm Bill

- Forestry research and extension including the Forest Inventory Analysis
- Tribal forestry including updates to the Tribal Forest Protection Act
- Cross-laminated timber/ mass timber support
- Carbon storage and sequestration
- Disaster support