



## **Outdoor Restoration Force Act**

### **Section-by-Section Summary**

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#### **Section 1: Title**

#### **Section 2: Definitions**

- (1) Defines “Council” as the Restoration Fund Advisory Council, which is established in the Act.
- (2) Defines “eligible entities” as state agencies, a unit of local government, a tribal government, a regional organization, a special district, or a nonprofit organization.
- (3) Defines “eligible project” as a project or initiative that improves ecosystem health and resilience, air and water quality, wildlife habitat. Projects may include efforts to improve equitable public access, enhance trails, and reduce the negative effects of recreation. Eligible projects must be carried out in accordance with applicable land management objectives, law, and policy, and cannot include actions to remove old growth stands.
- (4) Defines “Fund” as the Outdoor Restoration Fund, which is established in the Act.

#### **Section 3: Outdoor Restoration Fund**

- (a) Establishment: Establishes the Outdoor Restoration Fund in the Department of the Treasury.
- (b) Purpose: The Council shall use the Fund to provide restoration and resilience grants to eligible entities, and the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of the Interior, and the EPA Administrator shall use the Fund to supplement restoration and resilience programs at the agencies.
- (c) Existing Programs and Authorities: Clarifies that the Outdoor Restoration Fund shall complement, not duplicate or replace, existing federal restoration programs or initiatives for forests, water, and wildlife. Funds may be used on public and private land in accordance with applicable law and available authorities.
- (d) Existing Funding: Ensures that that any funding provided under the bill is used to supplement, not supplant, federal funding to eligible entities.

#### **Section 4: Restoration Fund Advisory Council**

- (a) Establishment: Establishes the Restoration Fund Advisory Council and directs the Council to administer the Restoration and Resilience Project Grant Program. Additionally, the Council must gather input and provide recommendations to the USDA, DOI, and EPA on the use of funds for the Restoration and Resilience Partnership.
- (b) Membership: The Council must consist of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, the EPA Administrator, and 15 members, including 5 representatives from

resource-dependent industries, 5 national experts on resource restoration, economic development, and resilience, and 5 representatives from eligible entities.

- (c) Reporting Requirements: One year after enactment, the Council is required to submit a report to Congress detailing the projects supported by the Outdoor Restoration Fund, including economic and environmental outcomes, and recommendations to improve project delivery.
- (d) Congressional Oversight: The Inspectors General for the USDA, DOI, and EPA, on an annual basis, must review and report on the use of the Outdoor Restoration Fund, including any misuse of the fund, and submit their findings to Congress.

### **Section 5: Restoration and Resilience Project Grant Program**

- (a) Establishment: Establishes the Restoration and Resilience Project Grant Program, to be administered by the Council, to provide funding from the Outdoor Restoration Fund to support eligible entities in planning and implementing eligible projects.
- (b) Coordinating Entities: Requires that the Council, in administering the Grant Program, coordinate with one or more regional entities that have broad representation from individuals who understand economic and environmental challenges in the region. The entities may serve as advisors and intermediaries for the Council, and should be a resource for eligible entities who would like to apply for funding.
- (c) Grants and Priorities: Requires the Council to provide at least two types of grants out of the Fund to support eligible projects. Capacity grants should support planning and monitoring for projects, and will be prioritized for entities that have a demonstrated need, can create or sustain jobs with the funding, and are located in areas with significant public land or water. Implementation Grants should support undertaking projects and will be prioritized for efforts that support the local economy, create or sustain jobs, are developed through a collaborative process, advance state plans, or would otherwise address shared federal and non-federal priorities. The Council must offer these grants with a simple and straightforward application process.

### **Section 6: Restoration and Resilience Partnership**

- (a) Establishment: Establishes the Restoration and Resilience Partnership to be administered jointly by the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of the Interior, and the EPA Administrator.
- (b) Funds: Provides the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of the Interior, and EPA Administrator the ability to use the Fund to supplement their agency budgets to enhance forest and watershed health, remediate or reclaim abandoned mines and orphaned wells, mitigate or eradicate invasive species, enhance carbon sequestration, or improve wildlife habitat.
- (c) Priority: Requires the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of the Interior, and the EPA Administrator to prioritize the use of the Fund to complement projects funded by the restoration and resilience grant program, advance state, local or tribal plans, and projects that can be carried out quickly to create jobs and reduce agency backlogs.

- (d) Council Outreach: Requires the Council to quickly perform outreach, solicit public input, and provide recommendations to the agencies on the use of the Fund.
- (e) Council Recommendations: No later than 120 days after enactment, and after the Council has conducted the outreach in subsection (d), the Council must provide recommendations to the agencies on the use of the Fund.

### **Section 7: Funding**

Provides \$20 billion for the Restoration and Resilience Project Grant Program and \$40 billion for the Restoration and Resilience Partnership out of the Treasury. The funds will remain available until they are expended.