



Outdoor Restoration Force Act

Forests and watersheds are the natural infrastructure that sustain our economy in the West. While climate change continues to drive catastrophic wildfires and prolonged drought, Congress has failed to invest in our western lands, undermining our economy and way of life. As a result, local governments are too often left to foot the bill for cleanup, conservation, and restoration. Restoring forests, watersheds, and rangeland – upgrading and increasing the resilience of our infrastructure – is an opportunity to create millions of good-paying jobs. The Outdoor Restoration Force would fund collaborative projects that build resilience and drive economic growth.

The legislation would:

- Establish a \$60 billion-dollar outdoor restoration fund to dramatically increase support for local collaborative efforts to restore forests and watersheds, reduce wildfire risk, improve air and water quality, plug orphaned wells, remediate abandoned mines, enhance wildlife habitat, remove invasive species, and expand outdoor access. The bill establishes an advisory council of local leaders, industry, and national experts on economic development and the environment to administer grants and advise on funding priorities.
- Empower local leaders by making \$20 billion available to state and local governments, tribes, special districts, and non-profits to hire individuals who can plan, implement, and monitor restoration and resilience projects. Empowering local leaders that have an ability to bring diverse voices to the table is the path for progress in the West.
- Spur federal investment by providing \$40 billion to popular and proven restoration and resilience efforts across the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior, and the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that the federal government is a willing and able partner in supporting forest and watershed health, wildlife habitat, and climate resilience projects across public and private land boundaries.

The Outdoor Restoration Force is a vital investment in the natural infrastructure of the West that would create jobs and stimulate our economy. This legislation would:

- Create or sustain over two million good-paying jobs, primarily in rural areas, to support existing industries like agriculture and outdoor recreation, while providing an opportunity for communities to address long-standing natural resource issues and draw in new business.
- Save landowners and local governments money by investing in mitigation, which can be three to six times more cost effective than recovering from natural disasters like wildfires or floods.
- Generate over \$156 billion in economic output, with a return of up to \$15 for every dollar spent on restoration, while upgrading our natural infrastructure – forests, watersheds, and rangelands – for the millions of people whose livelihood, health, and wellbeing rely on them.