



# Federal Funding for Conservation Through the BIL & IRA

---

**Jackie Rigley - Highstead Foundation**



# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

---

- Passed in November 2021
- Also referred to as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
- \$1.2 trillion, with \$550 billion in new funding
- Distributed over five years, 2022-2026

# Program Highlights

---

[Culvert AOP program](#)

[Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program](#)

[Clean Water State Revolving Funds](#)

[NOAA Fish Passage Program](#)

[Transportation Alternatives Program](#)

[Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program](#)

# Inflation Reduction Act

---

- Passed in August of 2022
- \$370 billion towards climate and energy related spending
- Historic investments in natural climate solutions
  - Forestry
  - Sustainable Agriculture
  - Coastal resilience
  - Environmental justice

# Program Highlights

---

[Forest Legacy](#)

[Urban and Community Forestry Program](#)

[Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants](#)

[Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program](#)

Several USDA Programs

# Resources

---

Most helpful databases I've found...

- [National Wildlife Federation- Nature-based Solutions Funding Database](#)
- [ARC Solutions - IIJA Snapshot](#)



# Nature-based Solutions Funding Database





National Wildlife Federation's interactive database for communities interested in pursuing federal funding and/or technical assistance for nature-based solutions. Use the filters below to search for nature-based solutions funding and technical assistance resources that fit your needs. For additional information on search filters, see our Glossary page.

**Filter:** [PURPOSE](#)  [ELIGIBILITY](#)  [SUPPORT TYPE](#)  [COST SHARING](#)  [AGENCY](#)   [RESET](#)

Showing: All | 86 programs found.

## Wildlife Infrastructure Funding Opportunities within the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

Prepared by Renee Callahan, ARC Solutions, [info@arc-solutions.org](mailto:info@arc-solutions.org)

Program Name	Amount <sup>†</sup> (FY22-26)	Eligible applicants					New, Expanded, Existing	Process	Federal Share (%)	Eligible wildlife-related projects
		FLMA	Tribe	State DOT	MPO	Local Gov't				
<b>More information about notice and application timing is available in the companion funding calendar: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/ARC-funding-calendar">tinyurl.com/ARC-funding-calendar</a></b>										
<u>Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program</u>  (23 USC 171)	\$350M	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	New	DG	TBD but typically 80%	Projects to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions while improving terrestrial and aquatic connectivity
<u>INFRA</u>  (23 USC § 117)	\$8B	✓ <sup>1</sup>	✓	✓	✓ <sup>3</sup>	✓	Expanded	<del>DG</del> Expected Winter/Spring '23	INFRA award may be used for up to 60% of project costs	Wildlife crossing projects
<u>Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability &amp; Equity (RAISE)</u>  (49 USC § 6702)	\$7.5B		✓	✓	✓	✓	Existing	DG	Typically 80%; except rural, disadvantaged, or persistent poverty areas	Wildlife-related highway and bridge projects eligible under Title 23 USC programs, plus projects to improve aquatic connectivity by replacing or rehabilitating culverts or preventing stormwater runoff
<u>Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program</u>  (23 USC § 173)	\$2B		✓	✓	✓ <sup>4</sup>	✓	New	<del>DG</del> Expected Winter/Spring '23	Typically 80%, except ADHS, DASP projects	Wildlife-related projects in Rural Areas otherwise eligible under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, Tribal Transportation Program, and Highway Safety Improvement Program
<u>National Culvert Removal, Replacement &amp; Restoration Program</u>  (49 USC § 6705)	\$1B		✓	✓		✓	New	DG	Up to 80%	Projects to replace, remove, or repair culverts or weirs to restore anadromous fish passage, including infrastructure to facilitate fish passage around or over weirs, or weir improvements
<u>Bridge Investment Program</u>  (23 USC § 124)	\$12.5B	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>3</sup>	✓	New	<del>DG</del> Expected Summer '23	Generally 50% or 80%; up to 90% for off-sys. bridges (OSB); cannot exceed 23 USC § 120	Up to 5% annually may go to projects to replace or rehabilitate culverts to improve flood control and habitat connectivity for aquatic species; environmental mitigation is also an eligible expense during bridge construction / reconstruction
<u>Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund</u>  (23 USC § 202(e))	\$120M		✓				Existing	DG	Up to 100%	Adding or retrofitting structures or other measures to eliminate or reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions
<u>Nationally Significant Federal Lands &amp; Tribal Projects Program</u>  (FAST § 1123(c))	\$275M	✓	✓	✓ <sup>2</sup>	✓ <sup>2</sup>	✓ <sup>2</sup>	Existing	<del>DG</del> Expected Summer '23	Up to 90% for Federal Lands; 100% for Tribal	Same as Federal Lands Transportation Program, Federal Lands Access Program, and Tribal Transportation Program, except projects must be "continuous"
<u>PROTECT</u> <sup>‡</sup> (23 USC § 176)	\$1.4B	✓ <sup>1</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓	New	<del>DG</del> Expected Winter '23	Typically 80%, up to 100% for Federal /Tribal	<b>Wildlife infrastructure is not expressly eligible:</b> PROTECT does fund improved infrastructure resiliency via "protective features" such as increasing the size or number of culverts, which may improve aquatic and/or terrestrial connectivity
<u>Pollinator-Friendly Program</u>	\$10M	✓	✓	✓			New	DG	Up to 100%	Pollinator-friendly activities on roadsides and highway rights-of-way, including the planting and seeding of native, locally-appropriate grasses and wildflowers, including mallow



# America the Beautiful - Planning and Implementation

---

- In year two of the ATBC approximately \$116 million will be awarded in nationwide funding to conserve, connect and restore the lands, waters, and wildlife upon which we all depend.
- Amount: these two categories total \$100 million
- Match requirement: 11%, 2.5% in cash

# America the Beautiful

---

**Implementation grants-** Grants to implement projects that address program priorities on public, Tribal, and/or private lands; partnerships with NGOs and others through subawards are encouraged.

Grant size- \$1-5 million

**Planning grants-** Grants that enhance local capacity to implement future on-the-ground actions that address program priorities through community-based assessments, partnership building, planning, project design, and other technical assistance activities. Projects should lead to implementation projects in the future.

Grant size: \$200K- \$2 million

Eligible applicants: States, Territories, and Tribes

# America the Beautiful

---

## Last year's awards

- 1 in 10 projects were funded in 2022

Types of lead applicants:

- State Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife

# America the Beautiful

---

## Timeline

- [2023 RFP](#) released March 2023
- Pre-proposal due date : April 20th

Regional contact: Amanda Bassow

# NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration & Coastal Resilience Grant

---

“This funding will prioritize habitat restoration actions that rebuild productive and sustainable fisheries, contribute to the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered species, use natural infrastructure to reduce damage from flooding and storms, promote resilient ecosystems and communities, and yield socioeconomic benefits”

- Around \$85 M per year
- Non-profits are eligible to apply
- No match required

# NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration & Coastal Resilience Grant

---

- NOFO likely released in June and closing in the fall
  - Will be similar to last year's
- Funds can apply to capacity building / planning
  
- Contacts: Danielle Perry, Jim Turek

# Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program

---

“The first-ever Federal program dedicated to reconnecting communities that were previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure. Funding supports planning grants and capital construction grants, as well as technical assistance, to restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation, or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure facilities”

- \$1 billion over five years
- Nonprofits are eligible to apply for planning grants (up to \$2M)
- NOFO released in June

# Neighborhood Access and Equity

---

“This new program provides grants to help reconnect neighborhoods divided by infrastructure, mitigate negative impacts of transportation facilities or construction projects on communities, and support equitable transportation planning”

- \*Will have a combined NOFO with Reconnecting Communities this year
- Non-profit orgs are eligible recipients
- \$3 billion over 5 years



# Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program

---

“Competitive grant program with the goal of reducing Wildlife Vehicle Collisions while improving habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species”

- Eligible applicants: State DOT, MPOs, Local govs, others
- Funding for non-construction and construction (planning and research are eligible)
- [NOFO](#) currently open
- \$350M over 5 years

# NOAA- Coastal Resilience

---

“\$2.6 billion for NOAA to assist coastal states ... local governments, nonprofit organizations, and institutions of higher education to become more prepared and resilient to changes in climate. These investments will also support NOAA’s understanding of marine resource trends in the face of climate change, enabling more targeted conservation, restoration and protection measures for coastal and marine habitats, fisheries, and marine mammals”

- Awaiting details on this program

# Common Obstacles / Potential Solutions

---

- Finding match
  - Organization capacity
  - Grant reporting
- 
- Best solution: partnerships!