



Eastern Region State and Private Forestry Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) State Capacity Program for Invasive Species, Instructions for Non-Federal Lands

Submission Date for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 and 2023

- All grant application forms are available through Grants.gov opportunity number USDA-FS-BIL-R9-INVASIVES-STATE-CAPACITY and due by 6 p.m. EST, 16 December 2022. Forms are included for your convenience; however, you may use alternative formats if all of the requested information is provided. One application will be requested for FY2022 and 2023 funds. See the [Grant Tips Guide](#) for more information on working with the USDA Forest Service.

Background

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, [H.R. 3684](#) (Public Law No: 117-58), passed the Senate on 10 August, the House on 5 November, and was signed into law by President Biden on 15 November 2021. Also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the law provides the Forest Service resources to reduce the risk of wildland fire, restore ecosystems, and invest in natural resources-related infrastructure. The BIL provides approximately \$5.5 billion, covering FY2022 - 2026, for the Forest Service to work at larger scales with Federal, Tribal, State, and local government partners, as well as all members of the public, to restore ecosystems and reduce wildfire risk to communities. The Ecosystem Restoration section of BIL includes a provision addressing invasive species:

Sec. 40804. ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

40804(b)(6): \$200,000,000 shall be made available for invasive species detection, prevention, and eradication, including conducting research and providing resources to facilitate detection of invasive species at points of entry and awarding grants for eradication of invasive species on non-Federal land and on Federal land, of which—(A) \$100,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary of the Interior; and (B) \$100,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Forest Service, Forest Health Protection (FHP), Washington Office staff worked with National Association of State Foresters (NASF) and their Forest Science and Health Committee on a national investment and allocation approach to carry out the non-federal lands portion of the BIL Invasive Species program. Annually, approximately \$7 million is expected to be divided equally among the three NASF regions. From regional allocations, States would get 25% to support capacity and implement projects in their state and 75% would be available for high-priority regional projects. The high-priority regional projects program is available at Grants.gov opportunity USDA-FS-BIL-R9-INVASIVES-PROJECTS. The following instructions describe the State capacity program (USDA-FS-BIL-R9-INVASIVES-STATE-CAPACITY).

Statement of Need

States need to build and maintain capacity around invasive species work to accomplish BIL's broader ecosystem restoration objective and the invasive species provision. For example, funds may be used

to conduct forest health management, including detection surveys, monitoring, evaluation, prevention, and suppression of insect, disease, and invasive plant outbreaks on non-Federal lands to strategically sustain the health of forest ecosystems or tree species with high ecological value by taking stronger action in the early phases of the [invasion curve](#) at regional or sub-regional scales and at points of entry¹.

BIL Invasive Species Funding – State Capacity Program

The US Forest Service, Eastern Region, FHP expects to administer approximately \$595,000 in BIL funds annually for the next five years (FY2022 - 2026) following standard State and Private Forestry [authorities](#)². Each of the 20 States and the District of Columbia (DC) are eligible to receive \$28,333 in FY2022 and FY2023 (annual funding level may vary in FY2024 - 2026). FY2022 and 2023 BIL funds were merged, and States are now eligible to apply for a total of \$56,666 in State capacity program funding.

Eligibilities and Other Requirements

- Who can apply: All State departments that participate in the USFS Eastern Region Cooperative Forest Health Protection and Forest Health Monitoring programs are eligible.
- The standard FHP 1:1 match applies for projects on non-federal lands. See the [quick links](#) for the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Supplement to the Financial Advice to States* document for information about applying for BIL grants, including possible match waivers.
- BIL grants must be tracked and reported on separately, so BIL funds cannot be combined with grants using regular Forest Service appropriated funds. Most BIL program funds also cannot be combined in grants with funding from other BIL programs.
- BIL grants to States should not be redirected (sometimes called “Pass through Grants”) to third parties. States may subgrant BIL funds to third parties.
- We request that all BIL grant applications have a 5-year time frame. It is critically important that all grants are completed within no more than five years of the award date. Grants cannot be extended beyond five years.
- Quarterly financial and progress reports (Deadlines: April 30, July 30, October 30, and January 30) will be required for funded projects. Additional direction on reporting requirements, if any, will be provided in future updates to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Supplement to the Financial Advice to States document.

Timeline and Submission Process

- **24 October 2022:** Eastern Region opens funding opportunity for the BIL Invasive Species State Capacity program (FY2022-2023) on Grants.gov.

¹ Or other pathways and susceptible forest cover types

² Basic research is outside scope of State and Private Forestry authorities. The wording in the provision applies to funding to the USFS Northern Research Station, for example.

- **16 December 2022:** Grant applications for FY2022-2023 State capacity funding due by 6 p.m. EST.
 - Submit all grant application forms posted at Grants.gov opportunity number USDA-FS-BIL-R9-INVASIVES-STATE-CAPACITY.
 - Submit one application for both FY2022 and 2023 State capacity funds (i.e., total Federal funding of \$56,666 per Eastern Region State and District of Columbia).
 - Note: If a State chooses not to apply for the State Capacity Program, the funding would be added to the high-priority regional project program.

Contacts for Further Information

Applicants are encouraged to contact their respective Eastern Region S&PF Forest Health Program specialist for assistance and additional information:

- **Eastern Region S&PF, Director for Forest Health and Forest Markets:** Susan Ellsworth, 414-297-3021, susan.ellsworth@usda.gov
- **New England States and New York** (CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT): Mike Bohne, 603-868-7708, michael.bohne@usda.gov
- **Mid-Atlantic States** (DC, DE, MD, NJ, OH, PA, WV): Rick Turcotte, 304-285-1544, richard.m.turcotte@usda.gov
- **Midwest States** (IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, MO, WI): Kara Costanza, 406-360-7263, Kara.Costanza@usda.gov