

21st Century Civilian Conservation Corps Act

The impacts of COVID-19 on our health and our economy, combined with high levels of drought throughout the West, are creating problems for numerous rural people and economies across the country. Rural communities, already on the front lines of fire risk, are experiencing unique threats to their people and economies during the pandemic. The crisis quickly brought the outdoor economy to a halt. The 21st Century Civilian Conservation Corps Act invests in job training and development, rangeland and working lands conservation programs, and plants billions of trees. The legislation would create hundreds of thousands of living wage jobs.

As Congress considers COVID-related stimulus legislation, it must include federal support for job creation measures for rural economies. In a time when our health is at risk and unemployment has skyrocketed, the importance of jobs in America's rural communities cannot be overstated.

The 21st Century Civilian Conservation Corps Act:

- Provides an additional \$3.5 billion for the U.S. Forest Service and \$2 billion for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to increase the pace and scale of science-based hazardous fuels reduction and thinning efforts, prioritizing projects that are shovel-ready.
- Establishes a \$9 billion fund for qualified land and conservation corps to increase job training and hiring specifically for jobs in the woods, helping to restore public lands and provide jobs in a time of need.
- Plants over 4 billion trees by 2030, and over 15 billion trees by 2050, on a combination of federal, state, local, tribal and NGO lands, with over one hundred million trees to be planted in urban areas across America by 2030.
- Support voluntary climate stewardship practices on over 100 million acres of farmland by providing supplemental funding for USDA working lands conservation programs.
- Provides an additional \$150 million for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, the flagship program for community forest restoration and fire risk reduction.
- Provides \$500 million for the Forest Service State and Private Forestry program, which will be divided between programs to help facilitate landscape restoration projects, including \$100 million for the Firewise program to help local governments plan for and reduce wildfire risks.
- Provides an additional \$150 million for the North American Waterfowl Management and Joint Ventures program and \$150 million for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Partners for Fish and Wildlife program for rangeland management improvements.