Bipartisan Policy Center

Economic and Employment Benefits from Investing in America's Public and Working Lands

Targeted investments in agriculture and forestry can create significanteconomic and employment benefits while addressing broader climate goals. The Bipartisan Policy Center assessed the economic impacts of investing in America's public and working lands as part of a broader infrastructure economic modeling analysis.[1] We found that new federal funding specifically aimed at rural America could:

Support up to
22,000 jobs
per year

EMPLOYMENT

Contribute up to
$2.2 billion
per year to GDP

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

1 https://decarbamerica.org/technical-results/

Policies Modeled

	Policy Type	Description
Public Lands Management	USFS Wildland Firefighters	Funds the hiring, training, and deployment of additional wildland firefighters within the U.S. Forest Service.
	Federal Forest Thinning	Funds hazardous fuels management and thinning activities on National Forest land with significant wildfire risk.
	Federal Forest Replanting	Funds forest replanting on National Forest land where there have been recent wildfires.
Incentives for Working Lands Management	Tree Planting on Marginal Lands	Expands funding for USDA's Conservation Reserve Program to finance planning on marginal lands. Covers rental payments as well as cost share assistance for tree planting.
	Cover Crop Development	Expands funding for USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program for cover crop incentives paid to farmers.
	Grassland Restoration	Expands funding for USDA CRP to support establishment and maintenance of grasslands on agricultural lands.
	Anaerobic Digesters	Funds the installation of anaerobic digesters to capture methane emissions from livestock.

Average Annual Employment and GDP Impacts

Our analysis found that average annual employment impacts across the policies ranged from 500 to over 8,000 jobs per policy and the average annual GDP impacts ranged from $62 million to nearly $900 million per policy.

	Policy Type	Total federal funding level	Average annual jobs supported	Average annual GDP supported (2019$)
Public Lands Management	USFS Wildland Firefighters	$1 billion over 2 years	8,050	$677 million
	Federal Forest Thinning	$1 billion over 5 years	7,840	$895 million
	Federal Forest Replanting	$500 million over 5 years	1,180	$110 million
Incentives for Working Lands Management	Tree Planting on Marginal Lands	$500 million over 5 years	980	$133 million
	Cover Crop Development	$500 million over 5 years	640	$79 million
	Grassland Restoration	$500 million over 5 years	980	$133 million
	Anaerobic Digesters	$250 million over 5 years	500	$62 million

Notes:

1. Average annual employment and GDP impacts for each policy are based on impacts for the number of years funded.
2. Jobs listed here include those that are direct, indirect, and induced.