

A Menu of State Actions to Promote Forest Carbon Sequestration and Storage

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Summary

Across the U.S., states are developing policies and programs to help promote forest-based natural climate solutions. This effort is bolstered by a growth in forest carbon programs that aim to make entry into the voluntary carbon offset market accessible to all landowners. Here we present a “menu” of policy and program options (that we call action items) derived from existing state programs and policies that decision makers can leverage to promote forest carbon solutions.

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Review

This report was reviewed by two experts in US federal
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INTRODUCTION

Climate change and the growing challenges it poses have elevated interest in forest-based natural climate solutions (NCS). A few states have formalized statewide goals and plans around NCS strategies, such as the [North Carolina Natural and Working Lands Action Plan](#), the [California Natural and Working Lands Implementation Plan](#), and the [Maine Natural and Working Lands Working Group](#). To fund and design forest-based NCS solutions, many states have leveraged existing state and federal programs, but they have also created new programs to satisfy unmet needs. This brief summarizes different ways that states could help promote NCS through forest carbon markets, improved forest conservation and management, and forest product industry development.

METHODS

This work was inspired by the conversations of the North Carolina Natural and Working Lands Group Forest Subcommittee. The menu of action items was developed from recommendations outlined in the [North Carolina Natural and Working Lands Action Plan \(2020\)](#) and the [North Carolina Forest Action Plan \(2020\)](#). With an interest in expanding relevance to other states, the menu was supplemented by a broad search to include existing programs, policies, and proposals from across the U.S. The menu of action items includes recommendations for creating and expanding both carbon market and carbon management programs. Example programs and policies were identified through state natural resource department websites, federal websites, other printed material, and expert outreach. Programs and policies included in the final menu of action items could be adopted by any state.

POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

The menu of action items is organized by four activity categories:

- Promote participation in forest carbon markets to incentivize landowners to store and sequester carbon on their property.
- Conserve and enhance forestland to bolster forest carbon gains and prevent carbon loss (though these programs may not specifically target climate benefits).
- Increase landowner access to technical and financial assistance for forest management to improve forest health, as healthier forests have been shown to store and sequester more carbon.
- Support the wood products market to increase the value of forestland and keep forest as forest.

Action items are summarized by activity category in Table 1 below. Each action item in the summary below is linked to a more detailed description and example of one or more existing policy or program options. These descriptions and examples can be found in the action items menu ([Appendix A](#)), or reached by clicking on the linked action item number within each row of Table 1. Many of the suggested actions are cross-cutting, meaning they would fit into more than one of the action categories and have been sorted based on their most direct function.

As further reference for states looking to implement any of the actions below, we have collected information on existing federal programs that can be leveraged to increase forest carbon ([Appendix B](#)), as well as proposed federal legislation relevant to natural climate solutions that states should track and could potentially leverage in the future ([Appendix C](#)).

Table 1. Summary of possible action items that could be used by states to enhance carbon storage and sequestration within their forested natural and working lands

Action Category	Action Items	Action Item Numbers
Promote participation in forest carbon markets	Policies to increase demand for Forest C credits.	1 - 3
	Remove barriers to existing forest C programs.	4
	Develop C credits for state-owned land.	5
	Allow low-risk private investment in forest carbon.	6
Conserve and enhance forestland	Increase funding for land acquisition and conservation programs.	7 - 11
	Increase assistance for non-governmental conservation efforts.	12, 13
Increase technical and financial assistance	Expand existing technical assistance and educational programs through government agencies and extension services.	14 - 16
	Provide additional tax incentives for conservation efforts by private landowners.	16 - 19
	Make forest carbon eligible for infrastructure funding.	20
	Reduce costs of owning forestland.	21, 22
Promote the wood products market	Coordinate between state economic development and forestry agencies.	23
	Provide opportunities for forestry workforce development.	24
	Promote the use of wood and wood products in government construction projects.	25

As an additional resource, we provide links to resources from North Carolina State Extension that offer:

- [An overview of carbon markets](#); and
- A list of existing [forest carbon market programs](#) for landowners.

RESOURCES

California Environmental Protection Agency, California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Air Resources Board, and California Strategic Growth Council. 2019. “California 2030 Natural and Working Lands Climate Change Implementation Plan.” <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/nwl-implementation-draft>.

Chizmar, Stephanie, and Rajan Parajuli. 2021. “Current Forest Carbon Markets at a Glance.” <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/current-forest-carbon-markets-at-a-glance>.

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, North Carolina Forest Service, and North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. 2020. “North Carolina Natural and Working Lands Action Plan.” <https://deq.nc.gov/energy-climate/climate-change/adaptation-and-resiliency/natural-working-lands>.

North Carolina Forest Service and North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. 2020. “North Carolina Forest Action Plan.” <https://www.ncforestactionplan.com/PDF/2020/FINAL-NC2020FAP.pdf>.

Parajuli, Rajan, Mark Megalos, Tatyana Ruseva, Stephanie Chizmar, and Mansfield Fisher. 2019. “An Introduction to Forest Carbon Offset Markets.” <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/an-introduction-to-forest-carbon-offset-markets>.

APPENDIX A. FOREST ACTION IDEAS

The list is split into four action categories:

- Promote participation in forest carbon markets
- Conserve and enhance forestland
- Increase landowner access to technical and financial assistance for forest management
- Support the wood products market

These action items would need to be tailored to suit the specific context in which they are implemented. For example, in some cases, existing cost share programs might be bolstered with additional funding and resources for outreach rather than creation of an entirely new program.

#	Action Item	Relevance to Forest Carbon	Example/Origin
Promote participation in forest carbon markets			
1	<i>Cross-cutting:</i> Engage with the state Utilities Commission to include natural and working lands carbon offsets to help utilities meet their emissions reduction goals.	Creates option for utilities to purchase forest carbon offsets to meet emissions reduction goals.	NC HB 951
2	<i>Cross-cutting:</i> Authorize the state forestry agency to act as a carbon offset buyer of credits from non-federal forest landowners. State forestry department would then sell the credits on the market and use the proceeds to administer the program and fund technical, financial, and management assistance to landowners.	Allows the state to purchase forest carbon offsets, offering greater oversight of the market and security.	Oregon ORS 526.725
3	Develop an urban forest carbon credit program. Partner with a nonprofit such as City Forest Credits (CFC) that specializes in carbon offsets for forests within and around U.S. cities, which have often been overlooked for carbon finance.	Creates option for urban forest carbon credits.	King County Forest Carbon Program (WA) Duke Carbon Offsets Initiative
4	<i>Cross-cutting:</i> Determine which carbon offset markets align with the management goals of private and publicly-owned forests in the state (e.g., benefits to landowners, maximized carbon sequestered, maximized forest and natural ecosystem conservation) and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and remove barriers for market participation if the market does not currently operate in the state. • Develop educational material specific to the program to distribute to landowners. 	Helps states adopt forest carbon offset markets.	NC Forest Action Plan ORS 526.780

#	Action Item	Relevance to Forest Carbon	Example/Origin
5	<p><i>Cross-cutting:</i></p> <p>Sell carbon offsets on state forestland. Partner with a carbon offset developer like Bluesource and generate carbon credits based on the state's commitment to maintaining forest growth levels and progressively increasing forest stocking, rather than increasing harvest levels as would be allowable under the management plans and state law. Funds generated from selling the offsets can be used to support activities such as additional forest management, wildlife habitat improvement, stand stocking, infrastructure, recreation projects and tree planting activities.</p>	Creates forest carbon offset program on state land.	Bluesource/ Michigan DNR Big Wild Forest Carbon Project
6	Authorize Pay for Success (PFS) as a procurement tool. PFS is an innovative contracting scheme whereby interventions get upfront funding by private capital, and that capital gets repaid with a return by the government or other payer only if pre-specified outcomes are realized.	Allows for lower-risk investment in forest carbon projects with strong incentives for project completion.	Environmental Policy Innovation Center Maryland Comprehensive Conservation Finance Act
Conserve and enhance forestland			
7	Expand efforts to find and purchase forestlands of high ecological importance for conservation.	State can manage purchased land to maximize carbon storage and sequestration.	North Carolina Land and Water Fund Florida Forever North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund
8	Establish a multi-year rental payment program for landowners that agree to maintain and protect native woodland habitat on private land. Landowners enroll through a conservation agreement and choose from different payment options. Value of land determined by acreage, ecological importance, carbon sequestration, or other factors.	Increases forest conservation and carbon storage and sequestration.	North Dakota Private Forest Conservation Program USDA Conservation Reserve Program
9	Create a conservation tax credit to make restoration and conservation activities more affordable and appealing to landowners.	The tax credit will make it more feasible for landowners to implement their own conservation efforts, capturing more carbon.	NC Forest Action Plan NC Conservation Tax Credit

#	Action Item	Relevance to Forest Carbon	Example/Origin
10	<p><i>Cross-cutting:</i></p> <p>Create a tradeable tax credit program awarded to forest landowners in return for specific conservation and sustainable management practices, including those that promote carbon storage and sequestration. Credits can either be awarded based on the practices the landowner implements or by the performance outcomes of the practices above a certain baseline.</p>	Credits can be awarded for actions that increase forest carbon and then sold, making carbon storage and sequestration efforts more affordable for landowners.	Forest Climate Working Group
11	Work with military and nonprofits to purchase development rights of forests surrounding military bases to prevent encroachment and conversion of forestland to less carbon sequestering uses. Work with these partners to share the cost of the purchase.	Protecting forestland from conversion.	Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program
12	Create a grant program to assist in the creation of regional forest collaboratives dedicated to forest conservation, restoration, and sustainable management and industry practices. These collaboratives are generally regional cooperatives founded by local groups with an interest in a particular environmental issue and have proven to be successful in western states. Can help increase public buy-in, develop regional solutions to environmental issues, and protect critical habitats and ecosystems.	Creates grassroots support, collaboration, and greater public buy-in for conservation projects. Offers a lower-cost option for the state since forest collaboratives are financially self-sustaining.	America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative Southern Blue Ridge Forestry and Conservation Project Sandy Mush Collaborative Forest Restoration Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership USFS currently researching the efficacy of these organizations

#	Action Item	Relevance to Forest Carbon	Example/Origin
13	<p><i>Cross-cutting:</i></p> <p>Establishing an external network of stakeholders and experts to continue to share ideas and coordinate actions in the event of a shift in government priorities.</p> <p>Establish a body/collaborative to help coordinate nonprofit and private conservation efforts with state efforts, that can persist without direct state engagement. Would help connect organizations interested in the same kinds of projects and help focus efforts and pool limited funding to accomplish conservation and forest carbon projects that wouldn't be possible otherwise. Could provide technical assistance depending on the design of the program.</p>	<p>Given the limited funding for conservation, this body could help coordinate funding so that different groups can pool efforts and resources to maximize carbon storage for each dollar spent.</p>	<p>North Carolina Conservation Network</p> <p>Oregon Energy Trust</p>
Increase landowner access to forest management technical and financial assistance			
14	<p><i>Cross-cutting:</i></p> <p>Coordinate and enhance workshops and educational materials to offer guidance to landowners with specific instructions on how to take advantage of federal cost share and direct payment programs and forest carbon payment opportunities.</p> <p>(e.g., USDA CREP, EQIP, CRP, and LSR)</p> <p>NOTE: While many organizations offer this kind of service already, this action item would coordinate those different services and make the process more streamlined and easier for landowners to navigate. Coordination could be handled by a single entity, a nonprofit, government agency, university extension service, or by each group in collaboration to provide clear and ready assistance for landowners to accomplish forestry objectives.</p>	<p>Directs landowners to the resources, both financial and otherwise, that allow them to implement practices that will increase forest carbon.</p>	<p>NRCS Conservation Assistance Program (CTA)</p> <p>NCFS County Ranger</p> <p>Oregon Energy Trust</p> <p>Oregon Forest Resource Trust</p> <p>Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board</p>
15	<p><i>Cross-cutting:</i></p> <p>Work with the American Forest Foundation (AFF) to expand the Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Program (SFLR) to other states. The program improves forest management and forest retention by connecting African American landowners to established networks of forestry support, including federal and state government programs, businesses, and nonprofit conservation, community development, and legal organizations.</p>	<p>Help African American forest landowners manage and retain their land, preventing it from being converted for non-forest uses that do not sequester or store carbon.</p>	<p>Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Program</p>

#	Action Item	Relevance to Forest Carbon	Example/Origin
16	Establish a Timber Restoration Program to provide funding and technical assistance to landowners after disasters such as wildfires and hurricanes to minimize damage to carbon stocks and avoid land conversion.	Helps restore forests and avoid conversion, helping to restore carbon sequestration potential of forests after disturbances.	North Carolina Timber Restoration Fund Florida Timber Recovery Block Grant Program
17	<i>Cross-cutting:</i> Establish a low-interest loan/grant program to support innovative projects that help small landowners adopt sustainable land management practices.	Increases the financial value of protecting forestland, reducing the incentive to convert forests to non-carbon capturing uses.	The Rural Forest Markets Act
18	<i>Cross-cutting:</i> Create a regional cost share program that provides cost share grants to owners of land used for agricultural and timber production for applying soil conservation, water quality improvement, or reforestation and forest improvement practices in the state. Applicants work through local conservation districts to determine eligibility or through state agencies.	Incentivizes landowners to implement management practices that maximize carbon storage and sequestration.	North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation District Agriculture Cost Share Programs North Carolina Forest Development Program Alabama Agricultural and Conservation Development Commission Program California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
19	<i>Cross-cutting:</i> Create a wildlife habitat assistance program to connect interested landowners with wildlife biologists that can advise them not only on how to improve their land for wildlife conservation but also how to take advantage of other technical and financial assistance programs. Could be implemented as a state or private/nonprofit program.	By making it easier to conserve wildlife habitat, landowners will be more likely to implement more sustainable land management practices, thereby increasing carbon sequestration and storage. Incentivizes applications from those with an interest in wildlife conservation, indirectly increasing forest carbon.	Kentucky Habitat Improvement Program

#	Action Item	Relevance to Forest Carbon	Example/Origin
20	Legally classify Blue and Green Infrastructure as traditional infrastructure, thereby making it eligible for the same kinds of assistance as other water collection and treatment infrastructure.	Provides another funding mechanism to incentivize sustainable forest management and carbon storage and sequestration, especially if carbon capture is included in the definitions for Blue and Green Infrastructure.	Maryland Comprehensive Conservation Finance Act
21	Develop a Reforestation/Afforestation Tax Credit that would complement the Federal Reforestation Tax Credit.	By making it affordable for landowners to reforest their land, states can increase their forest coverage and carbon capture.	Federal Reforestation Tax Credit
22	Establish a Present Use Value taxation method for forestland, which taxes land not at its maximum market value, but by the value of its current use.	Increases the financial value of protecting forestland, decreasing the incentive to convert forests for agriculture or other developments.	North Carolina PUV Maine PUV Vermont Agricultural and Managed Forest Land Use Value Program

Support wood products market

23	<p><i>Cross-cutting:</i></p> <p>Coordinate between the state economic development and forestry departments to find opportunities for collaboration to support a sustainable wood products market.</p>	By supporting the wood products market, states increase the profitability of owning and managing forestland, thereby reducing the financial incentive to convert forestland for uses that sequester and store less carbon.	2020 Forest Economic Contributions Summit
24	<p>Strengthen the forest products market by promoting forest workforce development, including apprenticeship programs, community college training, and greater high school level guidance toward skilled-labor careers.</p> <p>Expand funding and capacity of Conservation Corps for apprenticeship programs for youths and veterans that feed directly into forestry jobs with additional focus on forest carbon.</p>	By training a new generation of foresters and mobilizing young people interested in forestry, a state will create more public interest in conserving forests and help the forest management and wood products industry find more qualified employees, which has been identified as a barrier to achieving some of these goals. By training a new forestry workforce, the state can reduce the cost of training new forestry professionals, reducing costs in the long run and increase the profitability of owning and managing a forest, thereby disincentivizing landowners from converting their forestland.	NC Forest Action Plan

#	Action Item	Relevance to Forest Carbon	Example/Origin
25	<p><i>Cross-cutting:</i></p> <p>Encourage the use of wood building materials for state buildings and state programs that support building construction.</p>	<p>By making wood products more profitable, the state increases the financial incentive for landowners to grow and retain forestland, increasing forest carbon.</p>	<p>Building Reuse Grant Program</p> <p>North Carolina Opportunity Zones</p> <p>Forest Climate Working Group</p>

APPENDIX B. EXISTING FEDERAL FOREST INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Title	Summary
Tax Incentives	
Federal Capital Gains Tax	Timber sales qualify as capital gains and are taxed at a lower rate than ordinary income.
Federal Tax Reduction for Conservation Easements on Working Forests	For a forest to qualify for a conservation easement, the applicant must have a conservation easement with an eligible grantee (nonprofit/land trust, local government) and must do at least one of the following: protect natural habitats, protect open space, protect land for public recreation or education, protect historic features, protect scenic enjoyment of the public, or yield significant public benefit as defined by federal, state, or local government conservation policies. If someone donates a conservation easement to a land trust or government agency, the donor qualifies for a 50% tax deduction on their annual income for 15 years. Qualifying ranchers and farmers can deduct up to 100% of their income.
Federal Tax Reduction for Replanting After Harvest	Reforestation costs are tax deductible up to \$10,000 per year.
Cost Sharing Payments Tax Exemption	Federal and North Carolina tax laws allow a landowner to exclude certain cost share payments partially or totally from taxable income.
Annual Deductions	Part or all management expenses incurred each year above \$10,000 may be tax deductible even if no timber income is received in that year.
Direct Payments/Cost Share	
USDA (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	Offers payments to landowners to reduce soil erosion, protect water quality, and diversify local farm operations and rural economies. USDA announced in January of this year that there would be \$12 million available specifically to forest landowners in exchange for their implementation of healthy forest management practices.
USDA (FSA) Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	A sub-program of CRP targeted to address water quality, soil erosion, and wildlife habitat concerns in specific states. Offers annual rental payments, cost share payments, and other incentive payments to landowners under 10, 15, or 30 year contracts with an option for permanent conservation easements.
USFS Community Forest Program	Competitive grant program that helps tribes, local governments, and qualified conservation nonprofits acquire and establish community forests that provide community benefits. Land must be threatened by conversion for non-forest use, not held in trust by the federal government, provide community benefits, be at least five acres in size, suitable to sustain natural vegetation, and be at least 75% forested.
USDA (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility. Program may pay up to 75% of the cost of qualifying practices or \$300,000 for all program contracts during any six-year period.
	NRCS is providing \$10 million to support climate-smart agriculture and forestry through a targeted EQIP signup in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Title	Summary
USFS Landscape Scale Restoration Program	A competitive grant program that bundles and coordinates several state and private forestry programs and authorities to more efficiently deliver cross-boundary impacts. LSR funds can only be spent on non-federal lands. State forestry agencies, local governments, tribes, nonprofits, and universities are eligible to submit projects that address the top priorities identified in their Forest Action Plans or an equivalent restoration strategy. Projects are developed in partnership with stakeholders to effectively leverage local knowledge, expertise, and resources.
Easements	
USDA (NRCS) Healthy Forest Reserve Program	HFRP provides landowners with 10-year restoration agreements and 30-year or permanent easements for specific conservation actions. For acreage owned by an American Indian tribe, there is an additional enrollment option of a 30-year contract. Land enrolled in HFRP easements must be privately owned or owned by Indian tribes and restore, enhance, or measurably increase the recovery of threatened or endangered species, improve biological diversity, or increase carbon storage.
USDA (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program	NRCS co-invests with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address. Landowners enter into contracts and easement agreements. Only eligible on agricultural or non-industrial private forestland.
USFS Forest Legacy Program	Conservation program administered in partnership with state agencies to encourage the protection of privately owned forestlands through conservation easements and land purchases. Landowners either sell their property outright or sell a portion of the property's development rights.
Technical Assistance	
USDA (NRCS) Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	NRCS provides free technical assistance to agricultural producers. To participate in CSP and receive financial assistance, producers must control or own the land and be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements, and have current farm records with the USDA Farm Service Agency.
USFS Forest Land Enhancement Program	The Forest Land Enhancement Program was established to encourage the long-term stability of non-industrial private forestlands by providing financial, technical, and educational assistance by state forest agencies to assist private landowners in actively managing their land. To qualify, forest landowners must develop a management plan that provides for the treatment of up to 1,000 acres, must be for no less than 10 years, and be approved by the State Forester. The program may cover up to 75% of the cost of implementation.
USDA (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program	Promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities, allowing conservation partnerships to design projects using other USDA incentive programs.
Other Incentives	
USDA Bio-Preferred Program	Sets requirements for purchasing bio-based materials and products under federal purchasing programs (for purchases greater than \$10,000).
USDA/USFS Wood Innovations Grants Program	Provides grants for projects that support wood products markets, fuel reduction, and sustainable forest management.

Title	Summary
USDA (FSA) Biomass Crop Assistance Program	Subsidizes biomass recovery from forest and other ecosystems (matching payments) and establishment of grasses and other energy crops (establishment payments).
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act	<p>Massive increase in funding for infrastructure and forestry projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.4 billion for wildfire risk reduction, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500 million for community wildfire defense grants. • \$500 million for mechanical thinning. • \$500 million for prescribed burns. • \$500 million for the creation and research of fuelbreaks. • \$2.3 billion for ecosystem restoration projects. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program to identify treatment areas that require removal of vegetation. • Program to provide financing, including loan guarantees, to nearby sawmills and wood processing infrastructure to treat targeted areas. These funds can be used to establish, reopen, retrofit, expand, or improve sawmill or other wood-processing facilities. • \$250 million for the Forest Service’s Legacy Road and Trail Program.

APPENDIX C. PROPOSED FEDERAL FOREST CARBON INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Title	Sponsor	Summary	Status
Carbon Offsets			
The Forest Incentives Program Act	Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)	Directs the USDA to establish two programs to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Specifically, USDA must establish a forest incentives program to encourage carbon sequestration on private forestland through carbon incentives contracts and conservation easements. USDA shall pay forestland owners for certain forestry practices that measurably increase carbon sequestration and storage or for conservation easements.	Cosponsors: Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV). In Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
The Rural Forest Markets Act	Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Mike Braun (R-IN)	The bill is meant to remove barriers for small-scale, family foresters and help them benefit from new economic opportunities through climate solutions such as carbon markets. Provides a federal loan guarantee to support innovative projects that help small forest owners address the warming climate and other environmental challenges by adopting sustainable land management practices. Loans will be issued to nonprofits and companies to help small and family foresters.	Cosponsors: Sen. Angus King, Jr. (I-ME), Shelley Capito Moore (R-WV), Susan Collins (R-ME), Bob Casey (D-PA). Passed the Senate on June 24, but doesn't seem to have as much traction in the House.
Growing Climate Solutions Act	Sen Mike Braun (R-IN)	It would create a "Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Certification Program" to help producers participate in an environmental offset credit program. There is some concern over how the environmental benefits for credit will be calculated and verified.	54 Bipartisan Cosponsors. Passed the Senate, stalled in the House.

Title	Sponsor	Summary	Status
Multi-Part			
Climate Stewardship Act	Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)	<p>This bill is more ambitious than the Growing Climate Solutions Act, and would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant billions of trees on a combination of federal, state, local, tribal, and non-governmental lands, including in urban neighborhoods across America, with priority going to low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. • Support voluntary climate stewardship practices on over 100 million acres of farmland by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing tens of billions of dollars of supplemental funding for USDA working lands conservation programs, with new funding dedicated to stewardship practices such as rotational grazing, improved fertilizer efficiency, and planting tens of millions of new acres of cover crops. • Enrolling 40 million acres of environmentally sensitive land in the Conservation Reserve Program. • More than doubling funding for agricultural research programs, including more funding for soil health demonstration trials. • Tripling USDA funding to provide farmers with expert technical assistance on climate stewardship practices. • Providing grant funding to tens of thousands of farmers, ranchers and rural businesses for renewable energy production, such as solar panels, wind turbines, and energy efficiency improvements. 	<p>Cosponsors: Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Bernie Sanders (I-VT).</p> <p>In Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee.</p>

Title	Sponsor	Summary	Status
Agriculture Resilience Act	Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME-1)	<p>The ARA would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund a feasibility study on a carbon tax credit program. • Increase funding for USDA Research and Regional Climate Hubs. • Authorize USDA to offer performance-based crop insurance discounts for practices that can be demonstrated to reduce risk. • Create new USDA grants to state and tribal governments to improve soil health and direct USDA to establish a Soil Health and Greenhouse Gas Advisory Committee. • Create a new Local Agriculture Marketing Program (LAMP) subprogram to help farmers develop and expand markets for farm products that improve soil health. • Increase funding for the Agriculture Conservation Easement Program. • Establish a new Grasslands 30 Pilot Program through which grasslands at risk of conversion to cropping or development can receive annual payments. • Directs USDA to research dual-use energy systems that integrate renewable energy production with crop or animal production. 	<p>28 Cosponsors (all Democrats).</p> <p>In House Committee on Agriculture.</p>

Title	Sponsor	Summary	Status
Budget Measure			
Build Back Better Bill		<p>In August of 2021, House and Senate Democrats unveiled a \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation proposal that included ambitious climate directives. Those packages were included in the Build Back Better Bill. However, the substance of the bill has undergone significant revisions and now includes \$555 billion in clean energy spending and significant investments in natural climate solutions. As of 2021 the plan included:</p>	<p>Uncertain. The White House has signaled they might be open to breaking up provisions in the bill and passing it piecemeal.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2 billion in investments in agricultural research and infrastructure; other countries like China are outspending the U.S. on research investments and this money will help close the gap. • \$18 billion in rural job-promoting investments to ensure those living in rural America, on tribal lands, and our insular areas have access to clean water and reliable and efficient renewable energy. This funding will also support investment in renewable biofuels infrastructure important to farmers and our fight against climate change, as well as flexible funding for rural community growth. • \$27.15 billion in investments in forestry programs to help combat forest fires and contribute to healthy, resilient forests. • \$12 billion in critical debt relief for farmers in need and for USDA to tailor its programs to support new and existing farmers through outreach, education, and technical assistance. This is offset by \$6 billion in funding that was included in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). • \$28.29 billion in historic investments in vital conservation programs and support for farmers and producers. 	