Updates From Rural America

BIL/IIJA & Wildlife Habitat Connectivity

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Guaranteeing All Americans Quality Places to Hunt and Fish

- Public Lands
- Private Lands
- Water Resources
- Climate Solutions
- Marine Fisheries
State & Federal Action

- Wyoming Game and Fish Ungulate Migration Corridor Strategy (2016)
- DOI Secretarial Order 3362 (2018)
- USDA-Wyoming Migratory Big Game Pilot (2022)
- America the Beautiful Challenge (2022)
IIJA Investments

- DOT Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP) $350M
- FWS National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) $200M
- DOT Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grants (AOP) $1B
- DOT Bridge Investment Program $12.5B
- DOT PROTECT Grants $1.4B
- DOT Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund $120M
- DOI/USFS Ecosystem Restoration & Resilience Programs $1.4B
IRA Investments

- USDA Farm Bill Conservation Title Programs
  - EQIP $8.5B
  - RCPP $5B
  - CSP $3.25B
  - ACEP $1.4B
  - Conservation Technical Assistance $1B
- DOI Western Drought Mitigation & System Resilience $4B
WCPP Grants

- Reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity
- Competitive grants to states, tribes, federal land management agencies and local governments administered by FHWA
- $110 million initial grant awards for FY22-23
  - $24M to AZ DOT
  - $22M to CO DOT
  - $8M to CA DOT
  - $8.5M to Stillaguamish Tribe
  - $1.2M to KY TC
IIJA Fish Passage Funding

- $2B provided for aquatic ecosystem restoration, infrastructure improvement, and culvert removal.

- $531M funded so far across eight federal agencies
USDA Migratory Big Game Initiative

• Supported by $20B IRA funding.
  • $21.4M in FY24 across WY, MT, and ID.

• Innovative application of Farm Bill Conservation Title programs to better meet producer’s needs
  • ACEP - conservation easements
  • EQIP - support for fence conversion, invasive species treatment, habitat restoration
  • Grassland CRP – long-term stewardship with continued agricultural production
Barriers

• Limited capacity
• Lack of dedicated match funds
• Extensive pre-project development

Opportunities

• Farm Bill
• WRDA
• Authorizing Legislation