

PUBLIC LAW 117-169—AUG. 16, 2022

the cost of loans and modifications, and other financial assistance to achieve the greatest reduction in carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide emissions associated with rural electric systems through the purchase of renewable energy, renewable energy systems, zero-emission systems, and carbon capture and storage systems, to deploy such systems, or to make energy efficiency improvements to electric generation and transmission systems of the eligible entity after the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(2) LIMITATION.—No eligible entity may receive an amount equal to more than 10 percent of the total amount made available by this subsection.

“(3) REQUIREMENT.—The amount of a grant under this subsection shall be not more than 25 percent of the total project costs of the eligible entity carrying out a project using a grant under this subsection.

“(4) PROHIBITION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted to authorize funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation for activities under this subsection if such funds are not expressly authorized or currently expended for such purposes.

“(5) DISBURSEMENTS.—The Secretary shall not enter into, pursuant to this subsection—

“(A) any loan agreement that may result in a disbursement after September 30, 2031; or

“(B) any grant agreement that may result in any outlay after September 30, 2031.”

SEC. 22005. ADDITIONAL USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2031, for administrative costs and salaries and expenses for the Rural Development mission area and administrative costs of the agencies and offices of the Department for costs related to implementing this subtitle.

SEC. 22006. FARM LOAN IMMEDIATE RELIEF FOR BORROWERS WITH AT-RISK AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2022, out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$3,100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2031, to provide payments to, for the cost of loans or loan modifications for, or to carry out section 331(b)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981(b)(4)) with respect to distressed borrowers of direct or guaranteed loans administered by the Farm Service Agency under subtitle A, B, or C of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1922 through 1970). In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall provide relief to those borrowers whose agricultural operations are at financial risk as expeditiously as possible, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 22007. USDA ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FOR UNDERSERVED FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND FORESTERS.

Section 1006 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (7 U.S.C. 2279 note; Public Law 117–2) is amended to read as follows:

Time period.

Determination.

“SEC. 1006. USDA ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FOR UNDERSERVED FARMERS, RANCHERS, FORESTERS.

“(a) **TECHNICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE.**—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until September 30, 2031, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$125,000,000 to provide outreach, mediation, financial training, capacity building training, cooperative development and agricultural credit training and support, and other technical assistance on issues concerning food, agriculture, agricultural credit, agricultural extension, rural development, or nutrition to underserved farmers, ranchers, or forest landowners, including veterans, limited resource producers, beginning farmers and ranchers, and farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners living in high poverty areas.

“(b) **LAND LOSS ASSISTANCE.**—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until September 30, 2031, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$250,000,000 to provide grants and loans to eligible entities, as determined by the Secretary, to improve land access (including heirs’ property and fractionated land issues) for underserved farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners, including veterans, limited resource producers, beginning farmers and ranchers, and farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners living in high poverty areas.

“(c) **EQUITY COMMISSIONS.**—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until September 30, 2031, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$10,000,000 to fund the activities of one or more equity commissions that will address racial equity issues within the Department of Agriculture and the programs of the Department of Agriculture.

“(d) **RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION.**—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until September 30, 2031, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$250,000,000 to support and supplement agricultural research, education, and extension, as well as scholarships and programs that provide internships and pathways to agricultural sector or Federal employment, for 1890 Institutions (as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural, Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)), 1994 Institutions (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103-382)), Alaska Native serving institutions and Native Hawaiian serving institutions eligible to receive grants under subsections (a) and (b), respectively, of section 1419B of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3156), Hispanic-serving institutions eligible to receive grants under section 1455 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3241), and the insular area institutions of higher education located in the territories of the United States, as referred to in section 1489 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3361).

Time period.

“(e) **DISCRIMINATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary

of Agriculture for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until September 30, 2031, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$2,200,000,000 for a program to provide financial assistance, including the cost of any financial assistance, to farmers, ranchers, or forest landowners determined to have experienced discrimination prior to January 1, 2021, in Department of Agriculture farm lending programs, under which the amount of financial assistance provided to a recipient may be not more than \$500,000, as determined to be appropriate based on any consequences experienced from the discrimination, which program shall be administered through 1 or more qualified nongovernmental entities selected by the Secretary subject to standards set and enforced by the Secretary.

“(f) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until September 30, 2031, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$24,000,000 for administrative costs, including training employees, of the agencies and offices of the Department of Agriculture to carry out this section.

“(g) LIMITATION.—The funds made available under this section are subject to the condition that the Secretary shall not—

“(1) enter into any agreement under which any payment could be outlaid or funds disbursed after September 30, 2031; or

Time period.

“(2) use any other funds available to the Secretary to satisfy obligations initially made under this section.”.

SEC. 22008. REPEAL OF FARM LOAN ASSISTANCE.

Section 1005 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (7 U.S.C. 1921 note; Public Law 117–2) is repealed.

Subtitle D—Forestry

SEC. 23001. NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM RESTORATION AND FUELS REDUCTION PROJECTS.

(a) APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there are appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to remain available until September 30, 2031—

(1) \$1,800,000,000 for hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System land within the wildland-urban interface;

(2) \$200,000,000 for vegetation management projects on National Forest System land carried out in accordance with a plan developed under section 303(d)(1) or 304(a)(3) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542(d)(1) or 6543(a)(3));

(3) \$100,000,000 to provide for environmental reviews by the Chief of the Forest Service in satisfying the obligations of the Chief of the Forest Service under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 through 4370m–12); and

(4) \$50,000,000 for the protection of old-growth forests on National Forest System land and to complete an inventory of old-growth forests and mature forests within the National Forest System.