



SRM Priorities vs. Funding Loss – H.R.1 (2025) “One, Big, Beautiful Bill”

UNDERSTANDING THE ONE, BIG, BEAUTIFUL BILL: A TOOLKIT FOR SRM MEMBERS

This toolkit was developed at the request of SRM (Society for Range Management) members to address concerns regarding the House version of the reconciliation budget bill with some Senate committee texts reflections. Our analysis focuses on provisions within this bill that aim to rescind, claw back, or repurpose conservation, climate, and agricultural funding originally allocated by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA, Public Law 117-169).

WHAT’S INSIDE THE TOOLKIT?

Each section of this toolkit highlights a key SRM priority and details the corresponding funding losses under the proposed House bill. To help you advocate effectively, we’ve included draft template messages you can use when speaking with your Senators. These templates are designed to streamline your communication and ensure your message is clear and impactful.

ADDRESSING POTENTIAL OBJECTIONS

You may encounter an argument from legislative offices that any rescinded funding, particularly for conservation programs, will be reallocated in the upcoming Farm Bill. However, it’s crucial to remember that funding for the 2025 Farm Bill is currently stalled. Therefore, relying on future reallocations is not a guaranteed solution.

TAKE ACTION: CONTACT YOUR SENATORS

We urge you to contact your Senators and educate them on the significant losses that rangeland managers, ranchers, and conservationists would face if this funding package passes as is. You can reach out to your Senators’ personal offices directly or call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 to be connected with their offices. Your voice is essential in protecting these vital programs.

QUESTIONS? Contact Jenna Stanton | Director of Policy & Federal Affairs | policy@rangelands.org

SRM PRIORITIES	FUNDING LOST/AT RISK UNDER RECONCILIATION BUDGET
<p>1. Conservation of rangelands & sustainable use via conservation funding programs</p> <p>Message:</p>	<p>IRA Conservation Appropriations Rescinded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EQIP, CSP, ACEP, RCPP—Up to \$19B at risk if IRA funding is clawed back. (These are IRA Sec. 21001–21005 appropriations.) • Total ≈ \$19.05B (EQIP: \$8.45B, CSP: \$3.25B, ACEP: \$1.4B, RCPP: \$4.95B, TA: \$1B) <p><i>Conservation funding appropriated in IRA supports many programs with historic investments. For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$250 million in ACEP supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Grasslands in areas of highest risk for conversion to non-grassland activities * Grazing lands under threat for conversion of non-grazing activities • \$250 million in EQIP supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Awareness of grazing tools (e.g. prescribed grazing, range planting, cover crops) for ranchers to increase soil health.
<p>2. Technical & financial assistance for land stewards</p> <p>Message:</p>	<p>Conservation Technical Assistance & Outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant reductions to USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) TA funds embedded within IRA funds if rescinded. • NRCS TA and Extension support at risk: <p>Approx. \$1.00B</p> <p><i>CTA funding supports the jobs of many NRCS professionals who carry institutional knowledge and serve regional offices, acting as boots on the ground, working with landowners every day. Without CTA, essential conservation funding may face fraud and waste.</i></p>
<p>3. Support for wildfire, drought, & climate resilience</p> <p>Message:</p>	<p>Climate Resilience Block Grants & Fire/Drought Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of funds earmarked for drought adaptation, wildfire risk, and climate-smart landscapes programs launched by IRA. • Funding embedded within EQIP, RCPP, CSP rescission • Additional pilots/research/extension at risk: \$200M–\$400M <p><i>Rangelands fall on federal firefighting intersections between agencies. These fire and drought programs bridged the gap and kept rangelands from incineration. Drought and excessive heat are consistently among the leading causes of agricultural losses. About 4 million acres of US rangelands burn every year. In 2024, drought, excessive heat, and wildfires led to over \$11 billion in crop and rangeland losses in the US. Funding in this area would lead to federal savings in the future for rehabilitation measures by investigating present prevention and suppression tools.</i></p>
<p>4. Incentives for regenerative grazing & soil health</p> <p>Message:</p>	<p>Climate-Smart Agriculture, Carbon Markets, Innovation Grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs incentivizing regenerative, climate-negative grazing and soil health pilots are repealed. • Embedded in EQIP, CSP rescission • Supplemental pilots at risk: \$200M–\$400M <p><i>Grazing and soil health programs help producers address changes that are occurring in their professions.</i></p>

SRM PRIORITIES

FUNDING LOST/AT RISK UNDER RECONCILIATION BUDGET

5. Research & innovation for rangeland health

Messaging:

Research & Monitoring Funds Rescinded:

- Funding for ecosystem services, carbon sequestration studies, and invasive species pilots at USDA, NRCS, USGS, and university partners.
- Embedded in USDA rescission, pilots/innovation portion approx. **\$200M–\$400M**

Investing in rangeland innovation reaps a resilient future. This funding isn't just science; it's the GPS for future grazing, the blueprint for drought-proof profits, and the wildfire shield for ranching heritage.

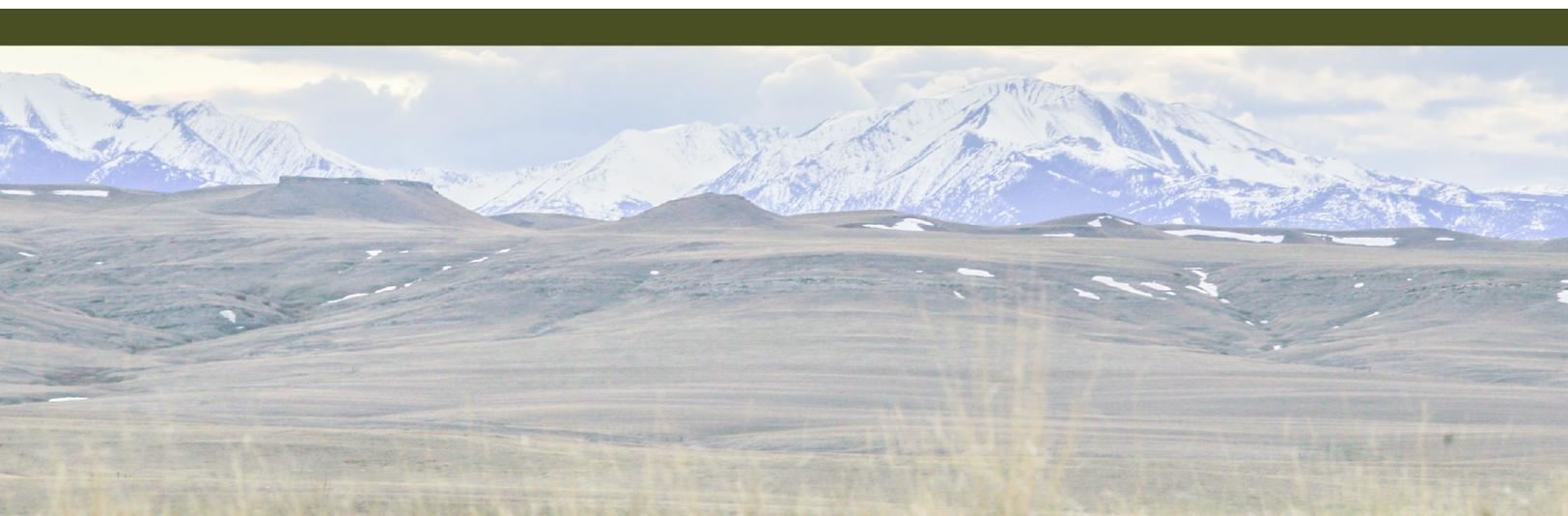
Federal programs to be cut with great rangeland success:

USGS

- *Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center (FRESC)*
 - * *Research on detection, control, and management strategies for **invasive plants and animals** that degrade rangeland ecosystems (e.g., cheatgrass and medusahead). This includes exploring biological control methods like weed-suppressive bacteria.*
 - * *Studying **wildfire impacts, post-fire rehabilitation and restoration, and developing strategies to prevent and manage wildfires***
 - * *Providing science to support **land treatment decisions**, assess the effectiveness of restoration projects, and **develop tools for land managers** to improve rangeland health (e.g. Land Treatment Digital Library and the Land Treatment Exploration Tool)*

NRCS:

- *Next-generation remote sensing tools such as Virtual Fence accurately and efficiently measure conservation outcomes across millions of acres. This technology provides “**wall-to-wall**” **measurements of vegetation biomass** across all US rangelands, enabling rapid-response adaptive management and the communication of wildlife and livestock forage benefits to stakeholders.*
- ***Grass-Cast**, developed by the University of Nebraska Lincoln, utilizes satellite data, observed and forecasted weather, and vegetation indices (NDVI) to provide ranchers in the Northern Great Plains with **estimated increases or decreases in total plant production** for the upcoming growing season. This enables data-driven decisions for pasture stocking rates and grazing rotations, crucial for drought planning.*



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<p>6. Producer education, extension, & collaboration</p> <p>Messaging:</p>	<p>Extension / Education / Demonstration Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced capacity for producer technical education and range extension due to lost federal support. (USDA ARS) • Extension, demonstration, TA programs embedded in above: <p>Approx. \$1.0B</p> <p><i>Many ARS professionals based in the western US serve in rangeland health positions in a variety of rangeland ecosystems.</i></p> <p><i>Today, ranchers are faced with volatile weather patterns and high input costs. Extension and producer education funding keeps ranchers in business by helping them make decisions in natural environments they can't control. Precision agriculture technologies translates to significant savings in fuel, labor, and input costs, potentially improving economic gains by 20% on small farms and ranches.</i></p> <p><i>Some programs supported by this funding:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock performance and production data • Long-Term Livestock Production data helps inform policy makers on decision making • Drought Planning Handbook gives producers a plan to handle drought. It helped over 800 producers in 2022 alone.
<p>7. Public-private conservation partnerships and RCPP funding</p> <p>Messaging:</p>	<p>RCPP & Voluntary Conservation Funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCPP & Voluntary Conservation Funds: • \$4.95B in IRA RCPP and related partnership grants threatened by rescission. <p><i>RCPP isn't just about grants; it's the bedrock that unites local expertise, private innovation, and federal resources to empower ranchers, fortify our rangelands, and secure a sustainable future, together.</i></p> <p><i>Over \$223 million in over 20 states was invested in rangelands and related categories since FY2022.</i></p> <p><i>Some programs include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stewarding the Working Wild: conflict reduction in rangeland predator habitat. • Working Wild Rangeland Project: rangeland livestock production and Mexican gray wolf management. • Life from Soil: improve ecological function of 500,000+ acres of grasslands through Ranch Systems Network. • Drought Resilience Incentive Program: address brush infiltration onto rangelands, treat 4,000 acres, and increase water supplies.

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<p>8. Professional capacity, science workforce, and training</p> <p>Messaging:</p>	<p>Professional Development / Workforce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for technical workforce, scientific training, and range management career programs at risk if IRA program funds are cut. • Funding for technical/extension workforce and capacity at risk: Approx. \$1.0B <p><i>For over 10 years, western universities and agencies have grappled with a critical shortage of 454-level range professionals. This has led to hiring 401-level graduates, who, despite their dedication, often lack the specialized range knowledge needed to fully empower producers. Investing in partner workforce training isn't just about filling positions; it's directly about giving back to ranchers, ensuring they get the expert assistance they need to thrive.</i></p>
<p>*NEW IN THE SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE TEXT*</p> <p>9. Rangeland Preservation and Federal Grazing Permits</p> <p>Messaging:</p>	<p>Sale of Public Lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States forced to give up acreage: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. • Over 3 million acres would be for sale and would allow foreign governments to buy American soil. <p><i>Converting rangeland to housing development is an irreversible change of land use, permanently preventing its use for grazing, wildlife habitat, and other rangeland functions.</i></p> <p><i>Concentrated housing development can lead to increased water demand, altered fire regimes, and greater human impact on adjacent natural areas, exacerbating environmental challenges that rangeland managers aim to mitigate.</i></p> <p><i>SRM members, many of whom are ranchers, rely on public rangelands for grazing permits. Selling these lands for housing would directly remove acres from their grazing allotments, impacting their livelihoods and the economic viability of their operations</i></p>

LEGISLATIVE ASK

The proposed rescission of up to **\$19-20 billion** in unspent Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) conservation appropriations within H.R.1 (2025) directly threatens core rangeland management functions, including land management, climate adaptation, workforce development, and vital research and innovation. This potential rollback comes despite robust data unequivocally demonstrating that federal funding for rangelands is not merely beneficial but absolutely vital for sustaining agricultural productivity, combating devastating wildfires and droughts, and ensuring the long-term ecological health of these critical landscapes. A cut in conservation funding will lead to higher costs faced by cattle ranchers. Given the proven efficacy of these investments and the urgent challenges facing our ranchers, it is imperative that we protect and strengthen these essential programs; therefore, we strongly urge the reallocation of these IRA funds to safeguard and expand rangeland and conservation initiatives, transforming critical climate investments into tangible, on-the-ground support that empowers ranchers and builds truly resilient western landscapes for generations to come.