



## **River Budget: National Priorities for Healthy Rivers and Clean Water (FY26)**

The United States is a nation of rivers, and clean water is one of America's greatest sources of national wealth. Investing in clean water generates a tremendous return on investment for the country. Clean water is not a luxury. It is vital to our future economic growth and national security. It is essential to our nation's treasured hunting and fishing traditions and the heritage of our communities.

But our water wealth has never faced greater threats. Dams are failing, infrastructure is crumbling, communities are flooding more frequently and drinking water costs are increasing as our rivers are impacted by pollution and sewage overflows. Simply put, America cannot be a world leader if we don't take care of our water. We are less competitive, less healthy, and less safe if we don't get the basics right. Rivers are the lifeblood of all ecosystems, sustaining communities, economies, and wildlife across America. Infrastructure neglect, pollution, and a change in climate impacts endanger communities.

To avoid weakening our country's laws and leadership, we must prioritize and invest in national water security. We must maintain and augment essential funding streams, and through the appropriations process, we must continue directing resources to support both rural and urban communities. **As Congress shapes the U.S. federal budget, we urge policymakers to prioritize healthy rivers as a national imperative.** Federal agencies must be equipped with the resources, expertise, and capacity to leverage funding tools, improve efficiencies, and enhance program effectiveness. Sustained investments are essential for removing hazardous dams, restoring floodplains, and safeguarding our river communities.

The **Fiscal Year 2026 River Budget** advances key priorities across the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These strategic investments for rivers will strengthen the water workforce, build water wealth, and advance our country as the global leader in all aspects of water security.

### **Key Priorities in the Fiscal Year 2026 River Budget**

#### **Prioritize Water Infrastructure**

Rivers supply over two-thirds of the nation's drinking water, yet much of our water infrastructure is outdated and failing. Investing in safe, reliable, and affordable water systems is not only a public health necessity but also an economic catalyst—each dollar spent on water infrastructure generates \$2.20 in economic activity. By advancing nature-based solutions and promoting water equity, we can modernize infrastructure in communities with the greatest needs.

#### **Enhance Flood Management Strategies**

Flooding alone is estimated to cost the United States between **\$179.8 and \$496.0 billion each year**. With **41 million Americans** residing in flood-prone areas, the need for robust, adaptive flood management has never been more urgent. Rural and low-income communities are particularly vulnerable, as natural disasters—including hurricanes and extreme flooding—

continue to devastate homes and businesses. Investing in flood management strategies will protect both human lives and ecosystems, ensuring that rivers remain a source of resilience rather than risk.

### **Protect and Restore Healthy Watersheds**

Every American resides within a watershed—an intricate network of rivers, lakes, and streams that sustain ecosystems and economies alike. Healthy watersheds improve drinking water quality, bolster outdoor recreation industries such as fishing and hunting, and help stabilize soils. In 2024, outdoor recreation contributed **\$1.2 trillion** to the U.S. economy, supporting **5 million jobs** and comprising **2.3% of the national GDP**. Preserving these natural assets is both an environmental and economic imperative.

### **Rehabilitate, Retrofit, or Remove Dangerous Dams**

Uneconomic dams pose ecological and safety hazards. There are more than **91,000** inventoried dams in the U.S. and roughly **1 in 6 dams has a high hazard potential**. Dam failures cause loss of life and economic damage to communities. Dams in disrepair disrupt water quality, obstruct fish migration routes, fragment habitats, and threaten public safety due to structural deterioration. Targeted investments in dam rehabilitation, retrofitting, or removal will help restore degraded rivers while mitigating potential disaster risks. An estimated **\$157.5 billion** is needed to rehabilitate the nation's non-federal dams.

### **Support River-Friendly Agriculture**

Extreme weather events threaten the livelihoods of farmers and landowners who depend on stable water sources. For years, **farmer demand for conservation assistance has outpaced available funding**. Improved collaboration between agricultural communities and policymakers can enhance resilience to extreme weather events, restore ecosystems, improve irrigation practices, and increase cropland capacity to ensure no family goes hungry. By investing in sustainable practices, we protect both our food supply and our waterways.

## **A Call to Action**

The U.S. federal budget and annual appropriations process presents a critical opportunity for Congress to deliver clean water, strong infrastructure, and create safe communities by directing federal resources toward programs that yield the greatest benefits for rivers, communities, and the economy. Now more than ever, sustained funding is essential to strengthen the agencies tasked with protecting our nation's water resources and ensuring a resilient future.

By prioritizing river health in federal budgeting decisions, we can drive economic growth, safeguard public health, and build resilient communities—securing a legacy of clean, thriving waterways for generations to come.

For questions, contact:

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### **Supporting organizations:**

Abarigani, "Leading With Art"

Alabama Rivers Alliance

Allegheny Blue Ridge Alliance

Allegheny County Clean Air Now (ACCAN)

Alliance for the Great Lakes

American Bird Conservancy

American Business Water Coalition

American Fisheries Society

American Packrafting Association  
American Rivers  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
American Sustainable Business Network  
American Whitewater  
Amigos Bravos  
Amigos De Los Rios  
Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy  
Animal Wonders KC  
Anthropocene Alliance  
Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, Inc.  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies  
Association of State Floodplain Managers  
Atlantic Salmon Federation  
Austin Chapter 10 IWLA  
Bayou City Waterkeeper  
Brandywine River Restoration Trust  
Cacapon Institute  
California Outdoors  
Californians for Western Wilderness  
Cape Fear River Watch  
Catawba Riverkeeper  
Catskill Center for Conservation and  
Development  
Center for Large Landscape Conservation  
Central Arizona Land Trust  
Chalfant Run-Thompson Run Watershed  
Association  
Cherokee Concerned Citizens  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Chicago Water Alliance  
Chota Canoe Club  
Clean Air For All Now  
Clean Water Action  
Clean Wisconsin  
Cleanwater Liganore, Inc  
Climate Justice Alliance  
Climate Reality Project  
Coastal Carolina Riverwatch  
Council of Mexican Federations in North  
America (COFEM)  
Committee on the Middle Fork Vermilion River  
Concern Citizens Table of Lake Charles  
CU Maurice River  
DC Natives  
Deerfield River Watershed Association  
Delaware River Greenway Partnership  
Digital Data Insight, Inc.  
Earth Ethics, Inc.  
Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine  
Reclamation  
Elizabeth River Project  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Environmental Law & Policy Center  
Environmental Policy Innovation Center  
Extreme Weather Survivors  
Familias Unidas En Accion  
Farmington River Watershed Association  
For a Better Bayou  
For Love of Water (FLOW)  
Free-flowing Rivers Lab, Northern Arizona  
University  
Friends of the Big Sioux River  
Friends of the Mississippi River  
Gallatin River Task Force  
Gila Resources Information Project  
Glen Canyon Institute  
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
Great Salt Lake Audubon  
Great Salt Lake Waterkeeper  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition  
GreenLatinos  
Habitat Recovery Project  
Haw River Assembly  
Healthy Gulf  
Healthy Ocean Coalition  
Hispanic Access Foundation  
Hoosic River Watershed Association  
(HooRWA)  
Idaho Conservation League  
Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association  
Illinois Environmental Council  
Inland Ocean Coalition  
Kalmiopsis Audubon Society  
Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams  
Kentucky Waterways Alliance  
Kettle Range Conservation Group  
Kids for Saving Earth  
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
Lackawanna River Conservation Association

Large Carnivore Fund  
Latino Farmers & Ranchers International, Inc.  
Latino Outdoors  
League of Conservation Voters  
League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi  
River Region ILO  
Levees.org  
Local Environmental Action Demanded  
(LEAD) Agency, Inc.  
Long Beach Gray Panthers  
Low Impact Hydropower Institute  
Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainable  
Engagement & Development (CSED)  
lowernine.org  
Maine Conservation Voters  
Maine Rivers  
Malach Consulting  
Marble Hill Farm  
Marion County Commission on Youth  
(MCCOY)  
Massachusetts Rivers Alliance  
Micah Six Eight Mission  
Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition  
Mill Creek Alliance  
Milwaukee Riverkeeper  
Milwaukee Water Commons  
Montana Conservation Voters  
Montana Freshwater Partners  
MountainTrue  
Mousam and Kennebunk Rivers Alliance  
Move Past Plastic (MPP)  
MS Communities United for Prosperity  
(MCUP)  
Musconetcong Watershed Association  
Natel Energy  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
National Federation of Federal Employees  
(NFFE-IAM)  
National Mississippi River Museum &  
Aquarium  
National Wildlife Federation  
Nature For All  
NC League of Conservation Voters  
New Jersey Audubon  
North American Climate, Conservation and  
Environment(NACCE)

Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition  
NYenvironcom  
Ogeechee Riverkeeper  
Ohio Environmental Council  
Ohio River Foundation  
One Mississippi  
Otsego County Conservation Association Inc.  
(OCCA)  
Ottauquechee Water Protectors Association  
Park County Environmental Council  
Park Watershed  
Partnership for the National Trails System  
Pennsylvania Environmental Council  
Project Eleven Hundred  
Rachel Carson Council  
Regenerative Agriculture Coalition  
Resource Renewal Institute  
Responsible Alpha  
Rio Grande International Study Center  
Rise Up WV  
Rivef Guardian Foundation  
River Network  
River Watch - Friends of the Minnesota Valley  
RiverLink  
Rockbridge Conservation  
Royal River Alliance  
Sacramento Audubon  
Save Our Streams, PA  
Save Our wild Salmon Coalition  
Save The Poudre  
Save the South Fork Salmon  
Save the Wakarusa River Valley  
Seed Your Future  
Sierra Club  
Sleepy Creek Watershed Association  
Smith River Alliance  
Snake River Fund  
Sound Rivers, Inc.  
South Yuba River Citizens League  
Southwest Workers Union  
St. Mary's River Watershed Association  
Susitna River Coalition  
Sustainable Sandhills  
Taunton River Stewardship Council  
Taunton River Watershed Alliance, Inc  
Tennessee Aquarium

Tennessee Environmental Council  
The 6th Branch  
The Alaska Center  
The New Mexico BioPark Society  
Three Rivers Waterkeeper  
Together for Brothers (Albuquerque, NM)  
Toohnii Binaneest'ą' Altaas'éeí Alliance  
(ToohBAA)  
Town Run Watershed Group  
Toxic Free NC  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership  
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice  
Upstate Forever  
UpstreamPgh  
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment  
Vermont Conservation Voters  
Vermont Institute of Natural Science  
Vermont Natural Resources Council  
Vermont River Conservancy

Voices of Wildlife in NH  
Vote Climate  
Ward 8 Woods Conservancy  
Water Environment Federation  
Waterkeepers Chesapeake  
Watersheds of South Pittsburgh  
We Matter Community Association  
We the People of Detroit  
Weequahic Park Association  
West Michigan Environmental Action Council  
West Street Recovery  
West Virginia Land Trust  
West Virginia Rivers Coalition  
Western Nebraska Resources Council  
Wetlands Watch  
White Clay Watershed Association  
Womxn From The Mountain  
Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association  
Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council  
Yaak Valley Forest Council

# RIVER BUDGET



## National priorities for healthy rivers and clean water in fiscal year 2026 (Oct. 2025 to Sept. 2026)

### Prioritize water infrastructure

#### Fiscal year 2026 budget recommendations

##### Clean Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

**AGENCY:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$4.89 billion for the Clean Water SRF and \$4.38 billion for the Drinking Water SRF

##### Groundwater and Streamflow Information

**AGENCY:** U.S. Geological Survey

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$114 million

##### National Non-point Source Management

**AGENCY:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$275.1 million

##### Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant Program

**AGENCY:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$280 million

##### Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Fund

**AGENCY:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$73 million

The United States is grappling with significant challenges across every facet of its water infrastructure, including drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems. The American Society of Civil Engineers has assigned a grade of C- to the nation's drinking water infrastructure and a D to its stormwater systems, reflecting the widespread deficiencies and vulnerabilities within these essential networks. Many communities are burdened by aging infrastructure, environmental contamination, and inconsistent or unaffordable access to safe drinking water.

To address community needs and safeguard public health, Congress must build upon the previous investments, ensuring that the nation's water infrastructure becomes not only more resilient but also universally accessible and sustainable. A commitment to modernizing and these systems is essential to creating a more inclusive and sustainable future for all Americans.



BIG CREEK, NORTH CAROLINA  
STEVE WHITE

#### Addressing water contamination

In the Appalachian region, particularly Kentucky and West Virginia, EPA grants have been instrumental in addressing the long-standing environmental and economic challenges associated with mining and other extractive industries. Funds have been directed towards remediating acid mine drainage, which is caused when sulfide minerals are exposed to air and water, creating acidic waters that pollute local rivers and streams. The region has historically been reliant on mining for its economic livelihood, and has faced significant environmental degradation, including widespread land contamination, water pollution, and health hazards linked to mining operations.

# Create and protect healthy watersheds

## Fiscal year 2026 budget recommendations

### Cooperative Watershed Management Program

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:**

\$10 million

### Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration and Protection Program

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:**

\$15 million

### Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance

**AGENCY:** National Park Service

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:**

\$13.5 million

### WaterSMART

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:**

\$65 million

### Wild and Scenic Rivers

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:**

\$7.5 million for Wild and Scenic Rivers (BLM) and \$5.7 million for Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (NPS)

**W**ater is an invaluable resource, essential to life and the very fabric of our ecosystems. Healthy watersheds—including rivers, wetlands, streams, tributaries, floodplains, and estuaries—serve as critical natural systems that enhance resilience to extreme weather events. The United States has 2,110 watersheds. The largest watershed, the Mississippi River Watershed, drains into 31 states and two Canadian provinces. These vital landscapes provide flood mitigation, support aquifer recharge, offer habitats for wildlife, and deliver essential benefits to water supply and water quality. As changes in climate accelerate the frequency and severity of both floods, fires, and droughts, the importance of maintaining robust, functioning watersheds becomes ever more apparent for the communities, economies, and wildlife that rely on them.



LAKE MEAD, NEVADA  
COLLEEN MINIUK

## Priority watersheds

Healthy rivers and watersheds play a pivotal role in safeguarding water quality and providing critical habitats for diverse species. Watershed restoration projects are essential in prioritizing the protection of streamside areas and wetlands, promoting land stewardship, and mitigating the risk of wildfires. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) oversees 12 Geographic Programs, including the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, all of which assist communities in preserving local watersheds. Additionally, the Bureau of Reclamation directs funding through its WaterSMART program, which addresses significant water management challenges in the western United States.

# Enhance flood-management strategies

**A**s floods grow increasingly frequent and severe, Congress must invest in understanding both the rising flood risks and the response capabilities of affected communities. According to the Association of State Floodplain Managers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency will need a minimum of \$800 million annually—totaling between \$3 billion and \$12 billion over time—to enhance flood mapping efforts nationwide and assess future flood risks exacerbated by extreme weather. Congress should prioritize funding for nature-based solutions—such as wetlands restoration, reconnected floodplains, natural floodways, and the preservation of native vegetation. These approaches offer a more sustainable, cost-effective, and reliable alternative to traditional, engineered flood control measures by working with rather than against the natural dynamics of rivers and ecosystems. By investing in these innovative approaches, we can build greater resilience to flooding—safeguarding communities while reducing economic costs.



ALTON, ILLINOIS  
ANDREW DOBSON

## Nature-based solutions

For over a decade, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineering with Nature (EWN) program has championed more affordable, effective, and sustainable approaches to infrastructure development, integrating economic, social, and environmental benefits into project design and implementation. One notable example is the Deer Island Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project (AERP) to restore the island and create long-term beneficial use capacity for the nearby Biloxi Harbor Navigation Project. Today, restored portions of the island provide large colonies of least terns and black skimmers with a sizable increase in nesting and foraging habitat; the restoration also protects valuable foraging and nesting habitat for bald eagles and osprey.

## Fiscal year 2026 budget recommendations

### Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$2 billion

### Engineering With Nature

**AGENCY:** US Army Corps of Engineers

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$40 million

### Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$175 million

### Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis (RiskMAP)

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$313 million

### Flood Plain Management and Flooding Mapping

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$225 million

### National Flood Risk Management Program

**AGENCY:** US Army Corps of Engineers

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$6.5 million



# Rehabilitate, retrofit, or remove dangerous dams

## Fiscal year 2026 budget recommendations

### Community-based Restoration Program

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$56 million

### High Hazard Potential Dam Safety Grant Program

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$20 million

### National Dam Safety Program

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$14 million

### National Fish Passage Program

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$18.6 million

### Watershed Rehabilitation Program

**AGENCY:** US Department of Agriculture

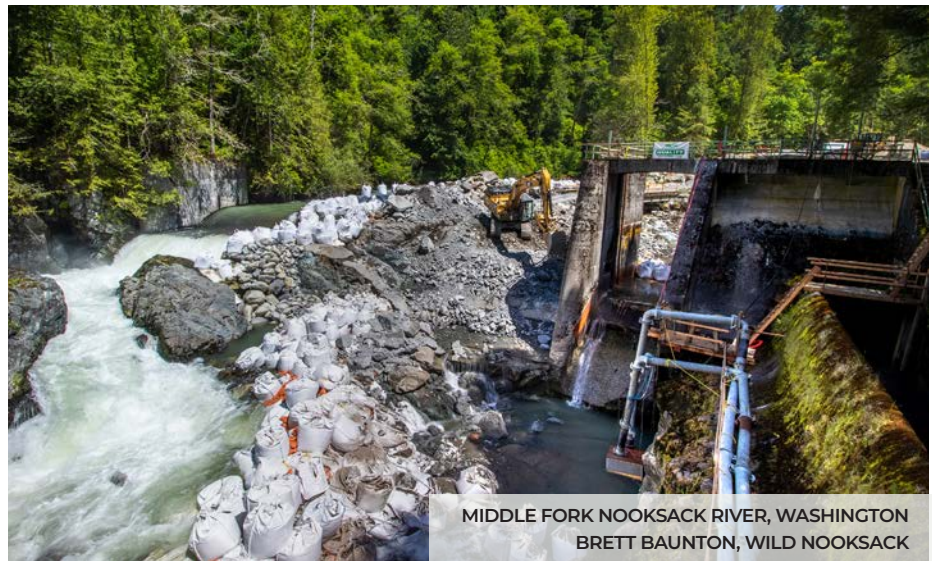
**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$10 million

### Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Agency

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$75 million

Outdated dams inflict significant stress and harm on river ecosystems, disrupting natural processes and often causing severe declines in native fish populations and wildlife while no longer providing the services for which they were built. To date, nearly 17,000 dams in the United States are considered to be in aging or poor condition. This accounts for about one in five of the nation's dams. These dams are often classified as being in "high hazard" or "significant hazard" condition, meaning their failure would likely result in significant property damage or loss of life. Congress can join the ongoing momentum behind these restoration projects, healing damaged ecosystems while contributing to broader goals of water and energy security.



MIDDLE FORK NOOKSACK RIVER, WASHINGTON  
BRETT BAUNTON, WILD NOOKSACK

## Facilitating fish passage

The NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program has long been a critical source of funding for projects aimed at ensuring fish passage and providing high-quality habitats for aquatic species. Since its inception in 1996, the program has supported over 2,200 initiatives, restoring more than 4,300 stream miles to facilitate the migration of fish and the recovery of vital aquatic ecosystems.

A particularly noteworthy project is the proposed removal of the Cypress Branch Dam on the tributary of the Chester River in Maryland which would restore 18 mainstem and river miles of spawning habitat for blue back herring and alewife. This initiative is part of a broader partnership effort through NFWF and USFWS.

# Support river-friendly agriculture

**A**griculture holds significant potential for improving resilience on farms. By embracing river-friendly practices and cutting-edge technologies, we can accelerate both the pace and scale of innovation, empowering farmers, ranchers, landowners, and researchers to develop impactful solutions through strengthened state-federal partnerships.

For this vision to fully flourish, Congress must prioritize support for those on the frontlines—farmers who need improved access to voluntary conservation initiatives, better data, and technical assistance to combat nutrient pollution, enhance water quality, and foster healthier soils.



## Locally-led flood mitigation and recovery projects

The USDA's Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program provides both technical and financial assistance to local communities confronting immediate threats to life, property, and infrastructure from floods, wildfires, windstorms, and natural disasters that disrupt watersheds. In response to Hurricane Helene, the EWP program provided ongoing recovery efforts in Western North Carolina. EWP projects encompass the removal of debris from stream channels, reshaping and stabilization of eroded banks, repair of levees and other critical infrastructure, and acquisition of floodplain easements. These efforts are designed to enhance ecological functions of wetlands, thereby safeguarding water quality, reducing flood risks, and ensuring the long-term resilience of vital infrastructure in vulnerable communities.

## Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Recommendations

### Agricultural Conservation Easement

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Agriculture

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$1.050 billion

### Conservation Stewardship Program

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Agriculture

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$2.5 billion

### Environmental Quality Incentives Program

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Agriculture

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$5.475 billion

### Regional Conservation Partnership Program

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Agriculture

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$2.7 billion

### Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program – Subsidies and Grants

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Agriculture

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$497 million

### Watershed And Flood Prevention Operations Program

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Agriculture

**FY26 RECOMMENDATION:** \$ 51.25 million



**AMERICAN  
RIVERS**  
**ACTION FUND**

American Rivers and its affiliated American Rivers Action Fund are championing a national effort to protect and restore all rivers, from remote mountain streams to urban waterways. Healthy rivers provide people and nature with clean, abundant water and natural habitat. For 50 years, American Rivers staff, supporters, and partners have shared a common belief: Life Depends on Rivers. [AmericanRiversActionFund.org](https://www.AmericanRiversActionFund.org)

For more information contact:

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## River Budget: National Priorities for Healthy Rivers and Clean Water in Fiscal Year 2026 (Oct. 2025 to Sept. 2026)

Agency	Program	FY23	FY24	FY25 (Senate)	FY26 Recommendation	About the program
<i>(Thousands of Dollars)</i>						
<b>Interior, Environment and Related Agencies</b>						
<b>Bureau of Land Management</b>						
	Wild and Scenic Rivers	\$4,000	Not specified	Not specified	\$7,500	Preserves rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values
	Aquatic Resources Program	\$58,247	\$55,917	\$57,893	\$60,000	Protects and restores riparian and wetland areas, aquatic habitats, and water resources to provide functioning ecosystems
	Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E) Program	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$34,000	Carries out recovery of species listed under the Endangered Species Act with habitat managed by the Bureau of Land Management, including aquatic species
<b>Environmental Protection Agency</b>						
	Chesapeake Bay Program	\$92,000	\$92,000	\$92,500	\$92,000	Restores and protects water quality and ecological integrity in the Chesapeake Bay
	Clean Water SRF	\$1,688,847	\$1,638,861	\$1,638,861	\$4,890,000	Provides federal financial assistance to states to protect the nation's water resources
	Drinking Water SRF	\$1,176,095	\$1,126,101	\$2,764,962	\$4,380,000	Provides federal financial assistance to states to protect the nation's water resources
	Environmental Justice Programs	\$109,340	\$102,159	\$100,000	\$109,340	Advances environmental justices initiatives for states, localities and tribes.
	Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	\$368,000	\$368,000	\$371,000	\$475,000	Restores and protects water quality and ecological integrity in the Great Lakes
	Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$50,000	Connect, expands, or repairs existing public water systems on Indian reservations
	Low Income Household Water Assistance Program Pilot	-	-	-	\$180,000	Implements a water and sewer assistance pilot program
	National Non-Point Source Management Program	\$182,000	\$174,500	\$175,500	\$200,000	Implements nonpoint source management programs and projects as selected by the state
	Puget Sound Program	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$57,000	\$57,000	Restores and protects water quality and ecological integrity in the Puget Sound
	Reducing Lead in Drinking Water	\$25,011	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$100,000	Reduces the concentration of lead in drinking water
	Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program	\$50,000	\$41,000	\$41,000	\$280,000	Manages combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, and stormwater flows
	Assistance for Small & Disadvantaged Communities Drinking Water	\$30,158	\$28,500	\$28,500	\$140,000	Provides water infrastructure assistance to underserved communities
	Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Fund	\$75,640	\$72,274	\$72,378	\$73,000	Provides supplemental credit assistance to significant water infrastructure projects
	Water Pollution Control (Sec 106) grant program	\$237,000	\$225,685	\$225,685	\$275,100	Provides grants to states and tribes to implement TMDL's, WQ standards, NPDES permits, etc.
	Wetlands Program Development Grants	\$14,692	\$14,104	\$22,000	\$30,000	Supports development of state and tribal wetland programs

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Agency	Program	FY23	FY24	FY25 (Senate)	FY26 Recommendation	About the program
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*(Thousands of Dollars)*

### Interior, Environment and Related Agencies (Continued)

#### Forest Service

Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species (TES) Program	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	Carries out recovery of species listed under the Endangered Species Act with habitat in the National Forest System, including aquatic species
Legacy Roads and Trails (LRT) Program	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	Stormproofs stream crossings and fixes culverts that are necessary for fish passage in national forests

#### Fish and Wildlife Service

Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$17,000	Increases resources for the conservation of the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	\$7,032	\$5,500	\$6,100	\$15,000	Increases resources for the conservation of the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats
National Fish Habitat Action Plan	\$7,164	\$7,164	Not specified	\$7,200	Conserves freshwater, estuarine and marine waterways and fisheries
National Fish Passage Program	\$18,598	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$18,598	Restores rivers and conserves aquatic resources by removing or bypassing barriers
National Wetlands Inventory	\$3,471	\$3,471	\$3,545	\$7,471	Provides detailed information and data on US wetlands
National Wildlife Refuge System	\$541,555	\$527,035	\$543,505	\$602,331	Conserves public lands and waters set aside to conserve America's fish, wildlife, and plants
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$50,000	\$49,000	\$49,000	\$60,000	Protects wetland habitats for fish and wildlife
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program	\$60,267	\$59,000	\$63,836	\$75,000	Assists landowners interested in restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat on their land

#### Indian Health Service

Sanitation Facilities Construction	\$196,167	\$123,650	\$145,171	\$145,171	Provides American Indian and Alaska Natives with essential water and sewer infrastructure
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#### National Park Service

Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program	\$5,300	\$5,300	\$5,300	\$5,648	Protects outstanding rivers and river-related resources through a collaborative approach
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,470	\$13,470	Assits communities with conservation and outdoor recreation

#### U.S. Geological Survey

Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program	\$114,558	\$109,976	\$114,390	\$114,390	A national network of streamgages, wells and other monitoring sites
National Water Quality Program	\$100,080	\$96,000	\$97,786	\$97,786	Provides an understanding of water-quality conditions and what affects those conditions

## River Budget: National Priorities for Healthy Rivers and Clean Water in Fiscal Year 2026 (Oct. 2025 to Sept. 2026)

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*(Thousands of Dollars)*

### Energy & Water Development

#### Bureau of Reclamation

Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration and Protection Program	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$15,000	\$15,000	Implements voluntary ecosystem restoration projects, including fish passage and aging infrastructure upgrades
Cooperative Watershed Management Program	\$5,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$20,000	Supports watershed management planning and projects to improve water reliability
Central Valley Project Restoration Fund	\$45,770	\$48,508	\$55,656	\$55,656	Funds habitat restoration, improvement and acquisition, and other fish and wildlife restoration activities
Columbia and Snake River Salmon Recovery Project	\$13,329	\$13,279	\$18,769	\$18,769	Delivers habitat projects for salmon recovery supported by science and local communities
Dam Safety Program	\$210,218	\$209,813	\$213,214	\$213,214	Ensures Reclamation dams do not present unreasonable risk to people, property, and the environment
Klamath Project	\$34,842	\$46,642	\$35,342	\$35,342	Provides funding to improve water supplies in the Klamath River Basin
Lower Colorado River Operations Program	\$46,804	\$48,999	\$49,136	\$49,136	Implements the Drought Contingency Plan and the Lower Colorado Multi-species Conservation Program
San Joaquin River Restoration	\$20,500	\$20,500	\$20,500	\$20,500	Restores and maintain fish populations in "good condition" in the main stem of the San Joaquin River
WaterSMART	\$65,000	\$54,000	\$65,000	\$65,128	Supports benefits to increase the reliability of water and funds the Environmental Water Resources Project and the Planning and Project Design grants
Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project	\$50,254	\$38,044	\$49,230	\$49,230	Enhances streamflows and fish passage for anadromous fish in the Yakima River Basin

#### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Engineering with Nature	\$20,000	\$10,500	\$24,000	\$40,000	Aligns natural and engineering processes to deliver economic, environmental, and social benefits
Flood Plain Management Services	\$20,000	\$0	\$16,500	\$16,500	Provides general technical assistance and data for flood plain management efforts
National Flood Risk Management Program	\$6,400	\$0	\$6,500	\$6,500	Focuses the policies, programs and expertise of USACE toward reducing overall flood risk
Section 1135–Project Modification for Improvement of the Environment	\$10,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	Allows the USACE to take on projects that improve the environment in the public interest
Section 206-Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration	\$13,000	\$6,500	\$16,000	\$16,000	Allows the USACE to take on small-scale projects to restore aquatic habitat
Sustainable Rivers Program	\$7,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Reduces negative environmental consequences of downstream flows at USACE reservoirs
Upper Mississippi River Restoration, IL, IA, MN, MO, WI	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	Ensures the viability and vitality of Upper Mississippi River fish and wildlife

## River Budget: National Priorities for Healthy Rivers and Clean Water in Fiscal Year 2026 (Oct. 2025 to Sept. 2026)

Agency	Program	FY23	FY24	FY25 (Senate)	FY26 Recommendation	About the program
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*(Thousands of Dollars)*

### Commerce, Justice, Science

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Community Based Restoration Program <sup>1</sup>	\$56,684	\$56,184	\$56,184	\$56,184	Assists the implementation of community-driven habitat restoration
National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund	\$34,000	\$33,500	\$34,000	\$34,000	Enhances the resilience of coastal communities using natural ecosystems
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	Protects, restores, and conserves Pacific salmon and steelhead

1. The Community Based Restoration Program is funded through 'Fisheries Habitat Restoration'

### Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration

#### U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	\$416,000	-	-	\$1,050,000	Protects, restores, and enhances wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches
Conservation Stewardship Program	\$922,000	-	-	\$2,500,000	Provides incentives for conservation performance
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	\$1,879,000	-	-	\$5,475,000	Assists agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits
Regional Conservation Partnership Program	\$283,000	-	-	\$2,700,000	Provides assistance to producers through partnership conservation program contracts
Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program - Subsidies and Grants	\$596,404	\$595,972	\$496,490	\$496,716	Improves water and waste treatment facilities for distressed rural communities
Watershed And Flood Prevention Operations Program	\$75,000	\$35,000	\$51,255	\$51,255	Provides expenses to carry out the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act
Watershed Rehabilitation Program	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$10,000	Addresses public health, safety concerns, and environmental impacts of aging dams

## River Budget: National Priorities for Healthy Rivers and Clean Water in Fiscal Year 2026 (Oct. 2025 to Sept. 2026)

Agency	Program	FY23	FY24	FY25 (Senate)	FY26 Recommendation	About the program
<i>(Thousands of Dollars)</i>						
<b>Homeland Security</b>						
<b>Federal Emergency Management Agency</b>						
	Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities	\$75,000	-	\$1,343,520	\$2,000,000	Implements climate resilience projects that reduce future risks from natural disasters
	Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis Program (RiskMAP)	\$312,750	\$281,475	\$312,750	\$312,750	Allows FEMA to continue ongoing RiskMAP projects and expand coverage of flood hazard information
	Flood Mitigation Assistance	\$700,000	-	\$175,000	\$175,000	Provides grants to reduce the risk of flood damage to existing buildings and infrastructure
	Floodplain Management and Mapping	\$206,500	\$221,066	\$225,207	\$225,207	Improves floodplain management, develops flood hazard zone maps, and educates on the risk of floods
	Hazard Mitigation Revolving Loan Fund (STORM Act)	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	Provides needed and sustainable funding for hazard mitigation projects
	High Hazard Potential Dam Safety Grants	-	-	-	\$20,000	Provides grants for rehabilitation of eligible high hazard potential dams
	National Dam Safety Program	\$9,657	\$9,957	\$9,200	\$13,900	Reduces the risks to human life, property, and the environment from dam related hazards