



## **The Trillion Trees Act**

### **Section-By-Section**

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#### **Title I – Carbon Sequestration Through Reforestation Activities**

##### **Subtitle A – Reforestation Goals**

- ***Section 101 – National Forest Carbon Stock Targets***
  - Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to establish national targets for the optimal feasible and sustainable increase in forest carbon stock the country can achieve through 2100.
  - The targets, which will be informed by reports from the Trillion Trees Task Force, will be based on the best available science, consider best management practices, and will maintain other existing uses of our nation’s forests.
  - Clarifies that the targets are not intended to establish any new mandate or requirement on private landowners.
  - Holistically accounts for forest carbon stock by evaluating all seven carbon pools [currently analyzed](#) by the U.S. Forest Service.
- ***Section 102 – Trillion Trees Task Force***
  - Establishes the Trillion Trees Task Force, a 30-person task force that represents a diverse coalition of conservation, industry, scientific, business, and energy stakeholders as well as Federal, State, and Tribal governments.
  - The Task Force will advise the Secretary in establishing the national forest carbon stock targets and provide oversight on the policies enacted to achieve those targets.
- ***Section 103 – Philanthropic Reforestation Advisory Council***
  - Establishes the Philanthropic Reforestation Advisory Council, comprised of corporate, philanthropic, and non-profit conservation interests, to advise the Secretary on ways to increase and encourage private charitable investment in reforestation and afforestation activities and track private charitable tree-planting pledges.
  - The Secretary of Agriculture will consult with the Philanthropic Reforestation Advisory Council when awarding grants from the Trillion Trees Challenge Fund.

- ***Section 104 – Trillion Trees Challenge Fund***
  - Provides \$10 million for a new Trillion Trees Challenge Fund, which will provide competitive matching grants to State, Tribal, and local governments, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and other non-Federal entities to conduct reforestation activities and programs.
- ***Section 105 – Renewable Resource Assessment Update and Lifecycle Analysis***
  - Updates the Forest Service’s Renewable Resource Assessment to include carbon storage and sequestration in the assessment.
  - Strengthens the assessment by clarifying reporting requirements to Congress, promoting further engagement with stakeholders, and analyzing various policy options to inform future management decisions.
  - Adds new statistical models to the assessment to evaluate the lifecycle forest carbon stock potential associated with domestic forests and provide projections and policy options associated with those models.
- ***Section 106 – Forest Inventory and Analysis***
  - Adds carbon storage to the Forest Inventory and Analysis program.
  - Improves data collection, information, and estimates of precision by encouraging the Forest Service to use advanced geospatial technologies and consistent field plots.
  - Allows the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into interagency memorandums of understanding with other federal agencies to improve the use and integration of advanced remote sensing and geospatial technologies in the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program.
- ***Section 107 – National Forest Foundation Activities***
  - Expands the authority of the National Forest Foundation to accept and encourage private donations for reforestation and carbon sequestration in pursuit of the Trillion Trees Initiative.
  - Establishes the National Medal for Forest Restoration, which recognizes outstanding contributions to reforestation made by communities, non-profit organizations, individuals and corporations.
  - Establishes the Fifth Grade Forestry Challenge, an educational grant program that provides 5<sup>th</sup> grade students with a seedling to plant a tree and teaches them about the importance of forestry and active forest management in storing and sequestering carbon.

## **Subtitle B – Regeneration**

- ***Section 111 – Reforestation Programs***
  - Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to create a list of priority reforestation projects based on recommendations from regional foresters that promote reforestation following unplanned disturbances.
  - Adds priority reforestation activities to the land management goals of stewardship end result contracting.

- ***Section 112 – Reforestation Trust Fund***
  - Increases the cap on the Reforestation Trust Fund from \$30 million to \$180 million in order to tackle the entirety of the Forest Service’s reforestation backlog over the next 10 years. The cap on the Fund, which is financed through tariffs imposed on imported timber and wood products, has not been raised since the 1980’s and only allows the Forest Service to address less than 5 percent of its total backlog per year.
  
- ***Section 113 – Solving Shortages for Seedlings***
  - Directs the Chief of the Forest Service to develop a national seedling strategy that assesses regional reforestation opportunities and the nursery capacity needed to meet those opportunities.
  - Provides vital funding for federal nurseries, which are the main supplier of seedlings for artificial regeneration on federal lands.
  - Creates a new \$1 billion loan program to address nursery infrastructure and capacity needs and build new State, Tribal, local, and private nurseries.
  
- ***Section 114 – Healthy Forest Reserve Program***
  - Modifies the Healthy Forest Reserve Program to promote the planting, management, and regeneration of trees in pursuit of the Trillion Trees Initiative through easements, 30-year contracts, and 10-year cost share agreements with private landowners.
  - Directs the Secretary to give enrollment priority to lands that promote reforestation and afforestation and incorporates those priorities into restoration plans developed between the federal government and private landowners.
  - Creates a cost-sharing agreement that allows the Secretary of Agriculture to pay for up to 75 percent of the costs necessary to promote reforestation or afforestation of lands enrolled in the program.
  
- ***Section 115 – Forestry Education and Workforce Development Grant Program***
  - Authorizes competitive grants for land grant colleges and universities and technical and vocational schools to encourage students to pursue careers in forestry through advanced degrees or technical certifications.
  
- ***Section 116 – Civilian Conservation Centers Reforestation Activities***
  - Allows enrollees in Civilian Conservation Centers to participate in priority reforestation projects.
  
- ***Section 117 – Forest Technology Enhancements for Conservation and Habitat Improvement***
  - Creates a 5-year pilot program that allows the Forest Service to test new technologies, including drones, remote sensing, and geospatial technologies in reforestation activities.

- Specifies that drones used under this pilot program shall be made and manufactured in the United States and will not interfere with current, existing uses of drones by the Forest Service.

### **Subtitle C – Urban Forests**

- ***Section 121 – Urban and Community Forestry Assistance***
  - Establishes a new competitive matching grant program to enhance and maintain urban forests based on the “Tree City USA” program by the Arbor Day Foundation. Prioritizes areas with low tree or environmental equity for grants.
  - Adds carbon storage to the education and technical assistance program and Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978.
  - Allows the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into cooperative agreements to support projects that create new wood products from dead and fallen trees in urban and community areas.
  - Reauthorizes the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council.
  - Increases the authorization of appropriations for the Urban and Community Forestry Program to \$50 million for 5 years.
- ***Section 122 – Civilian Conservation Center Urban Forestry Demonstration Program***
  - Allows the Secretaries of Agriculture and Labor to set up Civilian Conservation Centers in urban areas to improve job creation and economic development in urban and community areas.
- ***Section 123 – Memorandum of Understanding to Coordinate Urban Forestry Programs***
  - Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into an interagency memorandum of understanding to coordinate existing urban forestry programs and conduct research on urban forestry issues.

### **Subtitle D – International Forests**

- ***Section 131 – Sense of Congress***
  - Provides the sense of Congress that the global Trillion Trees Initiative should be supported, that the restoration, conservation, and growth of one trillion trees globally would sequester a significant amount of atmospheric carbon, and that the United States will take a global leadership role in this effort.
- ***Section 132 – International Forest Foundation***
  - Establishes the International Forest Foundation, a non-profit organization in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development. The International Forest Foundation will encourage and accept private donations to support international reforestation programs and prevent deforestation as well as provide technical assistance to help global carbon sequestration and healthy forest management.

- ***Section 133 – International Engagement***
  - Directs the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development to prioritize reforestation programs and programs that prevent deforestation in developing countries and regions that have experienced significant levels of deforestation. Allows the Administrator to use public-private partnerships to facilitate global forestry programs in developing countries.
- ***Section 134 – Global Climate Change Program***
  - Reauthorizes the Global Climate Change Program and adds forestry as an eligible area for competitive research grants on climate change.
  - Reauthorizes the Office of International Forestry within the U.S. Forest Service and directs the office to identify and implement programs that promote global carbon storage, international forestry, and sustainable wood products markets.
- ***Section 135 – International Forestry Cooperation***
  - Adds reforestation and afforestation programs to the list of assistance categories under the International Forestry Cooperation Program.
- ***Section 136 – Modifications to Authorities Relating to Tropical Forests***
  - Adds carbon sequestration and forest management to the list of assistance categories under the Tropical Forests section of the Foreign Assistance Act.

## **Title II – Carbon Sequestration Through Improved Forest Management Activities**

- ***Section 201 – Land Use Planning; Supplements to Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements***
  - Directs the Forest Service to establish priority areas for four project categories: wildland-urban interface protection, watershed protection, critical infrastructure protection, and wildlife habitat restoration.
  - Specifies which existing programmatic environmental impact statements shall satisfy requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act and directs the Forest Service to complete a programmatic environmental impact statement for wildland-urban interface protection.
  - Under established programmatic environmental impact statements, if the Secretary determines that a proposed forest management project has been sufficiently analyzed, then no further National Environmental Policy Act review is required.
- ***Section 202 – Forest Carbon Stock on State and Private Forests***
  - Adds carbon sequestration to several state and private forest management programs including the Cooperative Forestry Assistance program, the State Assessment and Strategies program, the Forest Stewardship Program, the Forest Health Protection program, the Enhanced Community Fire Protection program,

the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program and the State and Private Forest Landscape-Scale Restoration Program.

- Authorizes \$25 million annually until 2025 for the State and Private Forest Landscape-Scale Restoration Program.
- ***Section 203 – Good Neighbor Authority***
  - Permanently reauthorizes Good Neighbor Authority and adds reforestation as one of the program’s objectives.
  - Allows the Secretary to enter into Good Neighbor Authority agreements to conduct priority reforestation work.
  - Fixes a technical drafting error that limits the areas where states can spend revenue from Good Neighbor Authority agreements.
- ***Section 204 – Research and Development Programs***
  - Adds forest carbon sequestration through reforestation, afforestation, forest management, and wood products utilization to the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act.

### **Title III – Carbon Sequestration Through Market Incentives and Utilization**

- ***Section 301 – Biochar Demonstration Project and Grant Program***
  - Creates a biochar demonstration project and research grant program to promote the commercialization of biochar, an emerging carbon sequestration tool with the potential to store carbon for hundreds of years.
  - Develops demonstration projects in each region of the Forest Service to advance the production of biochar. To the maximum extent practicable, 50 percent of the feedstock for biochar production units will be obtained from forest management activities that address hazardous fuels on federal lands.
  - Provides grants to research various uses of biochar related to agricultural productivity, environmental remediation, use as a co-product of fuels, and water retention.
- ***Section 302 – Sustainable Building and Residence Credit***
  - Establishes a transferable tax credit to promote sustainable residential and commercial buildings.
  - Directs the Secretaries of Treasury and Energy to develop a sustainability score and certification process for commercial and residential buildings that takes into account 1) the net carbon emitted during the production and delivery of materials used in the construction of the building, 2) the net carbon emitted during the operation of the building annually, 3) the amount of carbon stored in the building through the use of certain materials or processes, and 4) the climate in which the building is located.
  - The tax credit will be equal to the percentage of the building’s sustainability score that exceeds the average sustainability score for similar buildings or 25 percent for new buildings and 12.5 percent for remodeled buildings, whichever is lesser.

- Establishes an advisory board to assist the Secretaries in the creation of a sustainability score and directs the Secretaries to update the scoring process every 5 years.
- Directs the Secretaries to establish a carbon storage certificate, which will certify to the taxpayer the amount of carbon stored in a building or residence.
- ***Section 303 – Clarification of Research and Development Program for Cellulosic Biochemical and Bioplastics***
  - Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct research and development and provide education and technical assistance to advance cellulosic biochemical and bioplastic products.
  - Establishes a competitive grant program to institutions of higher education to improve biochemical and bioplastic product commercialization and conduct lifecycle analysis of the carbon stored in biochemical and bioplastic products.
- ***Section 304 – Tribal and Alaska Native Biomass Demonstration Project Extension***
  - Extends the Tribal biomass and Alaska Native biomass demonstration projects for an additional 5 years. Both demonstration projects are set to expire in 2021.