

America's Revegetation and Carbon Sequestration (ARCs) Act of 2023

Senator Manchin and Senator Barrasso

Revegetation and wildfire prevention projects can ensure America's forests and rangelands meet their full potential to sequester and store carbon. Recent large-scale, high-intensity wildfires and insect and disease epidemics are producing carbon emissions and in many cases, hampering the ability of our forests to sequester carbon. Many western forests, no longer carbon sinks, are now carbon sources that emit more carbon than they absorb. Carbon emissions can be mitigated, and absorption and storage increased, by proactively managing for healthy and resilient rangelands and forests, specifically through revegetating the millions of acres in need of revegetation and bringing additional resources to hazardous fuels reduction projects.

To accomplish this, the ARCs Act would:

- **Sequester Carbon and Improve Ecosystems Through Revegetation:** By creating a locally-driven, national revegetation effort. ARCs establishes regional revegetation task forces, each comprised of federal agencies and on-the-ground, non-federal partners. Regional task forces will each develop a 10-year comprehensive revegetation strategy and implementation plan, and carry out the plan with special attention paid to ensuring adequate nursery and seed capacity.
- **Mitigate Carbon Emissions Through Wildfire Prevention:** By incentivizing more mechanical thinning and timber harvesting projects on National Forests at very high risk to wildfires. ARCs establishes a non-federal funding stream for these projects through an innovative, first-of-its-kind approach that allows money exchanged for voluntary carbon credits to be used by the Forest Service and its state and local partners.
- **Store Carbon Through Expanded Use of Wood Products:** By increasing mass timber (*e.g.*, cross-laminated timber) demand, research, and education; by ensuring salvage logging projects can be completed in a timely manner, where appropriate, after disturbance events; and by expanding the use of biochar, a specialty charcoal with immense carbon sequestration potential.
- **Eradicate Invasive Grasses That Make Rangelands More Flammable:** By establishing action plans to identify and eliminate harmful invasive grasses, such as cheatgrass and ventenata, that make landscapes more prone to wildfires and crowd out native plants essential for grazing, wildlife habitat, and healthy rangelands.

The ARCs Act is supported by: National Association of State Foresters, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, National Alliance of Forest Owners, American Forest Resource Council, American Forest Foundation, Federal Forest Resource Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, Society of American Foresters, American Wood Council, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Property and Environment Research Center, and Wyoming Stock Growers Association.