

TIMBER BLOCK GRANT PROPOSAL SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

This document provides updated and supplemental documentation to the briefing paper on disaster supplemental needs previously released by the Southern Group of State Foresters. A downward revision of the block grant funding ask is a product of refined damage estimates and more clarity around implementation assumptions as noted below.

TAKE ACTION: TIMBER BLOCK GRANTS

Provide \$1.164 billion through USDA for timber block grant funding for private landowners impacted by disasters, to be implemented by state forestry agencies.

- Grants to be administered by the USDA Forest Service;
- Flexibility for each state to set the parameters of its block grant to meet the needs of its landowners;
- Congressional direction on and timeframe to operationalize agreements (e.g., 180 days from bill passage);
- Preferential tax treatment for block grant income received by landowners; and
- Reasonable administration expenses for implementation of grants

A breakdown of this funding ask by disaster and state is provided below, and is based upon the following assumptions:

- Eligibility for all private landowners, regardless of the size of the damage, ownership type or AGI; public entities would not be eligible
- Eligibility for landowners experiencing moderate, severe or catastrophic damage
- Landowners would be paid 80% of qualifying claims up to a maximum payment of \$2.5 million per landowner

Disaster	State	Block Grant Ask (\$Million)
Helene	GA	\$600.0
	NC	\$100.3
	FL	\$58.2
	TN	\$26.3
	SC	\$20.8
	VA	\$61.5
Milton	FL	\$10.1
Idalia	FL	\$38.5
Drought & Beetles	AL	\$108.0
	MS	\$140.1
Regional Total:		\$1,164.0

WE MUST SAFEGUARD THE PUBLIC BENEFITS PROVIDED BY PRIVATE FORESTS

Private Forest landowners are left vulnerable in the wake of disasters

Private forest landowners, who manage the majority of our nation's forests, lack adequate tools to recover from natural disasters.

Unlike other commodities, private forest landowners have no access to crop insurance or safety net programs, leaving them vulnerable after events like hurricanes, wildfires and floods.

Healthy private forests are essential to the environment and economy

Supporting disaster recovery policies ensures landowners can continue to manage forests that provide public benefits, including carbon sequestration, wood products, biodiversity and clean air and water.



For more information, contact SGSF Policy Director, Tim Foley at tfoley@SouthernForests.org

SOUTHERNFORESTS.ORG