



BIL-ER Spending Allocation Analysis

From the Department of Interior website (<https://www.doi.gov/priorities/investing-america-infrastructure/ecosystem-restoration/projects#main-content>;) listing the funded initiatives under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Ecosystem Restoration (ER) section:

“...nearly \$1B through Section 40804 (the Ecosystem Restoration Section) for locally collaborative projects that build resilience to climate change, restore healthy lands and waters and enhance communities quality of life.”

(Note: In total, the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law authorized roughly \$182B in grants and spending for energy and climate programs over several years.)

The BIL-ER allocations were made across 9 “Activities”. The most relevant to MARSB is Activity 9- National Revegetation Efforts including the National Seed Strategy (MARSB has received \$500K for two years of funding (2024 and 2025) under Activity 9 and may receive an additional \$600K, but these funds are almost exclusively restricted to collecting seed for specific USFWS wildlife refuges across the Mid-Atlantic states and do not appreciably contribute to institutionally building the MARSB program.

Approximately 656 Initiatives have been funded under BIL-ER and are tabulated at the above DoI website. I analyzed the distribution of projects (allocations) and funds, breaking down in several ways that may be helpful in garnering state and regional political support for seeking more funds for MARSB under BIL-ER.

- The dollar total for the 656 allocations listed is \$450.452M, indicating that roughly half or another \$400M to \$500M remains un-allocated, at least as of the information on this website (undated).
- Eastern Allocations (east of the Mississippi River) vs Western Allocations
West: 426 Initiatives; \$207,212,000
East: 73 Initiatives; \$34,620,000; Both the number of initiatives and the total dollars allocated are almost 6 times higher for the West than for the East.
- 93 National Initiatives worth \$145,938,000 were allocated; some of these funds will reach the East as well as the West.

- Tribal Allocations

13 National Initiatives were allocated \$21,907,000

30 Western Initiatives were allocated \$23,945,000

0 Eastern Initiatives were allocated \$0

The lack of any allocations to eastern tribes is surprising to say the least. MARSB has a long-standing relationship with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and stands ready to support all the 5 Nation Tribes in New York State in their efforts to build tribal nurseries and conserve culturally important and threatened plant resources such as black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*).

- Island Territories Allocations

26 Initiatives were allocated \$16,830,000

The combined allocations to Tribal Nations and Island Territories totaled \$62,682,000, almost double the allocations made to the Eastern states.