

US Nature AClimate News Release

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Diverse Groups Supporting Farmers, Hunters, Native American Communities, and Others Join Forces to Fight Climate Change Using the Power of Nature

The U.S. Nature4Climate Coalition brings on 14 affiliate members to advance Nature Climate Solutions across the United States

WASHINGTON, D.C. – <u>U.S. Nature4Climate</u> (USN4C) today launched a new affiliate network, adding 14 organizations to a diverse coalition that brings together farmers, forest owners, Latino leaders, Native Americans, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, business organizations, and environmental conservation organizations to improve the health of America's soils, forests, rivers, and coastal areas so they can absorb more carbon, fight climate change, provide wildlife habitat, and support healthy communities.

The 14-member affiliate network complements work being done by the coalition's 10-member Steering Committee to educate decision-makers about the important role Natural Climate Solutions can play in addressing climate change.

"The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provide billions of dollars that will support Natural Climate Solutions that mitigate climate change while providing additional benefits for people and communities," said The Nature Conservancy's **Catherine Macdonald, Chair U.S.**Nature4Climate Steering Committee. "Now, more than ever, we must work to leverage the power of nature as part of comprehensive climate action. The formation of USN4C's affiliate network significantly expands our ability to highlight the important role that our natural and working lands can play in our efforts to tackle climate change."

Natural Climate Solutions are conservation, restoration and improved land management practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help remove carbon from the atmosphere. Natural and working lands <u>reduced total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 13.6% in 2020</u>. Natural Climate Solutions practices, ranging from cover cropping to tree planting and improved forest management to grassland and coastal wetland restoration, have the potential to more than double this number. Most of these practices can be implemented on both public and private lands, offering a powerful complement to efforts to reduce emissions from the energy and transportation sectors.

"Our affiliate network will enable the USN4C coalition to tap into the expertise of hundreds of scientists, policy experts, and communicators that are working hard to implement Natural Climate Solutions," said **Nathan Henry, Program Director, U.S. Nature4Climate.** "By building productive, collaborative relationships across organizations and integrating their work into our own educational efforts, we can help encourage greater government and private support for these strategies."

The following organizations have joined the U.S. Nature4Climate coalition as affiliate members:

1t.org US
American Farmland Trust
American Forest Foundation
Bipartisan Policy Center
Conservation International
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Environmental Defense Fund
Ocean Conservancy
Restore America's Estuaries
Soil Health Institute
The Land Institute
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Trust for Public Land
WILDCOAST

"Natural Climate Solutions are a proven climate change mitigation strategy, that when properly crafted, are capable of drawing broad, bipartisan support," said **Lesley Jantarasami**, **Energy Program Managing Director at the Bipartisan Policy Center**. "The U.S. Nature4Climate coalition is an important forum for us to collaborate with other experts as we develop <u>federal policy solutions</u> that will contribute to the broader climate action effort."

"Studies have shown that coastal wetlands are capable of sequestering carbon at a rate ten times greater than tropical forests, while also protecting coastal communities from rising seas and extreme weather. We are pleased to join U.S. Nature4Climate's efforts to help spotlight the important role that "blue carbon" strategies can play in addressing climate change and its impacts." – **Daniel Hayden, President of Restore America's Estuaries**

"Farmers and ranchers can play an active role in fighting climate change by implementing regenerative farming practices that reduce emissions and draw carbon from the air, and sequester it in the soil," said **Dr. Bianca Moebius-Clune, Climate Initiative Director at American Farmland Trust.** "The Inflation Reduction Act funding for agriculture is a huge opportunity and AFT looks forward to working with likeminded organizations like those in the U.S. Nature4Climate coalition to successfully scale up Natural Climate Solutions on our nation's agricultural lands."

"Connecting everyone to the outdoors is a critical pathway to bring nature – and Natural Climate Solutions – into our communities. Land conservation, parks, trails and community schoolyards contribute to climate mitigation, resilience, and building equity for those most at risk," said **Brendan Shane**, **Climate Director of Trust for Public Land.** "The U.S. Nature4Climate coalition helps us highlight these climate strategies while catalyzing a broader understanding of Natural Climate Solutions."

"We are excited to join the U.S. Nature4Climate coalition to help draw attention to innovative agricultural strategies, like the development of diverse long-rooted perennial grain crops, that have the potential to revolutionize farming in the United States," said **Rachel Stroer**, **President of The Land Institute.** "Working with the USN4C coalition enables us to tell the story of the scientists, farmers, and entrepreneurs working hard to make long-rooted perennial grains a scalable climate solution."

"At EESI, we're all about win-win solutions, and natural climate solutions are a perfect example," said **EESI Executive Director Daniel Bresette**. "They can store carbon while also improving community resilience. They can help preserve wildlife while creating equitable economic opportunities. EESI has featured natural climate solutions in <u>Congressional briefings</u>, <u>fact sheets</u>, and <u>articles</u>, and we look forward to working with our USN4C coalition partners to further increase awareness of these solutions."

"Nature can – and must – be part of the global action we need to take now to avoid the worst of climate change, and natural climate solutions – planting trees, conserving tropical forests – are just the kind of efforts both Democrats and Republicans can get behind. Conservation International is looking forward to working with the U.S. Nature4Climate coalition to showcase the essential role of nature in combating climate change." – James Roth, Senior VP Global Policy and Gov. Affairs, Conservation International

About U.S. Nature4Climate

U.S. Nature4Climate (USN4C) is a coalition of 24 leading conservation, sustainability, and business organizations dedicated to amplifying how our forests, farms, ranches, grasslands and wetlands are an important part of our overall strategy to mitigate climate change. USN4C is building a collaborative platform where conservation organizations, small and large businesses, and agriculture and forestry leaders can all work together to ensure that natural climate solutions are maximized as we develop comprehensive climate action strategies. Funding for USN4C is provided by grants from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Nature Conservancy. Visit http://www.usnature4climate.org for more information.

The U.S. Nature4Climate Steering Committee includes conservation, sustainability-focused businesses, forestry and agriculture leaders working together to ensure Natural Climate Solutions are integrated into national, state and corporate efforts to combat climate change.

U.S. Nature4Climate Steering Committee

The Nature Conservancy: Catherine Macdonald, North America Director of Natural Climate Solutions

American Forests: Jad Daley, President & CEO **Ceres**: Carolyn Ching, Senior Manager, Food & Forests

Hispanic Access Foundation: Shanna Edberg, Director, Conservation Programs Land Trust Alliance: Kelly Watkinson, Land & Climate Program Manager Native American Agriculture Fund: Toni Stanger-McLaughlin, CEO

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership: Tiffany Turner, Director of Climate Solutions

U.S. Climate Alliance: Jennifer Phillips, Senior Policy Advisor **U.S. Farmers & Ranchers in Action:** Erin Fitzgerald, CEO

World Resources Institute: Haley Leslie-Bole, Associate, U.S. Climate Initiative