

## HR 674

### Root and Stem Project Authorization Act of 2023

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Public Lands and Natural Resources

**Introduced:** Jan 31, 2023

**Current Status:** Subcommittee Hearings Held

**Latest Action:** Subcommittee Hearings Held (Jan 31, 2024)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/674>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Newhouse, Dan [R-WA-4]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** WA • **Chamber:** House

## Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-50]	D · CA		Jan 31, 2023
Rep. Zinke, Ryan K. [R-MT-1]	R · MT		May 17, 2023
Rep. Lawler, Michael [R-NY-17]	R · NY		May 15, 2024

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 23, 2023
Natural Resources Committee	House	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Jan 31, 2024

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 199	Identical bill	Jul 11, 2023: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 122.
118 S 1456	Related bill	May 4, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

## **Root and Stem Project Authorization Act of 2023**

This bill authorizes the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to conduct certain forest restoration projects.

Specifically, the Forest Service or BLM may enter into an agreement for a project on federal land that was developed through a collaborative process that meets local and rural community needs if

- the party with whom it enters into an agreement initially provides the Forest Service or BLM with a portion of the funding necessary to complete any analysis deemed necessary under federal law for consideration of the proposed project;
- the Forest Service or BLM uses the funding to pay a contractor included on a list of contractors that it maintains to conduct the analysis;
- upon completion of the analysis, the Forest Service or BLM solicits bids to carry out the project and enters into a contract or agreement under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to carry out the project; and
- using certain receipts from the project, the Forest Service or BLM repays the initially provided funding.

For purposes of a civil action relating to such a project, any person that participated in the collaborative process to develop the proposal for the project shall be (1) entitled to intervene, as of right, in any subsequent civil action; and (2) considered to be a full participant in any settlement negotiation relating to the project.

The authority to enter into an agreement and the requirement to maintain a list of contractors shall expire on January 1, 2033.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jan 31, 2024:** Subcommittee Hearings Held
- **Feb 23, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Forestry.
- **Feb 21, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.
- **Jan 31, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 31, 2023:** Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.