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Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Justification

Forest
Service

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United States Forest Service
FY 2016 Budget Justification
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USDA Forest Service

Annual Performance Report

Introduction

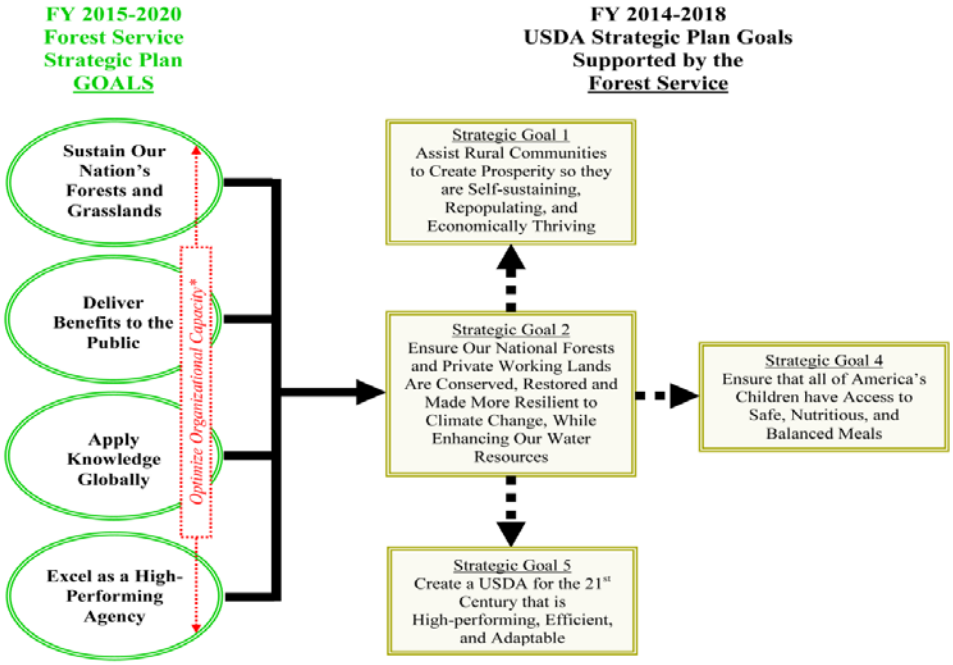
The Nation's forests are a fundamental part of our landscape, American identity, and the legacy we keep in trust for future generations. They provide clean air and water, recreational opportunities, jobs, and a host of forest products. The Forest Service plays a critical role in protecting and restoring America's forests and grasslands, and making them more resilient to threats and disturbances. In alignment with Secretary Vilsack's vision of an "all-lands approach" to conservation, the agency's efforts in 2014 were focused on enhancing water resources, responding to climate change effects, community-based stewardship, jobs to support rural communities, and reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire. Measuring our activities through performance systems and using performance results throughout the year provides the Forest Service the opportunity to demonstrate our achievements, identify challenges, and examine our strategies and methods employed by our programs.

The last Forest Service Strategic Plan expired at the end of FY 2012, and the agency has been operating without a Strategic Plan since then. The new Strategic Plan, which covers FY 2015 to FY 2020, is in the final stages of approval with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as of December 2014. Because the agency did not have a Strategic Plan in 2013, we wrote last year's Annual Performance Report (APR) against the expired Plan. For FY 2014, however, we have instead written the APR to the 2015 - 2020 Strategic Plan.

There are two reasons to write the FY 2014 APR based on the soon-to-be-approved FY 2015 - FY 2020 Strategic Plan. First, it doesn't serve the agency well to continue to look backwards. We are trying instead to lean into our new plan. Second, the agency is critically examining many of its performance measures to determine which ones are truly reflecting progress on the ground, and informing strategic management decisions. In the pages that follow, the agency will lay out several measures that are in development. While they are not yet defined, they tell a compelling story of how performance management is evolving within the agency to make our Nation's forests and grasslands more resilient. By using the FY 2014 APR as a transition document, the agency will be able to establish baselines and guiding principles to start making progress under the FY 2015 – FY 2020 Strategic Plan.

This chapter presents three strategic goals, one management goal, and a cross-cutting emphasis on optimizing organizational capacity, their objectives, and the performance measures chosen to represent the agency's progress toward those goals and objectives. The Forest Service's accomplishments under the new Strategic Plan continue to inform progress toward Goal #2 of the USDA 2014 – 2018 Strategic Plan – Ensure our national forests and private working lands are conserved, restored, and made more resilient to climate change, while enhancing our water resources. The Forest Service Strategic Plan also indirectly supports several other USDA goals. For example, by providing public recreational benefits, we contribute to economic prosperity for rural communities and the Nation (USDA Goal 1) and promote healthy physical activity (Objective 4.2 in USDA Goal 4). We also work to help create a USDA for the 21st century that is high-performing, efficient, and adaptable (USDA Goal 5). Outlined below are the Forest

Service strategic goals and how they align to the USDA Strategic Plan. Specific performance measures that show the Forest Service's contributions to USDA Goal #2 are listed on the next page.



Forest Service Contributions to USDA Strategic Goal

	Performance Measure	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual
2.1.2	Percentage of public and private forest and grazing land with conservation or management applied to improve or sustain productivity and ecological health[1]	--	--	--	--	5.4%	6.4%
2.1.3	Total acres of land protected from conversion through conservation easements and fee simple purchases to preserve natural resource quality, open space, and rural amenities	--	2,431,903	2,529,177	2,676,392	2,795,858	2,779,537
2.2.1	Percent of National Forests in compliance with a climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy	--	16%	36%	49%	50%	64%
2.3.1	Percent of watersheds in properly functioning condition	26%	52%	52%	52%	52%	52%
2.4.1	Cumulative number of acres in the National Forest system that are in a desired condition relative to fire regime	--	59,269,943	59,468,313	59,784,485	61,047,000	60,065,020

[1] *This is a new measure in FY 2014 and was developed during the revision of the FY 2014 – FY 2018 USDA Strategic Plan. Therefore, there were no accomplishments prior to FY 2014.*

Mission Statement

The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Vision and Values

As part of the USDA, the Forest Service embraces the same values as those identified in the USDA's 2014-2018 Strategic Plan:

Transparency	• Making the Department's management processes more open so that the public can learn how the USDA supports Americans every day in every way.
Participation	• Providing opportunities for USDA constituents to shape and improve services provided by the Department.
Collaboration	• Working cooperatively at all governmental levels domestically and internationally on policy matters affecting a broad audience.
Accountability	• Ensuring that the performance of all employees is measured against the achievement of the Department's strategic goals.
Customer focus	• Serving USDA's constituents by delivering programs that address their diverse needs.
Professionalism	• Building and maintaining a highly skilled, diverse, and compassionate workforce.
Results Orientation	• Measuring performance and making management decisions to direct resources to where they are used most effectively.

Forest Service Performance Management Framework

To track its outputs and outcomes and to measure progress towards goals, the Forest Service has an established performance management framework. The Framework begins with performance measures established in support of the strategic plan and individual budget line items, by the organizational unit (Deputy Area) responsible for the program. Measures vary in their objectives. Some track program outputs and others inform short-, mid-, and long-term outcomes.

Targets for these measures are set annually, during the budget process, and are issued to the Regions, Stations, and Area (generally referred to as the field) upon enactment of an Appropriations Bill or full year funding bill. Targets are set nationally for all measures in the Budget Justification and APR, and some measures are targeted by Region and forest. As work occurs on the ground throughout the year, accomplishments that support these targets are tracked and reported in nearly 40 databases across the agency. These databases provide reporting to the agency's official data source for external reporting. Once in this database, these accomplishments represent the collective work of:

- 154 national forests and 20 national grasslands that contain more than 600 ranger districts,
- nine regional offices,
- Northeastern Area for State and Private Forestry, and
- seven research stations including the Forest Products Laboratory and the International Institute for Tropical Forestry.

The official accomplishments are reported to USDA, Office of Management and Budget, Congress, and the public annually. They are also used by agency leadership to inform progress and provide accountability for results.

Data Validity and Verification

The Forest Service uses a number of processes and controls to ensure data quality and validity. In the field, managers, supervisors, and project staff are responsible for reviewing the completeness and quality of the data at the ranger district, national forest, and regional levels. The agency also requires regional-level leadership to certify that all appropriate procedures have been performed to ensure validity and reliability of key performance data, and to document data items that do not meet the standard.

In FY 2014, the agency commenced a new, more rigorous application of data quality assurance and began requiring Data Quality Assurance (DQA) Plans for individual performance measures. A DQA Plan includes a clear articulation of the roles and responsibilities of data stewardship at various levels in the agency, includes the names of personnel by role, and provides training modules (tailored to roles) intended to align the agency's knowledge base on data stewardship. By FY 2017, all measures will have a DQA Plan.

Flow of Strategic Goals, Objectives, and Strategic Performance Goals

Strategic Goal: Sustain Our Nation's Forests and Grasslands

Strategic Objective A: Foster resilient, adaptive ecosystems to mitigate climate change

- By 2020, improve or sustain productivity and ecological health on public and private forest and grazing land.
- By 2020, increase the proportion of acres with ecological benefit from natural ignition to 80 percent.
- By 2020, achieve a Forest Service-wide 25 percent reduction of Greenhouse Gas Scope 1 & 2 emissions and a 10 percent reduction in Scope 3.

Strategic Objective B: Mitigate wildfire risk

- By 2020, reduce wildfire risk on the highest priority National Forest System lands by five percent.

Strategic Objective C: Conserve open space

- By 2020, increase the connectivity of State and Private lands in priority areas and key NFS lands by 15 to 25 percent from 2014, and double the retention of working forests in key landscapes identified in Forest Action Plans from 2014 baseline.

Strategic Goal: Deliver Benefits to the Public

Strategic Objective D: Provide abundant clean water

- By 2020, 54 percent of national forest and grassland watersheds will be functioning properly.

Strategic Objective E: Strengthen communities

- The agency will continue to achieve mandatory Procurement Preference Goals annually, ensuring a significant portion of the agency's contracted work is awarded to small, minority-owned, veteran-owned, or other disadvantaged business category.
- Future Strategic Performance Goals.

Strategic Objective F: Connect people to the outdoors

- By 2020, increase the percent of people engaging in meaningful outdoor experiences by six percent from 2014.

Strategic Goal: Apply Knowledge Globally

Strategic Objective G: Advance knowledge

- By 2020, increase the external use of Forest Service-based knowledge products by five percent from FY 2014 levels.
- By 2020, refresh and modernize 50 percent of enabling IT infrastructure, including network, storage, end user computing, and radio, based on 2014 baseline.

Strategic Objective H: Transfer technology and applications

- By 2020, 90 percent of all prioritized Forest Service datasets are externally available to the public as downloadable files, map services, applications, or APIs.

Strategic Objective I: Exchange natural resource expertise

- Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center students graduate with job placements at or above the Department of Labor national average.
- The Forest Service effectively uses agency skills and capabilities for the benefit of our U.S. and international partners and collaborators.

Management Goal: Excel as a High-Performance Agency

Optimize Organizational Capacity

Strategic Goal: Sustain our Nation's Forests and Grasslands

The Nation's vast forests and grasslands are essential to the ecological, physical, biological, economic, cultural, and social well-being of our country. Impacts from severe wildfires, insects and diseases, invasive species, human influences, climate change, extreme weather, and other visible disturbances have raised public awareness about the environment. These impacts, along with changing human demands, perpetually challenge our ability to ensure that ecosystems are healthy, resilient, and thus more adaptable to changing conditions or that they can be restored to a healthy state. Long-term conservation across land ownership boundaries, through collaborative partnerships, and knowledge transfer can enhance the natural functions of the land and can contribute to sustainability—the ability of forests and grasslands to produce goods and services that people want and need, both now and in the future.

Strategic Objective A. Foster Healthy Ecosystems

Strategic Performance Goal: By 2020, improve or sustain productivity and ecological health on public and private forest and grazing land.

Overview

Millions of acres of public and private forests and grasslands are at risk due to uncharacteristically severe wildfires, drought, and insect and disease outbreaks. By managing to this strategic performance goal, the Forest Service seeks to restore and manage our forests and grasslands so that they are more resilient to a variety of threats, and more capable of delivering benefits to the American people, while sustaining forest carbon sequestration and storage capacity to help mitigate the effects of climate change. Benefits of resilient landscapes include access to clean water, air, and fish and wildlife habitat, as well as the full range of ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, safer access to recreation, and timber and biomass production.

Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	**FY 2010**	**FY 2011**	**FY 2012**	**FY 2013**	**FY 2014**	
					Target	**Actual**
All lands restored/enhanced (acres)	--	4,924,904	4,424,845	4,703,857	4,581,000	4,968,161
Grazing allotments administered to standard (acres)	33,113,679	27,132,200	30,396,997	29,268,333	27,000,000	29,794,000

Supporting Performance Indicators

The agency's Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program's (CFLRP) projects continue to build collaborative partnerships, and increase capacity for on-the-ground project implementation and monitoring, as well as support local communities and their economies. The CFLRP uses a competitive process to select projects which foster collaborative, science-based

restoration on priority forest landscapes across the Nation. Although CFLRP is not the only program that contributes to this goal, the collaboratives the agency is building through this program are providing models for how community collaboration can help advance landscape restoration efforts. Although the agency has noted that project outputs will rise as projects mature over the 10-year lifecycle, this program has also made strides organizationally and culturally, by demonstrating how the agency can work with communities more effectively to accomplish more restoration, and get past some of the adversarial approaches and roadblocks of the past.

The agency has also focused on stewardship contracts as a tool for restoration, and has been building capacity over the past several years to maximize the use of this tool. With permanent authority granted through the Agriculture Act of 2014, the agency will have increased flexibility to accomplish collaborative restoration work at a landscape scale. For example, the agency has already exhibited a shift toward stewardship contracts covering more acreage. The result of the shift on sustaining the Nation's forest and grasslands means steady, sustained progress toward our natural resource goals while providing communities with steady jobs and economic stability.

Strategic Objective Progress Update

The annual acres of public and private forests lands restored or enhanced looks at a broad suite of treatments and work across the landscape, including our efforts under Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR) to improve watershed function and resilience – a main driver of progress toward the stated objective. The IRR program facilitates and supports an integrated approach to land management that sustains, maintains, and makes landscapes more resilient, by consolidating multiple budget line items (BLIs) that achieve restoration objectives. The IRR pilot has provided increased flexibility that has allowed the field to focus on high priority restoration work, move funds between programs, address unexpected challenges, conduct larger projects, and enter into multi-year contracts.

Overall, we've been able to increase our restoration efforts while also maintaining strong timber and biomass programs important to rural communities and economies. Working in a more integrated fashion boosted our restoration efforts, allowing the agency to lessen the threat to communities by reducing hazardous fuels on 1.7 million acres in the wildland urban interface, sustain or restore watershed conditions on 2.9 million acres, and resulted in 2.8 billion board feet of timber of timber volume sold—a 200 million board feet increase from FY 2013.

Strategic Performance Goal: By 2020, increase the proportion of acres with ecological benefit from natural ignition to 80 percent.

Overview

Wildland fire is a natural and necessary component of restoring and maintaining most of the ecosystems managed by the Forest Service. Fire provides critical ecosystem functions, including transforming dead and dying material into nutrients, controlling insect populations, creating habitat for wildlife, and creating conditions for the establishment of plant communities. Many forest and grassland plant and animal species rely on immediate post-fire and early successional conditions for their survival. As such, naturally-ignited fires that benefit ecosystems are an

important part of our Restoration and Hazardous Fuels programs. Wildland fires can provide resource benefits by reducing hazardous fuels and restoring resilience to landscapes, especially those ecosystems adapted to frequent fire. In addition, wildland fires can reduce the likelihood of high-severity fires in the future.

Wildfires that provide resource benefits are sometimes lower cost and lower risk to personnel than traditional mechanical fuels treatments, or than fully suppressing the fire as quickly as possible. Naturally-ignited wildfires are often the most effective way to meet restoration objectives in remote areas like wilderness. However, this is not a tool that is used as often as it could be for a variety of reasons, including internal or public pressure to put wildfires out quickly, lack of experience in managing long-duration wildfires, and landscapes with extensive fuels buildup that may burn larger and more severe than historically. Fire managers always assess the potential fire spread and behavior, and values impacted by each wildfire to decide the best strategy and tactics.

Our objective is to increase the proportion of beneficial acres from naturally-ignited fires in order to benefit resources by decreasing risk and better protecting communities, allowing fire to continue its natural role in ecosystems, and creating and maintaining more resilient landscapes.

Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	**FY 2010**	**FY 2011**	**FY 2012**	**FY 2013**	**FY 2014**	
					Target	**Actual**
Percent of acres burned by natural ignition with resource benefits	--	--	--	--	--	70%[2]

The use of natural fire for ecological restoration is dependent on natural fire activity, which is characteristically random. We are continuing to invest in educating fire managers and the public about use of this tool, and we are developing increasingly better decision support systems that aid agency leaders and fire managers in making informed decisions about when this tool can be most effectively applied. Also, as we continue to target the places where fuels treatments of all types will be most effective, more of the landscape will be moved into a state where fire can resume its natural role.

Strategic Objective Progress Update

This is a newly developed indicator where results will be most effectively assessed at the end of the five-year period. The purpose of this strategic performance goal and performance indicator is to encourage and develop more consistency in the use of this treatment tool, as well as increase how often it is used. Because this tool must be used opportunistically when certain conditions are present in a specific wildfire incident, the agency must encourage fire managers to do so when these conditions are present, through education and the development of better decision support systems. Measuring and assessing its use, and having a goal to increase the percentage of acres managed in this way, will help us assure we are progressing in use of this important tool in our toolbox of managing wildland fire. Increasing trends could indicate that conditions where

[2] This is a newly developed indicator that we are currently evaluating and piloting. As such, we do not have annual targets, but established a baseline of 70% in FY 2014.

fire can play a natural role are improving and that fire managers are more actively seeking out opportunities to manage naturally-ignited fires for resource benefits.

Strategic Performance Goal: By 2020, achieve a Forest Service-wide 25 percent reduction of Greenhouse Gas Scope 1 & 2 emissions and a 10 percent reduction in Scope 3.

Overview

To fulfill the agency's obligation to present and future generations, our land stewardship mission must be strategically integrated with practices that reduce our consumption and overall resource use. Our operations and assets must become more resilient to the impacts of a changing climate so we can continue to provide a high level of service, while caring for the National Forest System lands. The direct relationship between healthy forests and our faucet water, heating systems, clean air, modes of transportation—among others—has never been more apparent. Over the last 20 years, many laws, regulations, executive orders, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) scorecard reporting have established targets for reducing the environmental footprint of Federal agencies.

Most recently issued is the President's Climate Action Plan, which builds on the Presidential Memorandum on Federal Leadership on Energy Management, along with existing sustainability and efficiency mandates, including the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, and a series of Executive Orders (EO), including EO 13423 and EO 13514. The attention to the consumption impacts of the federal sector continues to increase, and reiterates the need for expanding adoption of sustainable operations practices and behaviors. Greenhouse gas emissions are one measure that can show progress in many more specific areas, such as renewable energy, reductions in petroleum consumption, and increased use of telework to reduce commuting emissions. The targets set under this goal are intended to be bold, and support activities that not only address the impacts of climate change, but increase our operational and asset resiliency.

Key Performance Indicators

They key performance indicator is the greenhouse gas (GHG) level reported in the Annual GHG Report to the USDA. Totals reported for the past five years are shown below:

Indicator	**FY 2010**	**FY 2011**	**FY 2012**	**FY 2013**	**FY 2014**	
					Target[3]	**Actual**[4]
Scope 1 & 2 GHG emissions, MT CO2e	301,993	346,508	257,521	282,628	--	194,174
Scope 3 GHG emissions, MT CO2e	166,965	29,505	103,954	91,388	--	108,728
Total GHG emissions, MT CO2e	468,958	376,013	361,475	374,016	--	302,902

[3] Targets were not set in FY 2014, but will be set in out years.
[4] Preliminary data as December 10, 2014

Supporting Performance Indicators

Sustainable Operations supports the agency's mission in the face of a changing climate by connecting our land stewardship with practices that reduce the agency's resource consumption and environmental footprint. Our Sustainable Operations Collective focuses on reducing on-the-ground consumption, piloting scalable innovations, and developing policy that is integrated, solution-oriented, and supported by leadership. The collective has engaged a network of dedicated employees who share the commitment to build resiliency into our landscape and communities, and to link our consumption habits to our future assets. Through a growing number of initiatives, the Collective has enabled integration of best practices, building capacity in the agency and community, and saving money and resources by implementing efficiencies in the areas of energy, water, fleet, and transportation, waste prevention and recycling, sustainable acquisition, and sustainable leadership practices.

Under an annual program of work, a myriad of field-focused teams work to take steps towards footprint reduction in six areas: energy, water, waste reduction and recycling, fleet and transportation, sustainable acquisition, and sustainable leadership. Although many of these actions may not specifically map to a reduction in our GHGs at a broad agency level, they do support changes in behaviors and systems that can have very significant impacts once implemented. Each field-based team develops a list of specific outcomes annually, and these are mapped to the many different executive orders, laws and Presidential mandates referenced above. The Sustainable Operations element of our agency climate change scorecard is also a comprehensive measure of progress.

A major part of the Sustainable Operations program of work is the implementation of Corporate Priority Action Items (CPAI). These are actions that were piloted by field-based teams and identified as scalable to Forest Service wide and effective in reducing consumption. For FY 2014 and FY 2015, CPAIs are Utility Bill Cleanup, designed to help us identify our baseline energy consumption, and Power-IT-Down, designed to reduce office energy consumption. Both efforts have had phased implementation. Future CPAIs include, as examples, a no-idling policy for fleet vehicles, leak detection for Forest Service water systems, and recycling plans on all units for fire incidents. Completing identified CPAIs on all units will be a major performance indicator of success for Sustainable Operations.

Strategic Objective Progress Update

In addition to the field-based teams program of work, the Sustainable Operations Collective is in the process of developing "Cost and Consumption Reduction Plans" for each footprint area. These plans span the agency and are updated annually. They highlight actions that need to be implemented to enable greater footprint reduction activities. The four categories of activities are designed to: 1) provide easy access to accurate, transparent energy consumption and cost data; 2) increase energy cost and consumption awareness; 3) provide organizational capacity; and 4) implement reduction measures.

We are currently focusing on our biggest challenge, which is incomplete and inaccurate data systems for all footprint areas. The mandated reductions are based on 2008 baselines, which are not separated out beyond the USDA department-level, so estimating the baseline is a challenge.

As seen in the GHG emissions, levels reported vary with the accessibility of data systems and the accuracy and completeness of field reporting. In FY 2014, the change in utility payment systems partway through the fiscal year resulted in gross under-reporting of Scope 1 & 2 emissions, and in FY 2013, a subset of Scope 3 data was not reported. For that reason, numbers displayed in the table in the "Key Performance Indicators" section above do not tell the full and accurate story of the Forest Service's GHG emission profiles, and tend to be a poor measure of effectiveness. We, therefore, plan to continue to pilot place-based understanding of more local GHG inventories, focusing on changes that are relatively simple to make to our data systems and identifying where we can focus on a smaller set of more accurate data to serve as an indicator of progress and effectiveness. We will continue to balance resources expended on fixing and upgrading data systems versus investing those resources into on-the-ground actions that we know substantially reduce GHG emissions and internalize long-lasting behavior and process change.

Strategic Objective B. Mitigate Wildfire Risk

Strategic Performance Goal: By 2020, reduce wildfire risk on the highest priority National Forest System lands by five percent.

Overview

Our Fire and Aviation Management program supports the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy: fire-adapted communities, resilient landscapes, and safe, effective fire response. The prevention, preparedness, response and hazardous fuels programs work together to reduce wildfire risk. We cannot eliminate the occurrence of wildfire through prevention and fuel treatment programs. However, fuel treatments, along with preparedness, do strongly affect the ability to prepare for, absorb the effects of, respond to, and recover from wildfire in both natural and human communities. Fuel treatments can also be instrumental in reducing risk in order to increase the number of acres that burn with resource benefit. This is described in further detail in the above Strategic Objective A.

Fuel treatments provide safer conditions and more strategic options for fire managers and firefighters. Our limited resources require agencies to prioritize areas for fuel treatment that are at high risk (e.g. values are high, multiple highly-valued resources and assets are present and susceptible, the probability of fire is high, and/or expected fire intensity is high), as well as where risk can effectively be mitigated (by reducing expected fire intensity).

Although the benefit of individual fuel treatments is well-known and documented, we continue to focus our Hazardous Fuels program on becoming more risk-based. We are evaluating the nature and extent of the fuels problem in terms of risk of wildfire to key values, moving towards determining treatment and funding priorities based on those risks, and developing ways to measure accomplishment and program success in terms of risk reduction.

Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	**FY 2010**	**FY 2011**	**FY 2012**	**FY 2013**	**FY 2014**	
					Target	**Actual**
National Forest System wildfire risk index	--	--	--	--	--	1

This is a newly developed indicator that we are currently piloting. It has been tested on one Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) project, and we are working with fire scientists to develop a nationally scalable methodology. The area being evaluated by this indicator is large—the entire National Forest System (NFS) in the lower 48 states—so yearly fluctuations are likely to be very small. For both reasons, we have not identified annual targets, but have developed a target for the final year of the Strategic Plan, 2020. The measure would create an index of relative "fire risk" based on the likelihood of a large fire impacting highly valued resources. We may also be able to incorporate a factor for the relative importance of those resources and the expected effects that might occur if impacted by fire. We will establish a baseline reading of the index indicator. As changes occur over time and across the landscapes, we will re-measure the index and determine if the overall risk has been reduced. Changes that could affect the index include fuel treatments, wildfire, forest management, vegetation growth, increased wildland urban interface, insects and disease, and increased fire-adapted communities.

Supporting Performance Indicators

Each fiscal year, we measure the number of acres where we treat hazardous fuels on the National Forest System, both outside and inside the wildland-urban interface (WUI). This helps us evaluate the number of acres where we are attempting to reduce risk, but does not tell us anything specific about the nature of the risk, either before or after the treatment. We have developed capability in our reporting system to spatially track accomplishments in order to better represent the treatment "footprint" on the landscape. This should be fully functional in FY 2017.

The spatial representation of fuel treatments is being used by fire management personnel to manage wildfires more effectively and more safely. We also monitor the effectiveness of our fuel treatments if they are tested by a wildfire. This monitoring helps us evaluate overall effectiveness and drill down into design factors to improve the prescriptive details of future treatments. We continue to measure the Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) both before and after fuels treatments. The FRCC is a landscape-scale measure of how far a landscape is departed from its "natural" state. While this has been an effective way for us to evaluate the restoration outcomes our treatments are having, it is not a measure of risk. The risk index will be an evolution beyond the FRCC model, and will help us better articulate where we should target fuels treatments and where they are most effective.

Strategic Objective Progress Update

This is a newly developed indicator that we plan to continue to pilot in specific places while we work on a nationally scalable methodology, which could take a couple of years. In addition, very little change may occur on an annual basis in the risk index due to the size of the area being evaluated, and the amount of acres that can be treated to reduce fuels each year. As a result, outcomes will be most effectively assessed at the end of a five-year period. The purpose of this indicator is to assess landscape change over time. This can provide critical information for monitoring trends in risk and evaluating the performance of previous risk mitigation investments. Quantifying wildfire risk facilitates analysis of tradeoffs across highly valued resources and enables cost-effectiveness analysis as a basis for evaluating risk mitigation options. We have a limited capacity to do fuel treatment work, and risk assessment is one important way for prioritizing fuel treatments. The potential scope of the fuels problem nationally is large and

constantly changing. This strategic performance goal and associated performance goal indicator are one way for us to ensure we are effectively and efficiently investing resources to address it.

Strategic Objective C. Conserve Open Space

Strategic Performance Goal: By 2020, increase the connectivity of State and Private lands in priority areas and key NFS lands by 15 to 25 percent from 2014, and double the retention of working forests in key landscapes identified in Forest Action Plans from 2014 baseline.

Overview

Open space is vital to our health, economy, and well-being. An estimated 6,000 acres of open space are lost each day, at a rate of 4 acres per minute. Looking ahead, research estimates that over the next 50 years, by 2060, U.S. forest area will decline by over 24 million acres. Additionally, 21 million acres of private rural lands near National Forests and Grasslands will experience substantial housing density increases by 2030.

Development of open space affects our ability to manage the national forests and grasslands, as well as our ability to help private landowners and communities sustainably manage their land to maintain private and public benefits and ecosystem services. We are working towards an interconnected network of open space across the landscape that supports healthy ecosystems and a high quality of life for Americans. Fully realized, this network will include sustainably managed private forests and rangelands, national forests and grasslands, other public land, riparian areas and wildlife corridors, and urban greenspaces. Private and public open spaces will complement each other across the landscape to provide ecosystem services, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, and sustainable products.

By managing to the goal of increased connectivity, we help to consolidate fragmented lands, thus better supporting landscape and watershed restoration efforts, habitat management, and recreational access for the public. Undoing checkerboard ownership often makes public lands accessible at a ratio of three-to-one. For every square mile of checkerboard land acquired, three square miles are connected. For example, it is estimated that the 144,000 acres acquired through a land exchange on the Lolo and Flathead National Forests in FY 2014 reconnected over 400,000 acres, bringing dramatic efficiencies of scale for wildfire protection, wildlife and game management, and public access.

Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	**FY 2010**	**FY 2011**	**FY 2012**	**FY 2013**	**FY 2014**	
					Target	**Actual**
Annual acres of NFS lands acquired or donated	169,086	20,149	26,330	62,133	43,378	54,230
Private forest acres protected by the FLP through conservation easements or fee-simple purchases Annual *Cumulative (Baseline)*	136,960	149,911	52,999	87,927	85,000	34,715 *(2,410,512)*

Indicator	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	
					Target	Actual
Acres protected by the Community Forest Program through fee-simple purchases	--	--	--	2,000	--	6,000 *(8,000)*
Acres in important Forest Resource Areas covered by active Forest Stewardship Plans and forest stand Management Plans Annual *Cumulative (Baseline)*	--	--	--	--	--	*(14,048,726)*
Acres in important Forest Resource Areas covered by Landscape Stewardship Plans Annual *Cumulative (Baseline)*	--	--	--	--	--	*(1,774,804)*

While we currently measure a number of important indicators that help us in assessing our progress towards the 2020 Goals for this strategic performance goal, to more robustly account for these specific outcomes, we are also developing new tools of measurement. We will leverage geospatial accomplishment data and other agencies Geographic Information System (GIS) data layers to more fully describe performance related to the 2020 Goals. We will evaluate methods for measuring relational aspects of key program features (as outlined in above table) to identify priority landscapes in order to demonstrate all-land conservation outcomes. We are evaluating potential metrics such as structural connectivity and aggregation, and will evaluate how they work within— and between— geographic regions. This will help us evaluate, on a landscape scale, the combined contributions of our agency investments, rather than evaluating them simply on a program-by-program basis.

Supporting Performance Indicators

We annually measure a number of important indicators that help us assess our progress in conserving open space, particularly focused on connectivity of key landscapes and retention of working forests. We track the number of community forests established each year, along with the associated acres of those forests that are protected through the Community Forest and Open Space program. This indicates the trends in the growth of community forests over time, and helps us determine whether or not interest in this relatively new program is growing. We currently have 12 community forests that have been established since the program inception in FY 2012, protecting 8,324 acres. We also evaluate the total number of application requests for this program to help us understand the demand, and assist us in focusing our outreach efforts around the program. In FY 2014, we had 29 requests for funding and were able to fund eight of these.

In the Forest Legacy program, we collect data that enables us to analyze key contributions to connectivity in important areas. For example, we can identify the contributions of acres protected to watershed health, especially in important landscapes like Crown of the Continent in

Montana. We can also evaluate how much land has been protected through Forest Legacy in the original range of critical imperiled species, like longleaf pine. Transition zones, where one forest type is transitioning to another forest type, are important areas to protect because as the climate changes, these areas will be most resilient. We can measure where we have protected these types of key landscapes through the Forest Legacy program. We also look at where we are retaining working forests in the Forest Legacy program. We are able to evaluate key contributions of protected lands in places important to the forest products industry.

In the Forest Stewardship program, we have been implementing a new approach for program delivery that will improve our ability to increase connectivity in priority areas identified in States' Forest Action Plans, and retain more working forests, called the Landscape Stewardship Approach. This approach involves the developing and implementing of landscape-scale and community-based planning approaches where State Forest Action Plans suggest that opportunities exist. We accomplish this by engaging multiple owners of interconnected forest properties to achieve one or more forest resource management objectives, like helping us create economies of scale for local forest product markets.

We also bring landscape-level resource information and management practice guidelines into individual Forest Stewardship Plans. In FY 2015, we will more fully institutionalize this approach by developing guidance to be included in the "Forest Stewardship Standards and Guidelines." In the Forest Stewardship program we also recently adopted new, more comprehensive program performance metrics, based on the results of a study by the *Family Forest Research Center*. We plan to conduct similar studies every five years. Annually, we are also beginning to measure the number of private forest landowners reached through Forest Stewardship Program technical, planning, and educational assistance. In FY 2014, we reached 358,961 landowners.

The Land Acquisition program completed an historic investment on the Lolo and Flathead National Forests in Montana aimed at reconnecting "checkerboard" lands on those forests. This area of Montana contains one of the last intact ecosystems on earth for large carnivores such as the Grizzly Bear, and is immensely popular for outdoor recreation and hunting and fishing. The benefits that this enhanced connectivity gives to the Flathead and Lolo are numerous, but an immediate benefit is that no additional private homes will be built on those acres in the WUI, meaning the Forest Service will not need to protect them from wildfire (a process that can be costly and time consuming). In the west, 16 percent of the WUI is developed with homes. If 50 percent of the WUI were to be developed, the cost of protecting the homes from catastrophic wildfires would be $4 to 5 billion[i]. This example illustrates how connecting fragmented lands, especially in the WUI, provides multiple benefits: reduced cost for fire-fighting, reduced risk to firefighters, residents, and property, and a connected landscape to better support wildlife and recreation.

Strategic Objective Progress Update

The agency has long been working to connect key landscapes and retain working forests. For example, since its inception as a small program in only a few States in 1990, the Forest Legacy program investments and partners have grown significantly, resulting in the protection of over 2 million threatened forest landscapes. Forest Stewardship plans have evolved from serving

landowners on a "first-come, first serve" basis to focusing program delivery on a landscape scale that targets multi-landowner plans, and works to create economies of scale for local forest products markets. In 2007, we also developed an "Open Space Conservation Strategy" to identify how the agency can best help conserve open space, with an emphasis on partnerships and collaborative approaches. This effort is supported by ongoing programs across the agency and partnerships with other Federal agencies, as well as State agencies, conservation organizations, universities, and others. We offer a monthly webinar series on planning for growth and open space conservation. Over 2,300 natural resources managers, planners and others from Federal, State, and local government, as well as the private sector, enrolled.

However, pressures from rapid urban expansion will continue to increase, and stemming the tide of open space loss requires working at different scales among a variety of different agency programs—nationally, regionally, and locally—and tailoring approaches to fit geographic regions. These strategic performance goals and new ways to capture outcomes will help us more robustly articulate success, and assist us in identifying the most effective program investments for the future.

Strategic Goal: Deliver Benefits to the Public

America's forests and grasslands play pivotal roles in providing a wide range of benefits to the American people. Land management that is sustainable enables forests and grasslands to continue producing goods and services to meet multiple public demands, thereby contributing to human health, prosperity, and quality of life for local communities and for the Nation as a whole. The people we serve benefit from healthy, resilient forests and grasslands in various ways. These lands provide recreational settings and opportunities; cultural and heritage resources; scenery; resources such as clean air and water, minerals, fish, wildlife, livestock forage, firewood, and various sources of renewable and nonrenewable energy; corridors for communication and energy transmission; and many other ecosystem services and benefits. These benefits generate billions of dollars contributed to the national economy, underpinning local economies in many rural areas and enhancing the quality of life and sense of place for people in many communities.

Strategic Objective D: Provide abundant clean water

Strategic Performance Goal: By 2020, 54 percent of national forest and grassland watersheds will be functioning properly.

Overview

Along with a wide array of ecological and community benefits, healthy forests play a critical role in protecting access to abundant clean water for drinking and other purposes. A properly functioning watershed is essential to providing a host of benefits including purified water, sustained surface water and groundwater flow, and maintaining fish and wildlife habitat. This strategic performance goal relies on the Watershed Condition Framework (WCF) as a foundation and guide for consistent identification of factors limiting a watershed's condition, for determining the overall condition of a watershed, and for identifying those priority watersheds on which to focus restoration efforts. The annual results associated with this measure is reflective

not only of work implemented within a given year, but represents the culmination of integrated, watershed-based work that started with implementation of the WCF, and the development of associated watershed restoration action plans. By managing to this goal, the Forest Service seeks to ensure abundant, clean and reliable sources of freshwater.

Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	
					Target	Actual
Number of watersheds moved to an improved condition class	--	4	9	12	15	10
Acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience	--	2,624,016	2,569,617	2,533,121	2,700,000	2,906,018
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	3,577	3,878	3,704	4,168	3,262	3,488

Supporting Performance Indicators

Road decommissioning makes important contributions to our portfolio of restoration efforts by reducing the environmental impact of our transportation systems. Road decommissioning activities include restoring lands occupied by roads to a more natural state. In FY 2014, the agency decommissioned 1,415 miles of roads, which directly affects water quality. The agency targets roads that are no longer needed, including unauthorized roads that are not part of our transportation system. Other important work accomplished that improved water quality included maintaining or improving 2,296 miles of roads, and maintaining or improving 462 miles of trails with IRR and Legacy Roads and Trails funding.

Strategic Objective Progress Update

The agency finished the year with 52.3 percent of watersheds in properly functioning condition, slightly higher than in FY 2013. The IRR pilot regions again led the way moving watersheds to an improved condition class, achieving 60 percent of the total agency result and, over the period of FY 2012-FY 2014, we improved the condition of a total of 30 watersheds. As an outcome measure, the annual result is not only reflective of work implemented this year, but represents the culmination of integrated, watershed-based work that started with the development of watershed restoration action plans. As we progress in our experience with the WCF, we are seeing that some watershed plans may need 5-10 years to complete all the restoration actions required instead of the 3-5 years originally envisioned, due to complexity and/or expense. Disturbances on the landscape, in particular uncharacteristically severe wildfires, are a continuing challenge that affects watershed health and function.

Strong performance across all regions drove our results for acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience. Pursuing the goal of accelerating restoration, the agency achieved nearly a 15 percent increase in acres treated over FY 2013 results. This measure is important because, as a composite of a number of activities across the landscape, it reflects restoration progress throughout the agency, not just on movement toward completing specific watershed restoration actions plans. By pursuing various large-scale strategies to

enhance the pace and scale of restoration, the agency was able to exceed our restoration goals for FY 2014. Along with the CFLRP initiative and the IRR budgeting pilot, the agency is finalizing and implementing the 2012 Planning Rule, which focuses on restoration and collaboration. Integrated work in the IRR regions and a sustained focus on restoration work across the Forest Service contributed to this result.

Stream restoration work directly affects habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive aquatic species, as well as habitat for native fishes with commercial and non-commercial value, and for desired non-native species important to recreational fishing. For the second year in a row, we exceeded our goal, taking advantage of integrated planning and the effective use of partnerships. The cumulative accomplishments associated with this measure are a critical component of our threatened, endangered, and sensitive aquatic species restoration.

Strategic Objective E: Strengthen communities

Strategic Performance Goal: The agency will continue to achieve mandatory Procurement Preference Goals annually, ensuring a significant portion of the agency's contracted work is awarded to small, minority-owned, veteran-owned, or other disadvantaged business category.

Overview

With over $1.2 Billion expended on contracts annually, the Forest Service has a responsibility to foster growth in the small businesses that strengthen communities and assist the agency in delivering on its mission. This is accomplished by setting aside contract actions for small business concerns.[5] Contracting with small businesses results in a strong economy, job creation, and a greater partnership between the agency and the communities surrounding our national forests and grasslands. Therefore, the Forest Service adopts procurement preference goals that are higher than those mandated by the USDA. The table in the section below contains the Forest Service preference goals for FY 2014.

Key Performance Indicators

Indicator (Prime Contracting – Business Type)	**FY 2010**	**FY 2011**	**FY 2012**	**FY 2013**	**FY 2014**	
					Target	**Actual**
Small Business	80.1%	82.4%	82.1%	80.6%	70.0%	84.1%
Small Disadvantaged Business	25.5%	23.1%	20.9%	16.3%	15.0%	19.2%
Woman-Owned Business	12.6%	12.8%	13.3%	15.9%	7.0%	17.9%
Historically Underutilized Business Zone	22.3%	13.9%	10.0%	10.3%	10.0%	9.4%
Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business	5.2%	2.8%	3.9%	2.8%	3.0%	3.4%

[5] A small business concern is "one that is independently owned and operated, is organized for profit, and is not dominant in its field." "What Is SBA's Definition of a Small Business Concern?" *U.S. Small Business Administration,* N.p., n.d. Web. 11 Dec. 2014.

Supporting Performance Indicators

Procurement preference goal achievement is the primary indicator of the agency's success in awarding as many contract actions to small business concerns as possible. Other non-measurable indicators include increased awareness by small business opportunities to contract with the government, achieved through agency participation in national and local small business events, and increased use of electronic government to share contracting opportunities with a wider audience.

Strategic Objective Progress Update

The Forest Service has been—and remains committed to—strengthening communities through contracting with small businesses. Few agencies governed by the Small Business Administration procurement preference program have small business goals as high as those of USDA, and none of the Cabinet-level agencies have goals as high as those of the Forest Service. Not only has the Forest Service routinely met most goals, it has generally exceeded them. As an example, the small business goal for USDA is 52 percent, and for the Forest Service it is 70 percent, but the agency was able to award 84 percent of its funds to small business concerns in FY 2014. The Forest Service will continue to seek support from small business concerns first, and strive to strengthen communities through these actions.

Future Strategic Performance Goals

The Forest Service helps strengthen communities in many ways other than through achieving Procurement Preference Goals. Rural forests and urban trees provide ecological, economic, and social benefits to communities of all size. As an example, in FY 2012 the agency estimated that the monetary value from recreation for all goods and services adds slightly more than $13 billion to the gross domestic product (GDP), and sustains about 190,000 full- and part-time jobs. And in FY 2011, all Forest Service activities combined contributed to nearly 450,000 jobs nationwide, mostly to rural communities near the national forests and grasslands. The agency also convenes partnerships and collaboratives between State and local governments, academic institutions, and the private sector, helping strengthen the relationships between many groups in a community around natural resources; thereby reinforcing community bonds and fostering shared community prosperity.

While the Forest Service undoubtedly has a great impact on strengthening communities across the Nation, the agency is still developing the measure we will ultimately use to evaluate progress towards this strategic objective of our FY 2015 – FY 2020 Strategic Plan. We will continue to refine potential measures of success until we identify which set will best reflect outcome-based progress toward strengthening communities.

Strategic Objective F: Connect people to the outdoors

Strategic Performance Goal: By 2020, increase the percent of people engaging in meaningful outdoor experiences by 6 percent from 2014.

Overview

Our Nation's rich history reveals the vital role the outdoors has played in defining who we are as a people, and as a country. From lakes and rivers to forests and mountains, the outdoors has served not only as a place for Americans to create lasting memories, but also as a conduit for economic growth and job development. For example, the outdoor industry currently supports 6.1 million American jobs and $646 billion in outdoor recreation spending each year. However, Americans today, and especially children, have become increasingly disconnected from nature, a serious threat facing Americans and the great outdoors. Research has shown that childhood activities in natural environments have a significant, positive association with adult environmental attitudes and behaviors.

But, today's more urbanized youth spend 50 percent less time in natural areas than they did 20 years ago. Additionally, a shift toward a sedentary lifestyle is a major contributor to the decline in children's health. Over the past three decades, childhood obesity rates have tripled. Spending time in nature benefits physical and mental health, academic performance, and overall quality of life. For example, opportunities for youth to engage with nature has been shown to improve advanced motor fitness, increase the ability to concentrate for children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and enhance powers of observation and creativity.

The single biggest predictor of environmental stewardship in adults is meaningful childhood experience in nature. Our goal is to help re-create a Nation of citizen stewards committed to restoring forest health—from backcountry areas to shaded urban neighborhoods, parks, and greenways—to ensure that our Nation's public and private forests remain relevant to, and are sustained in, future generations.

Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	**FY 2010**	**FY 2011**	**FY 2012**	**FY 2013**	**FY 2014**	
					Target	**Actual**
Number of visits where people are satisfied with NFS facilities, services, and settings	162,390,100	160,313,500	155,440,300	151,210,400	--	143,727,700
Number of people who annually participate in Forest Service environmental literacy programs and activities	5,244,401	5,183,467	6,878,710	4,562,348	4,200,000	6,808,901
Number of volunteers and service participants caring for the land and serving people.	98,284	96,575	107,797	103,159	--	--[6]

While we currently measure a number of important indicators that help us in assessing our progress towards the 2020 Goal, we are working to develop methods to better assess meaningful connections to ensure that citizens are being engaged in ways that will be sustainable into the future. We have just updated the national database we use to record and track educational activities. This updated version of the NatureWatch, Interpretation, and Conservation Education

[6] Volunteer numbers will be updated by the program in January 2015.

(NICE) database provides easier reporting with a straight-forward, user-friendly interface, much improved date management through many different input fields, and expanded reporting possibilities as a result of the use of detailed drop down menus and specific reporting. This work, and other investments in obtaining more data about people using National Forest System (NFS) lands, and participating in environmental education programs supported by the Forest Service, will help us better articulate our progress towards this 2020 Goal.

Supporting Performance Indicators

We have long offered high-quality interpretative experiences on NFS lands, through everything from informative displays at trailhead lodges to ranger-led hikes to community service days. We know from the work of the Federal Interagency Council on Recreation that over 160 million visitors recreated on NFS lands, contributing $11 billion and 194,000 jobs to local economies in FY 2012.

We also have one of the longest-running and most recognizable public service campaigns in Smokey Bear. His messages about campfire safety and forest fires are recognized and remembered by generations of children and adults around the world. We have also long been in urban classrooms with Woodsy Owl's famous "give a hoot, don't pollute and "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land" messages. Since 2009, we have partnered with The Ad Council on the *Discover the Forest* campaign to reach today's youth with new social media tools and popular cultural characters like Shrek and the Lorax.

Recognition of the website "DiscoverTheForest.org" is 13 percent, significantly higher than the benchmark level of three percent in 2011. One-quarter of respondents (26 percent) recognize the "Unplug" outdoor ads, significantly increasing from 2013 (19 percent). The Facebook page has 114,000 likes, Twitter has 8,420 followers, Instagram has 260 followers, and YouTube has had 70,000 views. In FY 2014, we also engaged youth in employment opportunities on the National Forests and Grasslands in higher numbers than anticipated, exceeding our 2013 engagement numbers by 30 percent.

The Forest Service's system of trails is vital for connecting people with each other, their community, their heritage, and their public lands. Investment in trails creates safe, sustainable public access to NFS land. We rely heavily on volunteers to help carry out a sustainable recreation and trails program. Nearly 40 percent of the trails program accomplishments result directly from work completed with public-private partnerships. In FY 2014, we began to develop the "Chief's Strategy for Trails" as a follow-up to the 2013 GAO Trails Maintenance Report. We have developed a baseline assessment and tool to track how we are narrowing the gap for trails maintenance, and to help us identify trail maintenance accomplishments. We are also beginning to incorporate trails information into the new Interactive Visitor Use Map. This new map will provide visitors with information on the wide variety of recreational opportunities available on NFS lands.

The 21st Century Service Corp (21CSC) partnership provides an enormous return on investment, allowing us to address critical conservation restoration needs and simultaneously have a deep and lasting impact on the people who participate, thereby building the next generation of natural resource professionals. In FY 2014, we exceeded our 2013 engagement numbers by 30 percent,

achieved a 30 percent increase in Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) participation to 1,400 youth, and orchestrated growth in the 21CSC organization, recognizing and approving 152 partner organizations, exceeding our own USDA goal.

In FY 2014, we also implemented several projects in support of goals to expand and support accessible recreation opportunities and information for the public. This included an updated Forest Service accessibility guidebook for outfitters and guides, guidelines to support more inclusive recreation opportunities, and providing online and in-person accessibility training to more than 2,300 Forest Service employees and partners.

Strategic Objective Progress Update

We have undertaken a focused effort in recent years to better connect citizens, especially youth, to the national forests and grasslands, and their natural heritage nationwide. The President's *America's Great Outdoors* (AGO) Initiative, launched in 2011, solidified an action plan to achieve lasting conservation of the outdoor spaces that power our nation's economy, shape our culture, and build our outdoor traditions. Three Forest Service-supported programs are among the total of eight programs selected as AGO Model Educational Programs: A Forest for Every Classroom, Children and Nature, and Hands on the Land. These programs exemplify best practices to inspire new and existing partners to increase young people's access to the outdoors through replicable and scalable program models. The public and private sectors are able to maximize their resources when they build on each other's strengths to achieve shared goals—here, to reconnect Americans to their natural and cultural heritage.

We are also working with our Federal partners to help empower local communities to accomplish their conservation and recreation priorities, and strengthen a 21st century conservation ethic that builds on local ideas and solutions for environmental stewardship, and connects Americans to our historic, cultural, and natural heritage. We have expanded our commitment to creating green jobs, including through expanding our participation in the Youth Conservation Corps and 21st Century Conservation Corps, as part of this Initiative. We are more focused than ever on both our urban and rural youth, especially through our *Discover the Forest* program to promote outdoor experiences and recreation among youth.

However, in this increasingly urbanized and technology-focused world, we need to work harder to connect citizens to the outdoors and meet them where they are—in communities, in schools, and through new media. Forest Service outreach programs that constructively use new media, including *Discover the Forest*, a Public Service Announcement (PSA) campaign in partnership with the Ad Council based on TV, radio, and outdoor messaging and with a strong social media component on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr, that encourages parents and families to go outdoors and discover the forest. This program also includes a Spanish language component, a climate change education program, Climate Change LIVE—completely based on internet outreach, and a series of special outreach PSAs in Spanish to reach America's Latino population with information and resources about the natural environment. These are 21st Century challenges, and this strategic performance goal and performance goal indicator will help us ensure we are most effectively developing tools to meet that challenge to ensure the Nation's forests and grasslands are sustained into the future.

Strategic Goal: Apply Knowledge Globally

Through intellectual inquiry and knowledge transfer, the Forest Service provides land managers and others with better information, applications, and tools for improved resource management and decision making. We are constantly improving our knowledge of complex environmental processes, biological and physical conditions, resource uses, human and social dimensions, the economic value of the resources we manage, and the interconnections among all these elements. Today, knowledge from so many disciplines and issues is interconnected, both within and outside the Forest Service. To benefit from global knowledge, we continually interact—and share what we know—with partners worldwide. The transfer of knowledge, technology, and applications will help the global natural resource community make better management decisions in our collective effort to care for all lands and deliver sustainable benefits to people.

Strategic Objective G: Advance knowledge

Strategic Performance Goal: By 2020, increase the external use of Forest Service-based knowledge products by 5 percent from FY 2014 levels.

Overview

The Forest Service provides land managers and others with information, applications, and tools for improved resource management and decision-making. Scientific research helps advance knowledge about complex environmental processes, biological and physical conditions, resource uses, human and social dimension, the economic value of natural resources, and the interconnections among these elements. From natural resource management to long-term strategic policy development, all of our efforts to sustain forest and grasslands now and into the future depend on new knowledge, information, and applications.

Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	**FY 2010**	**FY 2011**	**FY 2012**	**FY 2013**	**FY 2014**	
					Target	**Actual**
FIA – percent of States with FIA data available	94%	96%	92%	96%	96%	98%

The Forest Indicator and Analysis (FIA) indicator measures the thoroughness with which the Nation's resources are quantified. The FIA program inventories the status and trends in tree species, size, and health; forest area and location; tree growth, mortality, and removal by harvest; wood production and utilization; and forest land ownership. The FIA assessments extend to the trust territories and Puerto Rico and include reports on changes in carbon budgets and forest health.

Supporting Performance Indicators

In order for external partners and organizations to confidently use Forest Service-based knowledge products, the agency must produce consistently high-quality products. Refereed publications, including both formally refereed and informally refereed publications are a measure of the publications that have been published after undergoing either a formal or informal peer

review to ensure quality and relevance, and are supporting performance indicators. During FY 2014, Forest Service research scientists' published 2,083 documents that passed the peer review evaluation for quality and relevance.

Wildland fire and fuels research provides the knowledge and tools needed to help reduce the negative impacts—and enhance the beneficial effects of—fire and fuels on society and the environment, while protecting lives and property. The fire science indices measure the rate at which Forest Service scientists publish peer reviewed products on fire science, and serve as an index of the progress toward advancing knowledge in fire science.

Fire and aviation management is an integral partner with the wildland fire and fuels Research and Development program, and actively supports alignment of research, development, and application strategies and products with national outcomes focused on resilient landscapes, human communities, and safe and effective wildfire response. Examples include development of new safety zone guidelines for firefighters, implementing regional risk assessments in the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, and ensuring science-based wildland fire management through two research, development, and application centers and the National Center for Decision Support. Results of this partnership are included in the 2014 Wildland Fire Management Annual Report.

Strategic Objective Progress Update

National, State, and local policy makers, universities, businesses, Tribal governments, national forests and grasslands, other natural resource agencies, interest groups, and many others depend on models, information and data for timely, scientific credible assessments about U.S. forests. The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program is an important component of the Forest Service, and it has been the Nation's forest census since 1930. This program collects, analyzes, and reports on the status and trends of America's forests, such as how much forest exists, where it exists, who owns it, and how it is changing. There are many benefits derived from FIA information, including supporting planning and ecosystem management practices, monitoring forest health, providing the basis for decision-making activities undertaken by public and private enterprises, and anticipating climate change impacts to forests. Forest Service management continues to support the creation of better tools for making the FIA data easier to access, and to help the public get what they need from the databases. For example, the Forest Service created an online tool called "EVALIDator" that summarizes inventory data on the FIA website, and is accessible to the public. In FY 2014, the number of states that had current and accessible FIA data exceeded the target by one State.

Strategic Performance Goal: By 2020, refresh and modernize 50 percent of enabling IT infrastructure, including network, storage, end user computing, and radio, based on 2014 baseline.

Overview

The Forest Service enables IT infrastructure by providing all of the necessary tools to support Forest Service business. This includes the Wide Area Network that enables all FS offices to communicate via email and instant communication. This Wide Area Network provides for

connectivity to the internet and allows for communication with the public and cooperators. Other parts of the infrastructure include managing the largest non-Department of Defense, government-wide radio backbone which is crucial to field-going personnel for communication and safe operations. Additional infrastructure supporting Forest Service operations are end user computing devices. The Forest Service has an inventory of 40,000 PCs that range from low end laptops to tablets to high end computers supporting scientists and GIS applications. By providing the connectivity and the tools, we advance knowledge in the Forest Service and the public by enabling the communication necessary to share data and ideas, and go into the field and research the necessary sciences to maintain our forests.

The refreshing/modernization of the infrastructure allows the Forest Service to effectively share ideas around the world on how to protect the natural resources in our forests. Additionally, it allows the Forest Service to enhance its capabilities as it communicates with the public and improves on how we allow for change. The Forest Service is a key player in the study of global warming and has a vital role in protecting the nation's watersheds. If the infrastructure is not modernized and kept up with the changing world the Forest Service could lose the ability to be a key innovator and collaborator in solving problems related to maintaining forests. Gathering data, protecting the forests, and communicating and sharing ideas are a key cornerstone of the Forest Service. A failing infrastructure will endanger our staffs and forest visitors, and hamper our ability to solve not only local issues but worldwide issues.

Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	**FY 2010**	**FY 2011**	**FY 2012**	**FY 2013**	**FY 2014**	
					Target	**Baseline**
Computers	--	--	--	--	--	38,000
Network Routers/Switches	--	--	--	--	--	4279
Radio Handhelds	--	--	--	--	--	38,000

Strategic Objective Progress Update

The Chief Information Officer (CIO) has established several programs to support the enabling of the infrastructure. We have dedicated staffs to support the radio, network, and end user computing programs; reduced the number of assets across the Forest Service to build a rightsized inventory to ensure the funds available are maximized; established a mobile computing group to evaluate new technologies at a lower cost and to improve our ability to capture and share data; and, established teams to evaluate funding alternatives to allow for growth of the infrastructure and ensure we are implementing technology that enhances the Forest Service ability to meet its mission.

Strategic Objective H: Transfer technology and applications

Strategic Performance Goal: By 2020, 90 percent of all prioritized Forest Service datasets are externally available to the public as downloadable files, map services, applications, or APIs.

Overview

The Forest Service has made significant strides addressing the 'transferring technology' objective by making datasets available as part of its commitment to OMB's Open Data Policy (M-13-13). CIO will work with the Deputy Area Resource Information Managers (RIMs), business area managers, and IM governance groups to inventory datasets managed by all Forest Service program areas, and to prioritize the datasets most useful to other organizations and the public. The appropriate formats for distribution: data download, map services, Application Program Interfaces, or applications, will be identified for each dataset. As we mature, we plan to make more customer-facing applications (e.g. mobile apps) and APIs available.

Key Performance Indicators

The key performance indicators for this goal are the number of datasets available in each format and the number registered with Data.Gov, increasing the ability of interested organizations to find the datasets.

Indicator	**FY 2010**	**FY 2011**	**FY 2012**	**FY 2013**	**FY 2014**	
					Target	**Baseline**
Datasets Publically Available	--	--	--	--	--	112
Datasets Registered with Data.Gov	--	--	--	--	--	0
Map Services Publically Available	--	--	--	--	--	64
Map Services Registered with Data.Gov	--	--	--	--	--	58
API Publically Available	--	--	--	--	--	64
API Registered with Data.Gov	--	--	--	--	--	0
Applications Publically Available	--	--	--	--	--	1
Applications Registered with Data.Gov	--	--	--	--	--	1

Strategic Objective Progress Update

The Forest Service CIO will continue to maintain the Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW) as a repository for datasets; maintain map and web servers to publish map services and other APIs; and maintain an external web site for hosting datasets being made available to the public as downloadable files. This infrastructure will be evaluated and priorities developed for strengthening it as demands increase and our service delivery matures. Currently, we have a multitude of sites from which FS data are disseminated, but have no agency-wide view or summary, nor information on the data quality of most sites. Work beginning in FY 2015 will identify these multiple sources and provide needed IM governance. The Forest Service will also address a number of management challenges including: 1) having sufficient resources to collect, edit, and QC the data; and 2) having sufficient support resources for governance and dissemination.

Strategic Objective I: Exchange natural resource expertise

Strategic Performance Goal: Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center students graduate with job placements at or above the Department of Labor national average.

Overview

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) contracts with the Forest Service to operate 28 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers (JCCCC). These centers span 22 national forests and grasslands in 18 States, with a capacity to educate and train over 6,000 enrollees. The DOL provides oversight and funding to the Job Corps Program, which is a free federal career technical training and education program for income-eligible young adults age 16 through 24. The goal of Job Corps is to teach job and social skills to disadvantaged young adults to help them obtain education and training, find good-paying jobs, and become independent. The program includes housing, food, basic health care, and living allowances. In addition, students are provided transition counseling, job search assistance and referrals, and follow-up services after they graduate. The maximum duration in the Job Corps program is two years, averaging eight to twelve months.

The Forest Service has operated JCCCCs since 1964. The JCCCC have an entwined history related to conservation and serving rural America. Integrated with the Forest Service, Job Corps advances the legacy of public land conservation, creates opportunities to connect youth with nature, and provides training and employment opportunities that support economic development for individuals and local communities. The JCCCCs have a rich history of employment training that supports Forest Service needs, including wildland firefighting and hazardous fuels reduction, watershed protection, recreation, forestry, and facilities maintenance. Today, JCCCCs are continuing the tradition of protecting Americans' natural heritage, and providing programs of work-based learning to conserve, develop, manage, and enhance public lands.

Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	**FY 2010**	**FY 2011**	**FY 2012**	**FY 2013**	**FY 2014**	
					Target	**Actual**
JCCCC Percent Placement Rate	--	81%	82%	82%	90%	87%

Supporting Performance Indicators

The JCCCC students volunteer their time as part of their training programs, thereby giving students the opportunity to exchange and apply what they are learning in the classroom. In FY 2014, over 1,600 JCCCC students volunteered on community or public lands projects.

The JCCCC students also contribute to National wildfire suppression efforts by providing camp crews and Type II fire crews, composed of students who have earned certification as wildland firefighters. As of May 2014, 846 Job Corps students were certified, 486 students had been deployed on fire crews, and 360 students had been deployed on camp crews. The Schenck Job Corps Advanced Fire program maintains a standing initial attack (IA) crew. The education and skills this cadre develops in their Job Corps program is supplemented and exchanged with their

experience in wildland firefighting, a discipline that relies on the exchange of natural resource expertise across multiple agencies and jurisdictions.

Aside from placing graduates in land management agencies, Job Corps supported the exchange of natural resource expertise through the 2,400 volunteer students who participated and contributed to public lands projects and fire incidents.

Strategic Objective Progress Update

One of the main JCCCC goals in FY 2014 was that students would graduate with job placements at—or above—the DOL national average. In order to achieve this going forward, we intend to use the Public Lands Corps (PLC) and Pathways authorities to increase the placement rates of Job Corps graduates within the USDA or the Interior. By placing Forest Service Job Corps graduates in land management agencies within DOI, the agency is fostering cross-Department knowledge and experience in natural resource management. As part of the process to increase the job placement rates, we have identified—and are implementing—a priority hiring emphasis in the disciplines of fire, recreation management, wilderness management, and engineering. Consequently, use of these programs will provide increased placement for students in Federal land management agencies, who will be well-poised to exchange their knowledge and experience in natural resource management across Departments and agencies.

Strategic Performance Goal: The Forest Service effectively uses agency skills and capabilities for the benefit of our U.S. and international partners and collaborators.

Overview

The Forest Service has developed expertise in many disciplines that support natural resource management, including research and technology, the treatment of invasive species, vehicle safety, and road construction. While these skills greatly contribute to the agency's mission, it is also necessary for the Forest Service—being a collaborative partner organization—to share them with other organizations which can benefit from our knowledge. Below are several highlights for FY 2014 from the agency's International Programs office and the two Technology and Development (T&D) centers.

Key Performance Indicators

Key performance measures will be developed beginning in FY 2015. Until those are developed, the narrative will focus on supporting performance indicators that highlight important programmatic activities that benefit our partners and collaborators.

Supporting Performance Indicators

The Forest Service works to protect the U.S. economy from the damage that invasive species inflict on our forests. We have facilitated partnerships to identify and use biological control agents for invasive forest pests, which are more effective and economical than traditional methods. One partnership addresses one of the most destructive invasive forest pests, the emerald ash borer (EAB). The work focuses on researching why the borer is so resilient and pervasive so that land managers can predict and prevent potential future outbreaks by related

wood boring beetles. The agency has been working to find natural enemies of EAB in its native range. Two locations with different forest types were selected in China, and specimens of key natural enemies, primarily egg and larval parasitoids, were collected and evaluated for their potential use in biological control programs. The work resulted in breakthroughs from Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists who found three natural enemies of the EAB.

The Forest Service produced a DVD to help train agency employees how to avoid vehicle collisions with wildlife, such as deer. The DVD explains how a deer's vision affects how it reacts to an approaching vehicle, the best actions to take to reduce the risk of a vehicle collision with a deer, and actions to take if a collision with a deer is imminent. Wildlife-vehicle collisions are a serious threat to Forest Service employees, there is a human fatality once in every 3,000 wildlife-vehicle collisions. This DVD has been awarded a TELLY award in both Wildlife and Safety categories. TELLY awards are a national competition for local, regional, and cable TV video production. The agency distributed this DVD to all Forest Service units, other federal land management agencies, and State agencies. Just this year, schools and conservation organizations have requested hundreds of copies of the DVD.

The Forest Service published a report about reclaimed materials and their applications in road construction—specifically providing information on how to use crushed concrete and recycled asphalt for road construction and maintenance. Federal land management agencies manage hundreds of thousands of miles of low-volume roads. Using recycled crushed concrete and asphalt is cost-efficient and improves sustainability. This project developed an easy-to-use toolbox that provides road managers with methods to use these recycled materials to improve the durability of low-volume roads.

In addition to distributing copies of this report through the Federal land management agencies, the Forest Service distributed copies to every State Transportation Department's technology transfer office so they can make it available to county road agencies. Counties also manage hundreds of thousands of miles of low-volume roads that have similar needs for cost effective road construction and maintenance techniques.

Strategic Objective Progress Update

The Forest Service will continue to work internally and with external partners to share knowledge, technology, and tools across jurisdictional and cultural boundaries. Through collaboration and effective communication, land managers will help make forests and grasslands become more resilient to a changing climate, discover more effective tools for natural resource stewardship, manage projects across broad landscapes, and better collaborate with the public. By linking the skills of our field-based staff and policy experts with partners across the Nation and globally, we will address the most critical land and resource management issues and concerns. By continuing to invest in programs that facilitate the exchange of natural resource expertise, the agency not only provides needed expertise and knowledge to other organizations, but also reinforces the model of collaborative management of natural resources.

Management Goal: Excel as a High-Performing Agency

In order to fulfill the agency's motto of "Caring for the Land and Serving People," management is committed to excelling as a high performing organization that promotes an inclusive culture, and makes attracting and retaining a top workforce one of its priorities. Moreover, we want to create a culture of inclusion that awakens and strengthens all people's connection to the land. The FY 2015 – FY 2020 Strategic Plan contains a "Management Goal" that lays out the agency's vision for fostering a diverse, inclusive, and engaged workforce. While we are still determining the best performance measures to evaluate success, the discussion below summarizes where we are headed. To transform our organizational culture, we are focusing on seven critical areas: leadership development, employee development, talent management, recruitment and retention, customer focus, community outreach, and process improvement. An agency culture that fosters diversity and encourages new perspectives will strengthen our ability to meet public expectations. The best teams are built from unique, smart, and motivated individuals who work together. By joining together people with diverse perspectives, the Forest Service will find new solutions to complex management challenges, and make better natural resource decisions.

Improving our retention rate over the next four to five years is one way we will measure the effectiveness of our operations. Providing information and technology solutions that are compliant with 508 accessibility laws is vital to connecting with the people we serve and our employees. The agency is currently working to improve the work environment, and focusing leadership efforts on the following: 1) translating the results of the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey into actionable items that will address employee concerns, improving leadership communication and increasing engagement with employees; 2) creating and fostering skills in leaders, supervisors and managers to address work environment issues; and 3) developing leadership competencies and assessing the needs of leaders. Recognizing that we have a unique opportunity at this time to continue building on being an agency of choice for present and future generations, field leaders are engaging employees at all levels of the agency in conversations to foster a greater connection. Our long range goal is to ensure Forest Service employees and the public are valued and respected for their diverse talents, ideas, backgrounds, and abilities.

Optimize Organizational Capacity – Crosscutting Responsibilities

The Forest Service's ability to fulfill our mission depends on having an optimal organizational capacity. Accordingly, we are committed to maintaining an effective and efficient business foundation. This section will address crosscutting responsibilities in the agency and how we will measure effectiveness going forward. Our outcome is to provide an effective and efficient business foundation for the agency that helps us to achieve our mission.

The Forest Service will continue to strive for excellence in its business management practices, and seek to optimize organizational capacity. The agency provides a critical business infrastructure that maintains efficient, consistent, and continuous operations of all agency business programs, functions and processes. Together these functions ensure the agency fulfills its land stewardship mission and supports service delivery to citizens and employees. We will seek to improve our customer satisfaction ratings from our internal and external customers by responding to customer surveys and improving on our business functions using best practices identified throughout the Forest Service and the Federal government.

Safety is a core value in the Forest Service, which is manifested in both personal and physical security practices. In fiscal year 2014, the agency successfully implemented a new response to accident investigations, which shifts from blame in investigations to collective learning, and developed a communications module to serve as template to support investigations. The agency sustained progress to reduce the number of annual fatalities—going from averaging more than eight annual fatalities to three. By 2020 we will work toward the goal of reducing our reportable injuries and reducing on-duty fatalities from the 2014 10-year average baseline.

To improve operational efficiency and reduce costs, the agency will decrease its total leased space as it implements new General Services Administration standards. We will manage all of our administrative facilities for safety, accessibility, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness, while striving to reduce our environmental footprint. Having effective operations means we will also be responsive to audit findings in our information technology and information management functions. One way of gauging results will be to achieve an overall reduction in repeat audit findings over the next few years from our 2014 baseline. People are the Forest Service's most valuable asset. We will focus on effectively communicating with our own employees and with the people we serve. Moreover, we will work to keep all Americans informed about what we are doing. A sound information technology framework underpins our capacity for effective communication.

External Audits and Reviews

FY 2013 Office of Inspector General (OIG) Audits on the Forest Service

OIG Open Audits

Audit Number	Audit Title	Report Issue Date	Audit Status
08401-0003-11	Forest Service's Financial Statements for Fiscal Years 2013 and 2012	12/5/2013	Implementation of corrective actions is in progress

OIG Audits Officially Closed in FY 2014

Audit Number	Audit Title	Report Issue Date	Closure Date
08703-0004-SF	ARRA – FS Capital Improvement and Maintenance Projects – Trail Maintenance & Decommissioning	7/3/12	05/21/2014
08703-0001-AT	ARRA – FS's Use of ARRA Funds for Wildland Fire Management on Federal Lands	9/28/12	07/23/2014
08401-0002-11	FY 2012 Financial Statements	11/9/12	03/21/2014
08601-0001-21	Management of Oil and Gas Resources on NFS Land	3/12/13	03/20/2014

Summary of OIG Audits

FY 2014 Beginning Inventory	7
Audits added	1
Subtotal	8
Audits closed	4
FY 2014 Ending Inventory	4

FY 2014 Government Accounting Office Audits

Audit Report Number	Audit Title	Report Issue Date	Audit Status
GAO-14-140	Coal Leasing: BLM Could Enhance Appraisal Process, More Explicitly Consider Coal Exports, and Provide More Public Information	2/4/14	No FS specified recommendations. No further actions required.
GAO-14-239	Capital Financing: Alternative Approaches to Budgeting for Federal Real Property	3/12/14	No FS specified recommendations. No further actions required.
GAO-14-458T	USDA Litigation: Limited Data Available on USDA Attorney Fee Claims and Payments	3/26/14	No recommendations. No further actions required.
GAO-14-369	National Environmental Policy Act: Little Information Exists on NEPA Analyses	4/15/14	No recommendations. No further actions required.
GAO-14-370	National Environmental Policy Act: Little Information Exists on NEPA Analyses	4/15/14	No recommendations. No further actions required.
GAO-14-238	Oil and Gas: Updated Guidance, Increased Coordination, and Comprehensive Data Could Improve BLM's Management and Oversight	5/5/14	No FS specified recommendations. No further actions required.
GAO-14-430	Freshwater: Supply Concerns Continue, and Uncertainties Complicate Planning	5/20/14	No FS specified recommendations. No further actions required.

Management Challenges

The OIG's annual report to the Secretary on the most serious management challenges that USDA and its agencies face was issued on August 15, 2014. To identify these challenges, the OIG examined issued audit reports with recommendations where corrective actions have yet to be taken, assessed ongoing investigative and audit work to ascertain significant vulnerabilities, and analyzed new programs and activities that could pose significant challenges due to their range and complexity. This year, the report did not include any challenges specific to the Forest Service.

FY 2015 Actions Planned: Not applicable.

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Appropriations Language Changes

Title III
Related Agencies
Department of Agriculture

Appropriations Language uses the FY 2015 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act as the baseline. Material proposed for deletion is enclosed in brackets; new language is italic.

FOREST SERVICE

FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

For necessary expenses of forest and rangeland research as authorized by law, [$296,000,000] *$291,982,000*, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, [$70,000,000] *$83,000,000* is for the forest inventory and analysis program.

Note: No language changes are proposed.

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

For necessary expenses of cooperating with and providing technical and financial assistance to States, territories, possessions, and others, and for forest health management, including treatments of pests, pathogens, and invasive or noxious plants and for restoring and rehabilitating forests damaged by pests or invasive plants, cooperative forestry, and education and land conservation activities and conducting an international program as authorized, [$232,653,000] *$236,611,000*, to remain available until expended, as authorized by law; of which [$53,000,000] *$61,000,000* is to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Note: No language changes are proposed.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM *(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)*

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, for management, protection, improvement, and utilization of the National Forest System,
1. [$1,494,330,000] *$1,648,314,000*, to remain available until expended, *and in addition, $15,000,000 for the processing of grazing permits and leases, to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Forest Service and credited to this appropriation, which shall be derived by a $2.50 per head month administrative fee, as provided for in this Act*: Provided, That of the funds provided, [$40,000,000] *$60,000,000* shall be deposited in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund for ecological
2. restoration treatments as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 7303(f): [*Provided further*, That of the
3. funds provided, $339,130,000 shall be for forest products: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, up to $81,941,000 is for the Integrated Resource Restoration pilot

program for Region 1, Region 3 and Region 4: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided for forest products, up to $65,560,000 may be transferred to support the
4. Integrated Resource Restoration pilot program in the preceding proviso:] *Provided further, That funds provided under this heading shall be available for urgently needed road decommissioning, road and trail repair and maintenance and associated activities, and removal of fish passage barriers, especially in areas where Forest Service roads may be contributing to water quality problems in streams and water bodies that support threatened, endangered or sensitive species or community water sources, as authorized by Public Law 88-567, as amended (16 U.S.C. 532-538) and Public Law 85-767, as amended (23 U.S.C. 101 and 205): Provided further, That funds provided herein shall be available for the decommissioning of roads that are no longer needed, including unauthorized*
5. *roads that are not part of the transportation system. Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer to the Secretary of the Interior any unobligated funds appropriated [in this fiscal year or] in a previous fiscal year to the Secretary of Agriculture for operation of the Valles Caldera National Preserve.

Note 1: Proposes a new grazing fee program in FY 2015.
Note 2: Removes the provision for forest products as this is now proposed for management within the Integrated Resource Restoration program.
Note 3: Removes provision regarding the Integrated Resource Restoration pilot program as this is proposed for full agency implementation in FY 2016.
Note 4: Incorporates authorization for the Legacy Roads & Trails and decommissioning of roads into the National Forest System with the Integrated Resource Restoration program.
Note 5: No funds requested in this fiscal year for Valles Caldera.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE [(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)]

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, [$360,374,000] $*341,924,000*, to remain available until expended, for construction, capital improvement, maintenance and acquisition of buildings and other facilities and infrastructure; and for
1. construction, reconstruction, [decommissioning of roads that are no longer needed, including unauthorized roads that are not part of the transportation system,] and maintenance of forest roads and trails by the Forest Service as authorized by 16 U.S.C.
2. 532–538 and 23 U.S.C. 101 and 205: *Provided*, That [$40,000,000 shall be designated for urgently needed road decommissioning, road and trail repair and maintenance and associated activities, and removal of fish passage barriers, especially in areas where Forest Service roads may be contributing to water quality problems in streams and water bodies which support threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or community water sources: *Provided further*, That]funds becoming available in fiscal year [2015]*2016* under the Act of March 4, 1913 (16 U.S.C.501) shall be transferred to the General Fund of the Treasury and shall not be available for transfer or obligation for any other purpose unless the funds
3. are appropriated[: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided for decommissioning of roads, up to $14,743,000 may be transferred to the ‘‘National Forest System’ to support the Integrated Resource Restoration pilot program].

Note 1: Removes provision because all funds for road decommissioning are proposed under the National Forest System appropriation.
Note 2: Removes provision because all funds for urgently needed road decommissioning, road and trail repair and maintenance and associated activities, and removal of fish passage barriers under the Legacy Roads & Trials program are proposed under the National Forest System appropriation.
Note 3: Proposed deletion implements budget structure change to the Integrated Resource Restoration program under the National Forest System.

LAND ACQUISITION

1. For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, (16 U.S.C. 460l–4 et seq.), including administrative expenses, and for acquisition of land or waters, or interest therein, in accordance with statutory authority applicable to the Forest Service, [$47,500,000]*$63,000,000* to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended.

Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR NATIONAL FORESTS SPECIAL ACTS

1. For acquisition of lands within the exterior boundaries of the Cache, Uinta, and Wasatch National Forests, Utah; the Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada; and the Angeles, San Bernardino, Sequoia, and Cleveland National Forests, California, as authorized by law, [$950,000] *$1,950,000*, to be derived from forest receipts.

Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS TO COMPLETE LAND EXCHANGES

1. For acquisition of lands, such sums, to be derived from funds deposited by State, county, or municipal governments, public school districts, or other public school authorities, and for authorized expenditures from funds deposited by non-Federal parties pursuant to Land Sale and Exchange Acts, pursuant to the Act of December 4, 1967, (16 U.S.C. 484a), to remain available until expended (16 U.S.C. 460l–516–617a, 555a; Public Law 96-586; Public Law 76-589, 76-591; and Public Law 78-310).

Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

RANGE BETTERMENT FUND

1. For necessary expenses of range rehabilitation, protection, and improvement, 50 percent of all moneys received during the prior fiscal year, as fees for grazing domestic livestock on lands in National Forests in the 16 Western States, pursuant to section 401(b)(1) of Public Law 94-579, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed 6 percent shall be available for administrative expenses associated with on-the-ground range

rehabilitation, protection, and improvements.

Note 1: No language changes are proposed

GIFTS, DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS FOR FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

1. For expenses authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1643(b), $45,000, to remain available until expended, to be derived from the fund established pursuant to the above Act.

Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL FOREST LANDS FOR SUBSISTENCE USES

1. For necessary expenses of the Forest Service to manage Federal lands in Alaska for subsistence uses under title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 96-487), [$2,500,000] *$2,441,000,* to remain available until expended.

Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for forest fire presuppression activities on National Forest System lands, for emergency fire suppression on or adjacent to such lands or other lands under fire protection agreement, hazardous fuels management on or adjacent to such lands or other lands under fire protection agreement, hazardous fuels management on or adjacent to such lands, emergency rehabilitation of burned-over National Forest System lands and water, and for State and volunteer fire assistance, [$2,333,298,000,] *$2,354,029,000,* to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That such funds including unobligated balances under this heading, are available for repayment of advances from other appropriations accounts previously transferred for such purposes: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available to reimburse State and other cooperating entities for services provided in response to wildfire and other emergencies or disasters to the extent such reimbursements by the Forest Service for non-fire emergencies are fully repaid by the responsible emergency management agency: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, [$6,914,000]*$6,917,000* of funds appropriated under this appropriation shall be available for the Forest Service in support of fire science research authorized by the Joint Fire Science Program, including all Forest Service authorities for the use of funds, such as contracts, grants, research joint venture agreements, and cooperative agreements: *Provided further*, That all authorities for the use of funds, including the use of contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements, available to execute the Forest and Rangeland Research appropriation, are also available in the utilization of these funds for Fire Science Research: *Provided further*, That funds provided shall be available for emergency rehabilitation and restoration, hazardous fuels management activities, support to Federal emergency response, and wildfire suppression activities of the Forest Service: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, [$361,749,000]*$359,126,000* is for hazardous fuels management activities, [$19,795,000]*$19,820,000* is for research

activities and to make competitive research grants pursuant to the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act, (16 U.S.C. 1641 et seq.), [$78,000,000]*$78,012,000* is for State fire assistance, and $13,000,000 is for volunteer fire assistance under section
1. 10 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2106): *Provided further, That of the funds provided, $794,534,000 is an amount for wildfire suppression operations to meet the terms of section 251(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, and $854,578,000 is additional new budget authority for wildfire suppression operations specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2) of such Act*: *Provided further*, That amounts in this paragraph may be transferred to the ''National Forest System'', and ''Forest and Rangeland Research'' accounts to fund forest and rangeland research, the Joint Fire Science Program, vegetation and watershed management, heritage site rehabilitation, and wildlife and fish habitat management and
2. restoration: [*Provided further*, That, of the funds provided, $65,000,000 shall be available for the purpose of acquiring aircraft for the next-generation airtanker fleet to enhance firefighting mobility, effectiveness, efficiency, and safety, and such aircraft shall be suitable for contractor operation over the terrain and forested-ecosystems characteristic of National Forest System lands, as determined by the Chief of the Forest Service:] *Provided further*, That the costs of implementing any cooperative agreement between the Federal Government and any non-Federal entity may be shared, as mutually agreed on by the
3. affected parties: *Provided further*, That [up to $15,000,000 of the] funds provided herein may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into procurement contracts or cooperative agreements or to issue grants for hazardous fuels management activities and for training or monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels management activities on
4. Federal land or on non-Federal land if the Secretary determines such activities [implement a community wildfire protection plan (or equivalent) and] benefit resources on Federal land: *Provided further*, That funds made available to implement the Community Forest Restoration Act, Public Law 106–393, title VI, shall be available for use on non-Federal lands in accordance with authorities made available to the Forest Service under the ''State and Private Forestry'' appropriation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize the transfer of funds appropriated for wildland fire management, in an aggregate amount not to exceed $50,000,000, between the Departments when such transfers would facilitate and expedite wildland fire management programs and projects: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided for hazardous fuels management, not to exceed $15,000,000 may be used to make grants, using any authorities available to the Forest Service under the ''State and Private Forestry'' appropriation, for the purpose of creating incentives for increased use of biomass from National Forest System lands: *Provided further*, That funds designated for
5. wildfire suppression, [including funds transferred from the ''FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund'',] shall be assessed for cost pools on the same basis as such
6. assessments are calculated against other agency programs[: Provided further, That of the funds for hazardous fuels management, up to $28,077,000 may be transferred to the National Forest System'' to support the Integrated Resource Restoration pilot program].

Note 1: Budget cap adjustment for fire suppression proposal.
Note 2: Removes specified amount for aircraft acquisition.
Note 3: Removes ceiling for funds for hazardous fuels grants as it increases the agency's

flexibility.
Note 4: Deletes phrase to increase agency flexibility.
Note 5: Deletes reference to FLAME since no funds are requested.
Note 6: Proposed deletion implements budget structure change to the Integrated Resource Restoration program under the National Forest System.

[FLAME WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION RESERVE FUND (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)]

1. [For necessary expenses for large fire suppression operations of the Department of Agriculture and as a reserve fund for suppression and Federal emergency response activities, $303,060,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts are available only for transfer to the "Wildland Fire Management" account following a declaration by the Secretary in accordance with section 502 of the FLAME Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a).]

Note 1: No funds are requested for this program.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS FOREST SERVICE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations to the Forest Service for the current fiscal year shall be available for: (1) purchase of passenger motor vehicles; acquisition of passenger motor vehicles from excess sources, and hire of such vehicles; purchase, lease, operation, maintenance, and acquisition of aircraft to maintain the operable fleet for use in Forest Service wildland fire programs and other Forest Service programs; notwithstanding other provisions of law, existing aircraft being replaced may be sold, with proceeds derived or trade-in value used to offset the purchase price for the replacement aircraft; (2) services pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2225, and not to exceed $100,000 for employment under 5 U.S.C. 3109; (3) purchase, erection, and alteration of buildings and other public improvements (7 U.S.C. 2250); (4) acquisition of land, waters, and interests therein pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 428a; (5) for expenses pursuant to the Volunteers in the National Forest Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 558a, 558d, and 558a note); (6) the cost of uniforms as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902; and (7) for debt collection contracts in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3718(c).

Any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service may be transferred to the Wildland Fire Management appropriation for forest firefighting, emergency rehabilitation of burned-over or damaged lands or waters under its jurisdiction, and fire preparedness due to severe burning conditions upon the Secretary's notification of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that all fire suppression funds appropriated under the
1. [headings] *heading* "Wildland Fire Management" [and "FLAME Wildfire Suppression
2. Reserve Fund"] will be obligated within 30 days[: *Provided*, That all funds used pursuant to this paragraph must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation which must be requested as promptly as possible].

Note 1: Delete reference to FLAME.
Note 2: Deletes request for replenishment of funds through a supplemental appropriation.

1. Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for assistance to or through the Agency for International Development in connection with forest and rangeland research, technical information, and assistance in foreign countries, and shall be available to support forestry and related natural resource activities outside the United States and its territories and possessions, including technical assistance, education and training, and cooperation with U.S., private, and international organizations. The Forest Service, acting for the International Program, may sign direct funding agreements with foreign governments and institutions as well as other domestic agencies (including the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Department of State, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation), U.S. private sector firms, institutions and organizations to provide technical assistance and training programs overseas on forestry and rangeland management.

Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

1. Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for expenditure or transfer to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, for removal, preparation, and adoption of excess wild horses and burros from National Forest System lands, and for the performance of cadastral surveys to designate the boundaries of such lands.

Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

1. None of the funds made available to the Forest Service in this Act or any other Act with respect to any fiscal year shall be subject to transfer under the provisions of section 702(b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 2257), section 442 of Public Law 106-224 (7 U.S.C. 7772), or section 10417(b) of Public Law 107-107 (7 U.S.C. 8316(b)).

Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

1. None of the funds available to the Forest Service may be reprogrammed without the advance [approval of] *notification to* the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations in accordance with the reprogramming procedures contained in the explanatory statement of the accompanying this Act.

Note 1: Language deleted because it limits agency flexibility.

1. Not more than $82,000,000 of funds available to the Forest Service shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture and not more than $14,500,000 of funds available to the Forest Service shall be transferred to the Department of Agriculture for Department Reimbursable Programs, commonly referred to as Greenbook charges. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit or limit the use of reimbursable agreements requested by the Forest Service in order to obtain services from the Department of Agriculture's National Information Technology Center *and the Department of Agriculture's International Technology Service*. [Nothing in this paragraph shall limit Forest Service portion of implementation costs to be paid to the Department of Agriculture for International Technology Service.]

Note 1: Proposes deletion as it limits the agency to do share services arrangements.

1. Of the funds available to the Forest Service up to $5,000,000 shall be available for priority projects within the scope of the approved budget, which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps and shall be carried out under the authority of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993, Public Law 103-82, as amended by Public Lands Corps Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2005, Public Law 109-154.

Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

1. Of the funds available to the Forest Service, $4,000 is available to the Chief of the Forest Service for official reception and representation expenses.

Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

Pursuant to sections 405(b) and 410(b) of Public Law 101-593, of the funds available to the Forest Service, up to $3,000,000 may be advanced in a lump sum to the National Forest Foundation to aid conservation partnership projects in support of the Forest Service mission, without regard to when the Foundation incurs expenses, for projects on or benefitting National Forest System lands or related to Forest Service programs: *Provided*, That of the Federal funds made available to the Foundation, no more than $300,000 shall be available for administrative expenses: *Provided further*, That the Foundation shall obtain, by the end of the period of Federal financial assistance, private contributions to match on at least one-for-one basis funds made available by the Forest Service: *Provided*
1. *further*, That the Foundation may transfer Federal funds to a Federal or a non-Federal recipient for a project at the same rate that the recipient has obtained the non-Federal matching funds.

Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

1. Pursuant to section 2(b)(2) of Public Law 98-244, up to $3,000,000 of the funds available to the Forest Service may be advanced to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in a lump sum to aid cost-share conservation projects, without regard to when expenses are incurred, on or benefitting National Forest System lands or related to Forest Service programs: *Provided*, That such funds shall be matched on at least a one-for-one basis by the Foundation or its sub-recipients: *Provided further*, That the Foundation may transfer Federal funds to a Federal or non-Federal recipient for a project at the same rate that the recipient has obtained the non-Federal matching funds.

Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

1. Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for interactions with and providing technical assistance to rural communities and natural resource-based businesses for sustainable rural development purposes.

Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

1. Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for payments to counties within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, pursuant to section 14(c)(1) and (2), and section 16(a)(2) of Public Law 99-663.

Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

1. Any funds appropriated to the Forest Service may be used to meet the non-Federal share requirement in section 502(c) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056(c)(2)).

Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

1. Funds available to the Forest Service, not to exceed [$55,000,000,] *$65,000,000,* shall be assessed for the purpose of performing fire, administrative and other facilities maintenance and decommissioning. Such assessments shall occur using a square foot rate charged on the same basis the agency uses to assess programs for payment of rent, utilities, and other support services.

   Note: Extends this authority to $65 million.

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service not to exceed $500,000 may be used to reimburse the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), Department of Agriculture, for travel and related expenses incurred as a result of OGC assistance or participation requested by the Forest Service at meetings, training sessions, management reviews, land purchase negotiations and similar nonlitigation-related matters. Future budget justifications for both the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture should clearly display the sums previously transferred and the requested funding transfers.

   Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

1. An eligible individual who is employed in any project funded under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.) and administered by the Forest Service shall be considered to be a Federal employee for purposes of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

   Note 1: No language changes are proposed.

Title IV
GENERAL PROVISIONS
(Including Transfers of Funds)

[RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS]

1. [SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available for any activity or the publication or distribution of literature that in any way tends to promote public support or opposition to any legislative proposal on which Congressional action is not complete other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.]

   Note 1: Proposed for deletion as it restricts agency flexibility.

OBLIGATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

1. SEC. [402]*401*. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

Note 1: No language changes are proposed and section number changes

DISCLOSURE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

SEC. [403]*402*. The amount and basis of estimated overhead charges, deductions, reserves or holdbacks, including working capital fund and cost pool charges, from programs, projects, activities and subactivities to support government-wide, departmental, agency, or bureau administrative functions or headquarters, regional, or central operations shall be presented in annual budget justifications. [and subject to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Changes] *Advance notice*

1. *of changes* to such estimates shall be presented to the Committees on Appropriations [for approval].

Note 1: Language deleted because it limits agency flexibility and section number changes.

MINING APPLICATIONS

SEC. [404]*403*. (a) LIMITATION OF FUNDS.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to this Act shall be obligated or expended to accept or process applications for a patent for any mining or mill site claim located under the general mining laws.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Secretary of the Interior determines that, for the claim concerned (1) a patent application was filed with the Secretary on or before September 30, 1994; and (2) all requirements established under sections 2325 and 2326 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 29 and 30) for vein or lode claims, sections 2329, 2330, 2331, and 2333 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 35, 36, and 37) for placer claims, and section 2337 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 42) for mill site claims, as the case may be, were fully complied with by the applicant by that date.

1. (c) REPORT.—On [September 30, 2015,] *September 30, 2017*, the Secretary of the Interior shall file with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on actions taken by the Department under the plan submitted pursuant to section 314(c) of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–208).

(d) MINERAL EXAMINATIONS.—In order to process patent applications in a timely and responsible manner, upon the request of a patent applicant, the Secretary of the Interior shall allow the applicant to fund a qualified third-party contractor to be selected by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to conduct a mineral examination of the mining claims or mill sites contained in a patent application as set forth in subsection (b). The Bureau of Land Management shall have the sole responsibility to choose and pay the third-party contractor in accordance with the standard procedures employed by the

Bureau of Land Management in the retention of third party contractors.

Note 1: Update report deadline.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS, PRIOR YEAR LIMITATION

1. SEC. [405]*404*. [Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts appropriated to or otherwise designated in committee reports for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service by Public Laws 103–138, 103–332, 104–134, 104–208, 105–83, 105–277, 106–113, 106–291, 107–63, 108–7, 108–108, 108–447, 109–54, 109–289, division B and Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289, as amended by Public Laws 110–5 and 110–28), Public Laws 110–92, 110–116, 110–137, 110–149, 110–161, 110–329, 111–6, 111–8, 111–88, 112–10, 112–74, and 113–6 for payments for contract support costs associated with self-determination or self-governance contracts, grants, compacts, or annual funding agreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Indian Health Service as funded by such Acts, are the total amounts available for fiscal years 1994 through 2013 for such purposes, except that the Bureau of Indian Affairs, tribes and tribal organizations may use their tribal priority allocations for unmet contract support costs of ongoing contracts, grants, self-governance compacts, or annual funding agreements]. *Sections 405 and 406 of division F of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235) shall continue in effect in fiscal year 2016.*

Note 1: Not applicable to the Forest Service and section number changes.

[CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS, FISCAL YEAR 2014 LIMITATION]

1. [SEC. 406. Amounts provided under the headings "Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, Operation of Indian Programs" and "Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, Indian Health Services" in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113–76) are the only amounts available for contract support costs arising out of self-determination or self-governance contracts, grants, compacts, or annual funding agreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Indian Health Service for activities funded by the fiscal year 2014 appropriation: Provided, That such amounts provided by that Act are not available for payment of claims for contract support costs for prior years, or for repayments of payments for settlements or judgments awarding contract support costs for prior years.]

Note 1: Not applicable to the Forest Service.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS, FISCAL YEAR [2015]*2016* LIMIATION

1. SEC. [407]*405*. Amounts provided by this Act for fiscal year [2015]*2016* under the headings "Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, Indian Health Services" and "Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, Operation of Indian Programs" are the only amounts available for contract support costs arising out of self-determination or self-governance contracts, grants, compacts, or annual funding agreements for fiscal year [2015]*2016* with the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Indian Health Service: Provided, That such amounts provided by this Act are not available for payment of claims for contract support costs for prior years, or for repayments of payments for settlements or for repayments of payments for settlements or judgments awarding contract support costs for prior years.

Note 1: Changes Section number.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS

1. SEC. [408]*406*. The Secretary of Agriculture shall not be considered to be in violation of subparagraph 6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5)(A)) solely because more than 15 years have passed without revision of the plan for a unit of the National Forest System. Nothing in this section exempts the Secretary from any other requirement of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.) or any other law: *Provided,* That if the Secretary is not acting expeditiously and in good faith, within the funding available, to revise a plan for a unit of the National Forest System, this section shall be void with respect to such plan and a court of proper jurisdiction may order completion of the plan on an accelerated basis.

Note 1: Changes section number.

PROHIBITION WITHIN NATIONAL MONUMENTS

1. SEC. [409]*407*. No funds provided in this Act may be expended to conduct preleasing, leasing and related activities under either the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) or the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) within the boundaries of a National Monument established pursuant to the Act of June 8, 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) as such boundary existed on January 20, 2001, except where such activities are allowed under the Presidential proclamation establishing such monument.

Note 1: Changes Section number.

LIMITATION ON TAKINGS

1. SEC. [410]*408*. Unless otherwise provided herein, no funds appropriated in this Act for
2. the acquisition of lands or interests in lands may be expended for the filing of declarations of taking or complaints in condemnation without [the approval of] *providing prior*

notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That this provision shall not apply to funds appropriated to implement the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989, or to funds appropriated for Federal assistance to the State of Florida to acquire lands for Everglades restoration purposes.

Note 1: Changes Section number.
Note 2: Proposed language provides notification of Congress if agency using authorities.

[TIMBER SALE REQUIREMENTS]

1. [SEC. 411. No timber sale in Alaska's Region 10 shall be advertised if the indicated rate is deficit (defined as the value of the timber is not sufficient to cover all logging and stumpage costs and provide a normal profit and risk allowance under the Forest Service's appraisal process) when appraised using a residual value appraisal. The western red cedar timber from those sales which is surplus to the needs of the domestic processors in Alaska, shall be made available to domestic processors in the contiguous 48 United States at prevailing domestic prices. All additional western red cedar volume not sold to Alaska or contiguous 48 United States domestic processors may be exported to foreign markets at the election of the timber sale holder. All Alaska yellow cedar may be sold at prevailing export prices at the election of the timber sale holder.]

Note 1: Proposed for deletion as it limits agency flexibility and creates an excessive administrative burden. Current law requires residual value appraisal and domestic use of timber.

PROHBITION ON NO-BID CONTRACTS

1. SEC. [412]*409*. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act to executive branch agencies may be used to enter into any Federal contract unless such contract is entered into in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 33 of title 41, United States Code, or Chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation, unless—
(1) Federal law specifically authorizes a contract to be entered into without regard for these requirements, including formula grants for States, or federally recognized Indian tribes; or
(2) such contract is authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education and Assistance Act (Public Law 93–638, 25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) or by any other Federal laws that specifically authorize a contract within an Indian tribe as defined in section 4(e) of that Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)); or
(3) such contract was awarded prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

Note 1: Changes section number.

POSTING OF REPORTS

1. SEC. [413]*410*. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public website of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.
(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—
(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or
(2) the report contains proprietary information.
(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

Note 1: Changes section number.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANT GUIDELINES

1. SEC. [414]*411*. Of the funds provided to the National Endowment for the Arts—
(1) The Chairperson shall only award a grant to an individual if such grant is awarded to such individual for a literature fellowship, National Heritage Fellowship, or American Jazz Masters Fellowship.
(2) The Chairperson shall establish procedures to ensure that no funding provided through a grant, except a grant made to a State or local arts agency, or regional group, may be used to make a grant to any other organization or individual to conduct activity independent of the direct grant recipient. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit payments made in exchange for goods and services.
(3) No grant shall be used for seasonal support to a group, unless the application is specific to the contents of the season, including identified programs and/or projects.

Note 1: Changes section number. Not applicable to the Forest Service.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS PROGRAM PRIORITIES

1. SEC. [415]*412*. (a) In providing services or awarding financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 from funds appropriated under this Act, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts shall ensure that priority is given to providing services or awarding financial assistance for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that serve underserved populations.
(b) In this section:
(1) The term ‘‘underserved population’’ means a population of individuals, including urban minorities, who have historically been outside the purview of arts and humanities programs due to factors such as a high incidence of income below the poverty line or to geographic isolation.
(2) The term ‘‘poverty line’’ means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))) applicable to a family of the size involved.

(c) In providing services and awarding financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 with funds appropriated by this Act, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts shall ensure that priority is given to providing services or awarding financial assistance for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that will encourage public knowledge, education, understanding, and appreciation of the arts.
(d) With funds appropriated by this Act to carry out section 5 of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965—
(1) the Chairperson shall establish a grant category for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that are of national impact or availability or are able to tour several States;
(2) the Chairperson shall not make grants exceeding 15 percent, in the aggregate, of such funds to any single State, excluding grants made under the authority of paragraph (1);
(3) the Chairperson shall report to the Congress annually and by State, on grants awarded by the Chairperson in each grant category under section 5 of such Act; and
(4) the Chairperson shall encourage the use of grants to improve and support community-based music performance and education.

Note 1: Changes section number. Not applicable to the Forest Service.

[ARTS INDEMNITY LIMITATION]

1. [SEC. 416. Section 5 of the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Act (20 U.S.C. 974) is amended—
(1) in subsection (b)—
(A) by striking ‘‘$10,000,000,000’’ and inserting ‘‘$15,000,000,000’’; and
(B) by striking ‘‘$5,000,000,000’’ and inserting ‘‘$7,500,000,000’’; and
(2) in subsection (c)—
(A) by striking ‘‘$1,200,000,000’’ and inserting ‘‘$1,800,000,000’’; and
(B) by striking ‘‘$750,000,000’’ and inserting ‘‘$1,000,000,000’’.]

Note 1: Not applicable to the Forest Service.

[STATUS OF BALANCES OF APPROPRIATIONS]

1. [SEC. 417. The Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service, and the Indian Health Service shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate quarterly reports on the status of balances of appropriations including all uncommitted, committed, and unobligated funds in each program and activity.]

Note 1: Proposed for deletion as this creates an excessive administrative burden and duplicates existing financial reporting protocols.

[REPORT ON USE OF CLIMATE CHANGE FUNDS]

1. [SEC. 418. Not later than 120 days after the date on which the President's fiscal year 2016 budget request is submitted to the Congress, the President shall submit a comprehensive report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate describing in detail all Federal agency funding, domestic and international, for climate change programs, projects, and activities in fiscal years 2014 and 2015, including an accounting of funding by agency with each agency identifying climate change programs, projects, and activities and associated costs by line item as presented in the President's Budget Appendix, and including citations and linkages where practicable to each strategic plan that is driving funding within each climate change program, project, and activity listed in the report.]

   Note 1: Proposed for deletion as this creates excessive administrative reporting burden.

[PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS]

1. [SEC. 419. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this Act or any other Act may be used to promulgate or implement any regulation requiring the issuance of permits under title V of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7661 et seq.) for carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, water vapor, or methane emissions resulting from biological processes associated with livestock production.]

   Note 1: Language proposed for deletion.

[GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING RESTRICTIONS]

1. [SEC. 420. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used to implement any provision in a rule, if that provision requires mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from manure management systems.]

   Note 1: Language proposed for deletion.

[AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM GRANTS]

1. [SEC. 421. Section 7301(c)(6) of P.L. 111–11 (16 U.S.C. 469k-1(c)) is amended by striking "2014 and inserting "2021".]

   Note 1: Provision no longer needed as it was authorized by the FY 2015 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act (P.L. 113-235).

RECREATION FEE

1. SEC. [422]*413*. Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16
2. U.S.C. 6809) is amended by striking ["10 years after December 8, 2004"] *"September 30, 2016"* and inserting **[**"on September 30, 2016"**]** *" September 30, 2017*".

Note 1: Changes section number.
Note 2: Extends authority for the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809).

MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITIES

1. SEC. [423]*414*. (a) Section 8162(m)(3) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note; Public Law 106–79) is amended by striking "September 30, [2014"]*2015"* and inserting "September 30, [2015"]*2016"*.
[(b) For fiscal year 2015, the authority provided by the provisos under the heading ‘‘Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission—Capital Construction’’ in division E of Public Law 112–74 shall not be in effect.]

Note 1: Changes section number.

[USE OF AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL]

1. [SEC. 424. (a)(1) None of the funds made available by a State water pollution control revolving fund as authorized by section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12) shall be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system or treatment works unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.
(2) In this section, the term ‘‘iron and steel products’’ means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.
(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (in this section referred to as the ‘‘Administrator’’) finds that—
(1) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest;
(2) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or
(3) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.
(c) If the Administrator receives a request for a waiver under this section, the Administrator shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Administrator concerning the request, and shall allow for informal public input on the request for at least 15 days prior to making a finding based on the request. The Administrator shall make the request and accompanying information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Environmental Protection Agency.
(d) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations

under international agreements.
(e) The Administrator may retain up to 0.25 percent of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds for carrying out the provisions described in subsection (a)(1) for management and oversight of the requirements of this section.
(f) This section does not apply with respect to a project if a State agency approves the engineering plans and specifications for the project, in that agency's capacity to approve such plans and specifications prior to a project requesting bids, prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.]

Note 1: Language proposed for deletion.

[FUNDING PROHIBITION]

1. [SEC. 425. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to regulate the lead content of ammunition, ammunition components, or fishing tackle under the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) or any other law.]

Note 1: Language proposed for deletion as it limits flexibility.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING ADMINISTRATION

1. SEC. 415. Beginning on March 1, 2016, and only to the extent and in the amount provided in advance in appropriations Acts, the Secretary of Agriculture shall collect an annual administrative fee for grazing domestic livestock on National Forests in the 16 contiguous western States and on National Grasslands in the amount of $2.50 per head month for cattle and its equivalent for other livestock. The administrative fee shall be billed and collected using the process as provided in sections 222.50 through 222.52 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations. Fees collected may be used, subject to appropriation, to offset the cost of administering the livestock grazing program. Nothing in this provision shall affect the calculation, collection, distribution, or use of the grazing fee under 43 U.S.C. 1751(b), title III of the Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1010), and implementing regulations.
SEC. 416. In fiscal year 2016, beginning on March 1, 2016, and only to the extent and in the amount provided in advance in appropriations Acts, the Secretary of the Interior shall collect an administrative fee to offset the increased cost of administering the livestock grazing program on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management by charging $2.50 per Animal Unit Month, which shall be billed, collected, and subject to the penalties using the same process as the annual grazing fee in 43 C.F.R. 4130.8–1. Penalties assessed shall be deposited in the General Fund of the Treasury. Nothing in this provision affects the calculation, collection, distribution, or use of the grazing fee under 43 U.S.C. 315–315rr, 43 U.S.C. 1751(b), 43 U.S.C. 1905, Executive Order 12548, or administrative regulation.

Note 1: Establishes new administrative fee program for grazing.

CONTRACTING AUTHORITIES

1. *SEC. 417. Section 412 of Division E of Public Law 112–74 is amended by striking "fiscal year 2015," and inserting "fiscal year 2017,".*

   Note 1: Not applicable to the Forest Service.

CHESAPEAKE BAY INITIATIVE

1. *SEC. 418. Section 502(c) of the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–312; 16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended by striking "2015" and inserting "2017".*

   Note 1: Not applicable to the Forest Service.

OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LEASING REVIEW PERIOD

1. *SEC. 419. Section 11(c)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1340(c)(1))is amended in the fourth sentence by striking " thirty" and inserting "ninety ".*

   Note 1: Not applicable to the Forest Service.

STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING AMENDMENTS

1. *SEC. 420. Section 604(d) of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591) as amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–79), is further amended*

   (a) in paragraph (5), by adding at the end the following:" Notwithstanding the Materials Act of 1947 (30 U.S.C. 602(a)), the Director may enter into an agreement or contract under subsection (b). "; and (b) in paragraph (7), by striking "and the Director".

   Note 1: Not applicable to the Forest Service.

EXTENSION OF GRAZING PERMITS

1. *SEC. 421. The terms and conditions of section 325 of Public Law 108–108 (117 Stat. 1307), regarding grazing permits issued by the Forest Service on any lands not subject to administration under section 402 of Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1752), shall remain in effect for fiscal year 2016.*

   Note 1: Addresses the recent amendments to section 402 of Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1752) and the concerns that they do not apply to the issuance of grazing permits by the Forest Service on National Grasslands and on eastern National Forests.

COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAM

1. *SEC. 422. Sec. 4003(f)(6) of Public Law 111-11 (16 U.S.C. 7303(f)(6)) is amended by striking "$40,000,000" and inserting "$80,000,000" and by striking "September 30, 2019" and inserting "September 30, 2024". (Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015)*

   Note 1: Expands program to $80 million.

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Forest and Rangeland Research

Appropriation	Forest and Rangeland Research (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**	**Percent of Program Changes**
Forest and Rangeland Research					
Annual Appropriations	$292,805	$296,000	$291,982	-$4,018	-1%
Forest and Rangeland Research Total	**292,805**	**296,000**	**291,982**	**-4,018**	**-1%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	1,748	1,924	1,894	-30	-2%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**1,748**	**1,924**	**1,894**	**-30**	**-2%**
Forest and Rangeland Research					
Wildland Fire & Fuels R&D	22,160	22,160	20,524	-1,636	-7%
Invasive Species R&D	35,106	35,106	32,451	-2,655	-8%
Recreation R&D	4,423	4,423	4,111	-312	-7%
Resource Management & Use	93,382	93,382	86,249	-7,133	-8%
Water, Air & Soil R&D	35,389	35,389	32,730	-2,659	-8%
Wildlife & Fish R&D	27,128	27,128	25,076	-2,052	-8%
Inventory & Monitoring R&D	75,217	78,412	90,841	12,429	16%

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	**FY 2013 Actual**	**FY 2014 Target**	**FY 2014 Actual**	**FY 2015 Target**	**FY 2016 Target**
Forest and Rangeland Research						
Customer satisfaction index score for R&D	79	79	79	79	79	79
Number of patent applications filed (5-year running average)	8	12	8	10	0	0
Patent licences executed on a 5 year rolling average	0	0	0	2	2	2
Science Delivery Products	0	0	0	1,224	1,224	1,236
Percent of Nation with accessible FIA data	92.0%	96.0%	96.0%	98.0%	98.0%	100.0%
Quality Science Index - peer-reviewed fire science publications per scientist year on a 3-year rolling average	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.4	3.0	3.0
Output Efficiency Index - total fire science products per scientist year on a 3-year rolling average	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.5
Invasive species tools developed, delivered and used on a 5-year rolling average	169	193	168	169	173	173

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

Forest and Rangeland Research Overview

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $291,982,000 for Forest and Rangeland Research, a decrease of $4,018,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Funding supports key research associated with the Priority Research Areas and Strategic Program Areas. The Budget includes $83,000,000 for the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program.

The Administration has worked this year to analyze and develop a strategy to address catastrophic fire risk. There are three main challenges that require a comprehensive plan of

action to fully address this risk. The first challenge is to provide a stable source of funding for wildland fire suppression while minimizing destabilizing transfers from non-fire programs. The second is to increase the capacity for active management of Federal lands. Increased land management activities will have many benefits including a reduction in wildland fire risk, improved fire fighter safety, improved water quantity and quality, and enhanced carbon sequestration. The third challenge is for non-Federal land managers, including private land owners, to implement actions to reduce the risk of fire and increase the resilience of these lands to fire. We have prioritized our most important activities to maximize the Forest Service's ability to address the three main challenges with wildland fire described above.

The Forest and Rangeland Research appropriation provides funds to develop and deliver knowledge and innovative technology to reduce risk and improve the health and use of the Nation's forests and rangelands in public and private lands. Forest Service Research and Development (Forest Service R&D) conducts research across all forest ownerships and across the landscape continuum, from wilderness to urban areas. Research conducted by Forest Service R&D informs policy and land-management decisions that improve the health and use of the 193 million acres of national forests and rangelands and non-Federal forested lands including 423 million acres of private forests, 69 million acres of State forests, 18 million acres of Tribal forests, and over 130 million acres of urban and community forests.

Forest Service R&D efforts provide scientific information and new technologies to support sustainable management of the Nation's forests and rangelands. These products and services increase the basic biological, physical, and applied knowledge of the composition, structure, and function of forest, rangeland, and aquatic ecosystems. Forest Service R&D is federally mandated to provide new knowledge and technologies to foster healthy watersheds, sustainable forest products, wildlife protection, outdoor recreation opportunities, and other benefits, across all Territories and States (including both Federal and non-Federal lands) benefiting rural and urban communities. The knowledge and information gained from this research benefits the American public by improving the health and quality of life of communities by providing protection from fire, improving water and air quality, and a variety of other ecosystem services.

Forest Service R&D provides the basic and applied science that bolsters the agency's efforts to promote resilient forests and sustainable communities that can adapt to forest threats such as climate change, fire, and insect and disease infestations. Our efforts are important contributors to the USDA Interagency Climate Change Initiative and Priorities. Together with other agency deputy areas and covering multiple staffs, Forest Service R&D contributes to the eight restorative action areas. The eight areas are: science delivery and adoption, biomass use, FIA, fuels density reduction, watershed restoration, open space connectivity, stressor management, and restoration/recovery. These areas are identified as critical in helping create resilient forests that are adaptive and mitigate climate change.

Strategic Program Areas

The Forest Service R&D program structure has two integrated components: Priority Research Areas and Strategic Program Areas. To address emerging needs and agency priorities, Forest Service R&D funds the Priority Research Areas from across the Strategic Program Areas. The seven Strategic Program Areas include: Wildland Fire and Fuels, Invasive Species, Recreation,

Resource Management and Use, Water, Air, and Soil, Wildlife and Fish, and Inventory and Monitoring. The seven Priority Research Areas are: Forest Inventory and Analysis, Forest Disturbance, Watershed Management and Restoration, Bioenergy and Biobased Products, Urban Natural Resources Stewardship, Nanotechnology, and Localized Needs Research. The following section displays information for each Strategic Program Area. The Priority Research Areas are described in detail following the Priority Research Areas and Strategic Program Area Matrix Funding Table.

FireBuster: A Tool for Custom Weather Forecasts Aiding Firefighting Efforts

During fire incidents, detailed, site specific and timely weather projections are critical for firefighting efforts. Forest Service scientists developed an experimental system called **FireBuster** which can produce forecasts with a 3 mile resolution. A field forecaster can also request a more detailed (0.6 mile resolution) 72-hour forecast with only a few clicks on a Google map. The results can be retrieved through a web interface (computed in 6-hour increments). **FireBuster** provides firefighters with location-specific, detailed weather forecasts, including winds, and could help save lives and protect communities.

Wildland Fire and Fuels Research & Development (R&D)

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes $20,524,000, for wildland fire and fuels research, a decrease of $1,636,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

Wildland Fire and fuels research will focus on priority research areas to include identifying the factors affecting fire regimes, fire impacts on forested ecosystems, improving the understanding and tools related to fire emissions, smoke management, and real-time reporting. Traditional fuels characterization and modeling research will be reduced.

Past Performance

Smoke from prescribed fires significantly impacts local meteorology, can linger for long periods of time, and adversely affects human health and safety. To address this issue, Forest Service researchers developed a new modeling tool, ARPS-CANOPY, which predicts local smoke transport during low-intensity wildland fires. This modeling tool will help fire and forest managers who are planning prescribed fires to minimize the effects of adverse air-quality near fires.

Forest Service and university scientists and managers synthesized 100 years of published forestry science to help forest managers better understand the ecology of "frequent-fire" forests. This forest type, found throughout the western United States, historically experiences frequent, but low-severity surface fires. The report provides a science-based framework that assists land managers in developing management plans and practices to improve the resistance and resilience of these forests to severe disturbances (fire, insects, disease and climate change) by restoring the historical species composition, structure, and spatial patterns of their vegetation.

Forest Service researchers determined that fuel condition and past wildfire occurrence were the primary motivators for private forest landowners' risk mitigation decisions. This information

provides the basis for homeowners' activities in fire-prone forests and is being utilized in the development of a landscape simulation model for national forest planning processes.

Program Overview

The Wildland Fire and Fuels Strategic Program Area provide the knowledge and tools needed to help reduce the negative impacts and enhance the beneficial effects of fire and fuels on society and the environment. For example, research tools such as the Wildland Fire Decision Support System, provide analytical tools, analysis, and documentation on hundreds of fire management decisions annually to improve natural and community resource protection, effectively use firefighter resources, and decrease firefighter exposure and suppression costs. The benefits of this research include improved ability to manage fire-impacted natural resources to protect lives, homes, and infrastructure, while sustaining carbon storage, forest and grassland health, and ecosystems.

Optimizing Trap Designs for Emerald Ash Borer

Since the discovery of emerald ash borer (EAB) in North America in 2002, federal and state regulatory agencies have struggled to detect new infestations early and thus enable a rapid response to mitigate damage. Early detection of EAB is notoriously difficult, and an effective artificial trap for the insect is a high priority for national detection surveys and regulatory programs. Forest Service scientists and partners developed a series of traps incorporating all of the known visual and olfactory cues attractive to EAB. They then compared the efficacy of the promising trap designs and colors and found that purple double-decker traps are the most effective for early EAB detection.

Invasive Species R&D

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes $32,451,000 for invasive species research, a decrease of $2,655,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. At this level, Forest Service R&D will maintain capacity to address priority research areas, including the introduction and spread of non-native species, by reducing research on established indigenous species.

Past Performance

The performance measure for Invasive Species is the number of tools developed, delivered and used on a three-year rolling average. FY 2014 was the second year that improvement in data quality assurance was realized through the use of the Research Information Tracking System for reporting invasive species tools. In 2013 this new method of reporting tools proved effective in both a greater number and diversity of invasive species tools.

The Asian long-horned beetle is one of the most destructive non-native insects in the U.S. The beetle and other wood-boring pests cause an estimated $3.5 billion in annual damage to our forests. Forest Service scientists and

their partners discovered that female Asian long-horned beetle lure males to their locations by laying down a sex-specific pheromone trail on the surfaces of trees. These compounds are attractive to males and repel females. Four of these pheromones have been synthesized and may be useful in managing the invasive beetles in the field using a lure and kill method.

Cheatgrass is one of the most destructive plant invaders in the West costing the Nation an estimated $138 billion annually in ecosystem damages, reduced yields, lost forest products, and control efforts. The seed pathogen 'black fingers of death' is a promising tool being evaluated for biocontrol of cheatgrass. Forest Service researchers and their partners have characterized the toxins employed by this pathogen to kill target cheatgrass seeds. These researchers found that slower-growing pathogen strains produced significantly more of the powerful toxin cytochalasin B, a compound that can stop cell division and serves to slow or stop cheatgrass seed germination, providing a longer window for pathogen success. This discovery provides us with a useful selection tool for choosing the best pathogen strains for cheatgrass biocontrol.

Program Overview

The Invasive Species Strategic Program Area provides the scientific information, methods, and technology to reduce, minimize, or eliminate the introduction, establishment, spread, and impact of invasive species, and to restore ecosystems affected by invasive species. This research focuses on non-native plants, animals, and diseases whose introduction may cause adverse economic or environmental consequences. Natural resource managers use Forest Service R&D technology and knowledge to prevent, detect, and manage important invasive species and restore/rehabilitate the function and diversity of impacted ecosystems. Investment in research and technology benefits forest health by improving on the ground operations in the prevention, detection, and control of key invasive species and restoration of ecosystems impacted by multiple invasive species and other disturbances.

Recreation R&D

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes $4,111,000 for recreation research, a decrease of $312,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Priority recreation science will be maintained in support of resilient ecosystems and thriving communities.

Past Performance

Building on a two decade effort to increase tourism in Sitka, Alaska, Forest Service scientists organized a community forum consisting of residents, local government, the local Tribe, the chamber of commerce, and the tourism bureau to better understand the interplay of influence among stakeholders, and to identify differences in government-led approaches versus citizen-led approaches. Scientists reviewed planning documents and studied tourism planning processes in an effort to create a sustainable tourism environment that promotes positive interactions between locals and visitors. This case study will be useful to practitioners interested in collaborative decision making to promote recreational opportunities that benefit the community and local economy.

The Forest Service is featured in two live-action videos on Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) Kids' in the newest multi-media environmental science learning program, "PLUM LANDING." The Forest Service is a PLUM LANDING partner for education and outreach, helping connect kids and families to nature while supporting national youth engagement efforts such as "Discover the Forest," "More Kids in the Woods," and "NatureLIVE." Children, families, and educators learn about nature around the world and in their backyards through animated and live-action videos, online games and outdoor explorations, and a full curriculum linked to the Next Generation Science Standards for non-formal educators.

Forest Service scientists used a non-market valuation method to investigate recreation at the San Jacinto Wilderness in Southern California. The results suggest that recreationists are attracted to sites with recent wildfires that can be viewed up-close increasing recreational opportunities in these areas after wildfires. This information will help fire managers understand recreational use and to strategically place existing resources to reduce trail closures in areas of greatest interest and help protect high value areas.

Program Overview

The Recreation Strategic Program Area is directed at understanding and increasing knowledge about a wide variety of outdoor environments, activities, and experiences that connect people with the natural world. Social and economic changes such as population growth, increased population diversity and mobility, globalization, changing values, and urbanization of rural places alter recreation preferences, use patterns, and opportunities. This program area develops the knowledge and tools to address these complex issues and to inform management decisions that maintain and improve outdoor recreation opportunities for current and future generations while sustaining healthy ecosystems and economies.

Resource Management and Use R&D

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes $86,249,000 for Resource Management and Use research, a decrease of $7,133,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Funding will be directed within the Resource Management and Use Research Strategic Program Area to maintain focus and progress in the highest priority research. These high priority research areas include research on integrated management and production systems, sustainable bioenergy production, nanotechnology, urban sustainability and natural resource stewardship, and restoration and climate adaptation research.

Past Performance

Pollinators assist 80 percent of flowering plants in their reproduction, which accounts for much of the food ingested by humans and wildlife. The worldwide decline in pollinators highlights the importance of understanding the factors affecting plant-pollinator interactions. Forest Service scientists found that drought stress reduced pollinator visitation and altered floral scent. These findings suggest that some plants and pollinators will be negatively affected if the frequency and severity of droughts increases due to climate change. Consequently, reduction of drought stress

must be an important consideration for forest managers in their management and restoration plans for native ecosystems.

On May 6, 2014, President Obama unveiled the 2013 U.S. Global Change Research Program National Climate Assessment. Contributing to this assessment were highly technical reports that were designed for an audience other than to general land managers. Forest Service researchers compiled and translated the technical information into a book, Climate Change and United States Forests, which was written in an easy-to-read, clear style that is of practical use to resource managers. The book is a comprehensive resource that explains everything from how disturbances interact to create "stress complexes," to vulnerability assessments, to the effects of carbon management and carbon mitigation strategies. The authors discuss management options that could help forests adapt to climate change, provide case studies, and outline a structured approach for projecting and responding to future changes in forest conditions. The book serves as a framework for managing the Nation's forest resources in the context of climate change and is being used by State and Federal agencies in land management planning.

Forest Service scientists also developed a web-based application titled Community Biomass Handbook that guides businesses seeking to replace fossil fuels with wood energy to meet sustainability goals. Available as an eBook, this handbook contains a wood energy financial application that allows users to quickly assess whether wood energy is a feasible option for their community or small business. The handbook provides background information and case studies, answers to project development questions, and a checklist of possible products and investment considerations. For iPad and Mac users, this interactive handbook is available as a free download. A PDF version of the handbook and a Web-based version of the financial application are also available at http://www.woodenergy.umn.edu/communityBiomassHandbook.html.

Forest Service scientists are contributing to community efforts to recover after natural disasters. New York City's socially and ecologically diverse Jamaica Bay region, population approximately 900,000, became a focus of resiliency planning and adaptive management efforts following Hurricane Sandy in October 2012. Forest Service scientists, in partnership with the Natural Areas Conservancy of New York City and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, developed a rapid assessment methodology to understand the public use, social meaning, and stewardship potential of parks in the region. This study assessed the 2,140 acres of public parkland adjacent to the Bay that are managed by the Department of Parks and Recreation. The assessment enables managers to examine change in social and cultural benefits and values over time in the wake of both acute, large-scale disasters and other chronic forms of disturbance to inform future mitigation and restoration decision making.

Program Overview

The Resource Management and Use Strategic Program Area provides the scientific and technological base to sustainably manage and use forest resources and forest fiber-based products. Forest products used for timber, medicinal, and food products contribute to local economies and the management of our Nation's forests while also providing an assortment of ecosystem services including clean air and water. Critical Forest Service research includes plant science, soil science, silviculture, social science, productivity, forest and range ecology and management, forest harvesting and operations, forest and biomass products and

utilization, economics, urban forestry, climate change, and nanotechnology. The benefit of this program area is that it helps ensure that our Nation's forests remain a sustainable, strategic asset in achieving and enhancing our domestic energy security, economic opportunity, environmental quality, global competitiveness and quality of life experiences for the public.

"Smart Sponge" Takes on Oil and Chemical Spills

The "smart sponge" is one of a number of applications under development for the tiny wood fibers known as cellulose nanofibrils which possess a number of unique properties including renewability, high surface areas, high aspect ratios, and excellent mechanical properties. Forest Service researchers developed a series of cellulose nanofibrils-based organic aerogels that may be used for a number of applications including as superabsorbents, thermal insulation, polymer nanocomposites, and supercapacitors. As superabsorbents, these renewable resource based aerogels may be used in environmental cleanup efforts after chemical or oil spills.

Water, Air, and Soil R&D

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes $32,730,000 for water, air, and soil research, a decrease of $2,659,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Funds will be focused toward research in support of watershed restoration, soil conservation during road decommissioning, and air quality research in support of forest health management. The Forest Service is committed to producing the science and delivery to support high quality water, air, and soil resources.

Past Performance

Future climate change scenarios predict that drought instances will become more prevalent in some regions and will likely increase tree mortality. Current landscape-scale forest models have not done a good job of predicting impacts of drought on forest growth and mortality. Forest Service researchers developed a mechanistic model to link water availability and tree species growth and tested it using data from a field precipitation manipulation experiment in a piñon-juniper ecosystem in New Mexico. The approach links temperature and precipitation to tree species competition for light and water in forest landscape models, thus greatly improving their utility for application of climate change research to restoration decisions.

Forest Service R&D developed models to improve a manager's ability to accurately predict air pollution emissions during prescribed fires in shrub lands. Scientists used field measurements, environmental conditions, and fuel consumption data in shrub-dominated sites in the Interior West to develop these models which estimate fuel consumption in these vegetation types during prescribed fires. This information allows managers to predict pollution emissions during prescribed fires, thus directly assisting with smoke management planning and regulation efforts.

Vegetation buffers consist of a strip of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants along waterways to reduce erosion, minimize runoff pollution, and provide wildlife habitat. The effectiveness of these buffers in filtering out water pollutants may be improved by placing a wider buffer at locations where pollutant loads are greater. Forest Service scientists developed a Geographic

Information System tool that produces variable-width buffer designs that are optimal for a given field situation by incorporating site specific data such as slope, soil texture, field cover management, and pollutant type. Case studies showed that precision design could double the effectiveness of buffers in improving water quality over traditional constant-width designs.

Trees Improve Human Health and Save Lives

Air pollution is a serious health concern in both rural and urban communities. It has long been recognized that trees remove air pollution by intercepting particulate matter on plant surfaces and absorbing gaseous pollutants through the leaf stomata. Forest Service scientists and their partners were able to quantify the impact of trees on air quality. These scientists developed computer simulations with local environmental data showing that trees and forests in the conterminous United States removed 17.4 million metric tons of air pollution in 2010 with human health effects valued at $6.8 billion. Health impacts included the avoidance of more than 850 incidences of human mortality and 670,000 incidences of acute respiratory symptoms. These findings emphasize the need to maintain a forested presence in and around our communities.

Trees planted in agroforestry systems, such as riparian buffers and windbreaks, can increase carbon-sequestration on agricultural lands. Forest Service R&D collaborated with university partners to help farmers account for this increased carbon-sequestration and participate in future carbon markets. The project involved developing biomass equations that capture the growth differences between the open-canopy tree arrangements used in agroforestry systems, with those used in closed-canopy forest conditions, for three windbreak species found in the Northern Great Plains: green ash, eastern red cedar, and Austrian pine. The results indicated that biomass and, hence, carbon-sequestration, were significantly underestimated for agroforestry species when closed-canopy estimates were used.

The national network of experimental forests and ranges (EFRs) are the sites for most of the long-term research studies, some extending over 100 years, conducted by the Forest Service and their partners. Forest Service scientists published a book titled "USDA Forest Service Experimental Forests and Ranges: Research for the Long Term" that documents contributions and lessons learned in the areas of silviculture, ecology, fire science, social science, biogeochemistry, hydrology, range science, wildlife biology, and more. Also, this book provides a future vision for an urban network of experimental areas to complement and extend the existing network of experimental forests and rangers. The information contained in this book is unparalleled in providing analyses of key natural resource management options and their long-term implications.

Program Overview

The Water, Air, and Soil Strategic Program Area enables the sustainable management of these essential resources by providing information on how to support clean air and drinking water, and improve our ability to adapt to climate variability and change. The program area studies ecosystem services with a high level of integration between water, air, and soil research. We pay particular attention to the effects of climate variability and change on water budgets. This research benefits managers and policymakers by providing scientific information and tools needed to address critical issues.

Wildlife and Fish R&D

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes $25,076,000 for Wildlife and Fish research, a decrease of $2,052,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. The Budget will support priority research including climate change adaptation, habitat restoration strategies, and innovations in inventory and monitoring. Wildlife and fish research is vital in informing high priority conservation efforts such as managing for resilient populations of cold water fishes, restoring sage grouse habitat, managing habitat of elk and mule deer, and slowing the spread of white-nose syndrome in bats. Results of this research include improved allocation of restoration dollars, increased resilience of valuable fish and wildlife resources, and support of the 2012 Planning Rule. The National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires every national forest or grassland to develop and maintain an effective Land Management Plan. The process for the development and revision of plans, along with the required content of plans, is outlined in the 2012 Planning Rule.

Past Performance

Forest Service R&D launched a new "National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation" to conduct state-of-the-art genomics research and environmental monitoring of biodiversity through environmental genetic code sampling. The Center will provide cost-effective and reliable genetic and genomic data to enhance monitoring and to improve management of our fish and wildlife resources. This new Center will greatly help Federal land management agencies redeem their responsibilities to the American public for conserving species by reducing the cost of monitoring while increasing the reliability of the information.

Resistance, Resilience, and Restoration of Sagebrush Ecosystems

Sagebrush ecosystems are home to the Greater sage-grouse, a sensitive species that is on the verge of being listed as threatened or endangered. Such a listing would necessitate restricting development on 163 million acres containing sagebrush ecosystems which would have a tremendous economic impact on the Nation. Forest Service scientists are providing managers with Resistance (retaining), Resilience (regaining), and Restoration (returning) technical guidance for science-management integration of sagebrush. Results from 20 years of sagebrush restoration research demonstrate sage grouse habitat restoration has been successful when using appropriate native seed mixes and suitable methods.

Bats are a major predator of forest defoliating insects and of agricultural pests. With millions of bats lost to a disease caused by an invasive soil-inhabiting fungus (*Pseudogymoascus destructans*), white-nose syndrome may result in substantial ecological, economic, and management costs for the Nation. Forest Service R&D is a leader in fungal pathology, invasive species control, monitoring design, and bat ecology, and is collaborating with diverse partners to control the spread of the white-nose syndrome fungus and reduce disease-induced mortality. Recently, Forest Service scientists, in collaboration with university partners, investigated the genetic diversity of fungi in soil samples collected from bat

caves in the Eastern United States. These efforts led to the discovery and molecular characterization of the basis for a sexual mating system in *P. destructans*. Although populations of *P. destructans* are thought to be clonal and of one mating type, this newly discovered potential for sexual recombination indicates that continued vigilance is needed regarding introductions of this invasive pathogen.

Changes in stream temperatures may be one of the more significant effects of climate change on stream biota, particularly the most sensitive cold-adapted species. Estimating the response of streams to a warming climate is important for prioritizing native fish conservation efforts. Forest Service scientists analyzed summer stream temperature records from forested streams in the Pacific Northwestern United States for correlations to air temperature and stream flow. A significant pattern emerged where cold streams always had lower sensitivities to air temperature variation, while warm streams varied in their sensitivity depending on geology or vegetation. A pattern where cold streams are less sensitive to direct temperature increases is important for conservation planning, although substantial questions may yet remain for secondary effects related to flow or vegetation changes induced by climate change.

Program Overview

The Wildlife and Fish Strategic Program Area provides knowledge and tools to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of aquatic and terrestrial animals on the Nation's forests and grasslands. Forest Service R&D wildlife and fish research serves several needs including supporting restoration and conservation actions across large landscapes and watersheds; managing wildlife and fish under current and future environmental disturbances such as drought, fire, and invasive species; creating innovative protocols for inventory and monitoring of fish and wildlife populations and habitats; and providing strategies to meet the growing demand for water, energy, and other forest and grassland based commodities while ensuring the sustainability and diversity of terrestrial and aquatic species and ecosystems.

Inventory and Monitoring R&D

FY 2016 Program Changes

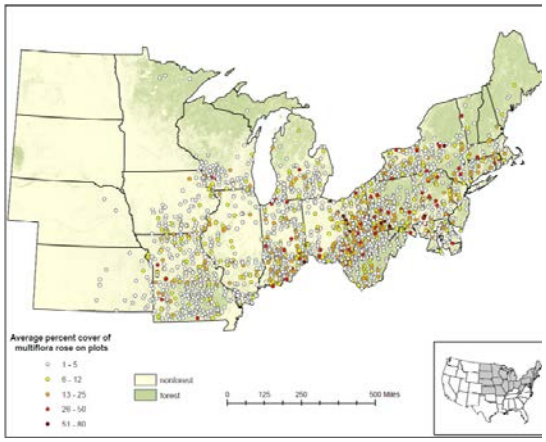
The FY 2016 President's Budget includes $90,841,000 for inventory and monitoring research, an increase of $12,429,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Inventory and Monitoring is comprised of Resource Data and Analysis and Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA). The FY 2016 President's Budget includes $7,841,000 for Resource Data and Analysis, a decrease of $651,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget and $83,000,000 for the FIA program, an increase of $13,000,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

At the FY 2016 Budget level, the capacity for Resource Data and Analysis to develop new tools to assess the current status and trends of forests will be lessened. The FIA program will continue to implement the annualized inventory program in all 50 States (including interior Alaska), the affiliated Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The re-measurement cycle will be at a 7-year level in the east and a 10-year in the west, with an option for enhanced State participation for a 5-year level.

At the FY 2016 Budget level, the additional $13,000,000 will provide for the first time inclusion of interior Alaska to the FIA program completing national implementation of the program. The additional funding will also provide for improved base measurements and research capacity including the improved estimation of the forest carbon inventory, land cover and land use measurements, and timber products output. Each of these improvements empowers FIA delivery of the assessment of carbon fluxes within forest over time and across land uses. This information is a cornerstone of the President's Climate Action Plan.

Consistent with the FY 2015 Enacted Budget, the FY 2016 President's Budget transfers funding for the Forest Resources Information and Analysis program, historically funded through the State and Private Forestry appropriation, to the Forest and Rangeland Research appropriation. This funding ($4,660,000 in FY 2013) is utilized to develop partnerships with State agencies to achieve program goals. Leveraging funds with State agencies will continue for the delivery of a 5-year re-measurement with participating states. Forest Service R&D will continue to work closely with State forestry agencies and other partners to achieve the FIA mission.

Examining the Spread of Invasive Species Using FIA Data



Invasive plant species threaten the integrity of our ecosystems and cost billions of dollars in damages and removal costs annually. Forest Service scientists prepared a series of research reports, each featuring an invasive plant species being monitored on FIA plots across 24 States in the Northeastern and Midwestern States. These reports educate people on the selected invasive plants and offer information of their local and regional distribution (maps), abundance, and spread. An understanding of where invasive plants occur, and the extent to which they are present, helps identify risk potential and allows land managers to make more informed management decisions.

Past Performance

In addition, in FY 2014, Forest Service R&D implemented FIA annual forest sampling in all 50 States. Current and accessible FIA data were available for 48 states. In excess of 42,000 field plots were measured that represent 14 percent of the FIA national plot system. Current data defined the number of States for which FIA data are less than two years old and accessible to external customers on line at http://www.fia.fs.fed.us. Data from the previous survey cycle (generally 10 to 15 years old) are available for states where current data are not yet posted.

Forests as defined by use and forests as defined by cover are different, although it is common for scientists and policy makers to infer one from the other. In a recent landmark study, Forest Service scientists used repeated measurements from the FIA annual inventory to better understand these fundamental differences between use and cover. Using forest cover and forest use information, the researchers found that forest use extent and forest land cover extent were not significantly correlated as previously thought by both scientists and policy makers. Estimates of net change based on forest land cover and forest land use were moderately correlated and net change estimates were independent of gross forest cover loss estimates. These analyses further validate why the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidelines, in the context of accounting for changes in forest carbon, specifically call for using forest land use instead of

forest land cover as the basis for country reporting. The Forest Service map and spatial data products will enable land managers to be more strategic and effective in their efforts to leverage resources and collaborative partnerships to achieve mutually beneficial goals.

Nearly two-thirds of the forests of the conterminous United States are privately owned, not publicly owned as many assume. Forest Service scientists have created a map and a spatial data product to help illustrate the distribution of forest ownership across the Nation. The data product contains raster data depicting the spatial distribution of forest ownership types in the conterminous United States circa 2009. The data are a modeled representation of forest land by ownership type, and include three types of public ownership: Federal, State, and local, as well as three types of private: family (includes individuals and families), corporate, and other private (includes conservation and natural resource organizations, unincorporated partnerships and associations, and Native American Tribal lands).

Program Overview

The Inventory and Monitoring Strategic Program Area enhances the use and value of our Nation's forests and grasslands by providing the resource data, analysis, and tools needed to assess current status and trends of forests; management options and impacts; and threats from fire, insects, disease, and natural processes. Assessing current and potential effects of climate change depends on monitoring those forest ecosystems at greatest risk to rapid change.

National, State, and local policy makers, universities, businesses, Tribal governments, national forests and other natural resource agencies, interest groups, and many others depend on our models, information, and data for timely, scientifically credible assessments about our forests. An important component of Inventory and Monitoring is the FIA program. The FIA program has been the Nation's forest census since 1930. The program collects, analyzes, and reports on the status and trends of America's forests such as how much forest exists, where it exists, who owns it, and how it is changing. Benefits derived from FIA include evaluation of wildlife habitat conditions, assessing sustainability of current and anticipated ecosystem management practices, monitoring forest health, supporting planning and decision-making activities undertaken by public and private enterprises, and anticipating climate change impacts to forests.

Customer Satisfaction

The Customer Satisfaction Index is a weighted average of survey questions that measure: overall satisfaction; satisfaction compared to expectations; and satisfaction compared to an "ideal" organization. This survey is conducted every three years and provides a snapshot indication of customer satisfaction for Forest R&D in its entirety and not for any specific Strategic Program Area or Priority Research Area. The model weighs each question in a way that maximizes the ability of the index to predict changes in agency satisfaction. It is the only uniform, cross-industry/government measure of customer satisfaction. The index is reported as an average score for each organization on a scale of 0 (poor) to 100 (excellent). The Customer satisfaction surveys help Forest Service R&D achieve its strategic and tactical goals by identifying key drivers of satisfaction by users of our products and services. Also, they evaluate performance and identify significant changes from previous surveys, and provide recommendations on how to improve satisfaction. The most recent survey was conducted in FY 2012 in which Forest Service

R&D received a score of 79 which is significantly higher than the aggregate score (69) for all Federal agencies. The survey showed that customers were satisfied with the content of Forest Service R&D products and with the staff and also identified ways we could improve satisfaction by: 1) making products easier to use, and 2) making information more accessible by improving our science delivery efforts. Forest Service R&D continues to develop products and tools that are relevant, timely and readily accessible to a diverse customer base.

Forest Service Research and Development Program Overview

Forest Service R&D provides scientific information and new technologies to support sustainable management of the Nation's forests and rangelands. These products and services increase the basic biological and physical knowledge of the composition, structure, and function of forest, rangeland, and aquatic ecosystems. Forest Service R&D is federally mandated to provide new knowledge and technologies to foster healthy watersheds, forest products, wildlife protection, robust urban ecosystems, and other benefits across all Territories and States (including both Federal and non-Federal lands). Research is conducted at five research stations, the Forest Products Lab, and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry located in Puerto Rico. There are approximately 500 scientists at 67 sites located throughout the United States. In addition, Forest Service R&D maintains 81 experimental forests and ranges across the Nation, which serves as sites for most of the agency's long-term research.

The following table illustrates the cross-disciplinary nature of most priority research areas and the balance of funding between national and localized research.

Priority Research Areas and Strategic Program Areas Matrix Funding Table
(*dollars in thousands*)

Priority Research Areas	Fire	Invasives	Recreation	Resource Mgmt. and Use	Water, Air, and Soil	Wildlife and Fish	Inventory and Monitoring	Total
Forest Disturbances	$288	$201	$0	$14,365	$1,891	$2,954	$5,036	$24,733
Forest Inventory and Analysis	0	0	0	0	0	0	83,000	83,000
Watershed Mgmt. and Restoration	1,732	1,131	0	2,782	9,063	5,593	865	21,164
Bioenergy and Biobased Products	243	106	0	10,666	243	0	333	11,590
Urban Natural Resource Stewardship	445	0	1,952	1,032	1,303	0	875	5,606
Nanotechnology	0	0	0	4,263	0	0	0	4,263
Localized Needs Research	17,817	31,014	2,160	53,143	20,231	16,530	733	141,626
Total	$20,524	$32,451	$4,111	$86,249	$32,730	$25,076	$90,841	$291,982

Priority Research Areas

Forest Disturbances - $24,639,000

This research area provides managers and policy makers with scientific information and tools to anticipate and respond to the impacts of a changing climate and other disturbances on forests and rangelands. The program strategy focuses on predicting impacts on ecosystems and providing the research that will lead to: enhanced ecosystem sustainability (adaptation); increased carbon sequestration, reduced emissions, and product substitution, including biofuels and wood products (mitigation); developing decision support tools; and establishing collaborations that will enhance the delivery of the science needed to manage forest and rangeland ecosystems. This information is used to develop management strategies and provide decision support tools that aid managers and policy makers in fostering resilience to current and future forest disturbances associated directly or indirectly with climate change across forest, range, and urban ecosystems. Working with the other agency deputy areas (State and Private Forestry and National Forest System) and USDA agencies (Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Agricultural Research Service), Forest Service R&D continues to provide support to the Regional Hubs for Risk Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change. The Hubs provide coordinated technical support to supplement USDA agriculture and land management program delivery, especially to underserved and vulnerable communities, Tribes, and individuals. The Hubs will be responsive to the information and technical needs of public and private forest landowners.

Forest Inventory and Analysis - $83,000,000

The FIA reports on the current condition and recent trends in the area of public and private forest land in the United States. The FIA provides specific information on past, current, and projected tree numbers by species; the size and health of trees; tree growth, mortality, and harvest removals; loss of forested lands due to disturbances, such as hurricanes and wildland fires; wood production and utilization; and forest landownership. These data are essential to making sound investment decisions in forest management activities and land management planning, in ensuring the long-term health of forests, and in prolonging the availability of multiple uses from forests. Forest Service R&D works closely with State forestry agencies and other partners to achieve the FIA mission. The FIA leverages one partner dollar for every six Federal dollars spent. Recent data show that the FIA “census for trees” program positions States and public and private landowners to implement and profit from alternative energy and ecosystem service markets focused on carbon sequestration and the conversion of woody biomass to energy. The FIA data enables the natural resource community to understand the magnitude of changes in forest conditions and trends and to make projections of future conditions - information which is vital to the long-term health of forests and the sustained availability of multiple uses from forests.

Watershed Management and Restoration - $21,071,000

Adequate supplies of clean water are essential to human health and economic growth. Population growth and forest disturbances, however, are stressing surface and ground water resources. New approaches are developed to effectively manage water resources given the changing social, economic, and environmental conditions. Forest Service R&D delivers:

- best management practices for watershed management and restoration in forest, urban, and agricultural settings, which support the provision of abundant, safe drinking water,
- methods for assessing changes in watershed condition as a result of changing demographics and development pressures,
- strategies for managing both surface and groundwater resources under changing forest conditions and urbanization',
- projections of national and regional water demand and supply as affected by forest disturbances, population growth, agriculture production, energy generation, and economic development, and
- improved techniques for restoring watersheds, which will enhance overall human and ecosystem health.

Bioenergy and Biobased Products - $11,511,000

Our Nation's forests are a sustainable, strategic asset in achieving and enhancing domestic energy security, economic opportunity, environmental quality, and global competitiveness. A sustainable renewable bioenergy and biobased products sector is a growing source of jobs in the economy and contributes to energy security and greenhouse gas emissions reduction. Woody biomass is a critical renewable resource that has the potential to fulfill a significant portion of the domestic need for liquid transportation fuels, chemicals and other bioproducts, and sustainable substitutes for fossil fuel-intensive products. A robust and productive research and development program is crucial to building and sustaining this economic sector. This research provides the science and technology to sustainably produce, manage, harvest, and convert woody biomass to liquid transportation fuels, chemicals, and other high-value products. By developing cost-effective conversion processes that deliver fuel and high-value bioproducts plus efficient, high productivity biomass feedstock production and management systems, this research reduces investor risk in woody biomass projects and contributes to U.S. energy security, environmental, and economic goals (U.S. Department of Energy 2011, National Science Foundation 2008).

Urban Natural Resources Stewardship - $5,525,000

Over 80 percent of the Nation's population now lives in metropolitan areas (2010 United States Census) and the number is increasing. Improving the sustainability and livability of our cities and surrounding suburbs is a long-term challenge and goal as the Nation's population becomes increasingly urban. Forest Service R&D provides leading science and new technology to improve environmental health and community well-being in urban areas. Forest Service scientists are at the forefront of urban forestry and socio-ecological research that helps cities and towns transition to a sustainable future. Critical areas of research include: urban forest structure and effects modeling, urban ecosystem health, urban watershed conservation and rehabilitation, ecosystem services valuation and assessment, urban environmental stewardship, and green infrastructure strategies and best management practices. Forest Service R&D is directing research efforts at the municipal level to provide new information and tools to help in sustainability planning. This effort involves initiating urban forest inventory work and advancing long-term, place-based, collaborative urban forest-related research in a number of cities throughout the United States.

Nanotechnology - $4,247,000

Forest Service R&D investments in nanotechnology provide research in the production, application, and technology deployment of cellulose nanomaterials. These activities provide an opportunity to utilize wood resulting from forest restoration and fuel treatment operations. Cellulose nanomaterials are renewable materials that may displace petroleum-based products in automobiles, biomedical devices, body armor, aerospace materials, plastics, composites, coatings, and electronics. Consequently, nanotechnology may bring about fundamental changes and significant economic and quality-of-life benefits to the American people. This research has the added benefit of providing markets for low value wood products, thus providing a financial incentive to public and private landowners to remove this low value wood, which reduces fuel loads and helps, accelerate forest restoration efforts.

Localized Needs Research - $141,517,000

In addition to the research investments in national Priority Research Areas, Forest Service R&D invests in research targeted to the geographic regions served by Forest Service research stations and field laboratories. Localized needs research is aligned with national strategic goals, but is particularly responsive to the social, economic, and ecological issues important to each region. Scientists from multiple research stations collaborate across regions to develop and share research findings and develop tools that solve common problems. Localized needs research by Forest Service R&D provides the foundation of basic and applied science needed to advance research in each of the Strategic Program Areas previously reviewed and described in this document.

Forest Service R&D develops and shares basic science, while developing applications specific to regional needs. This approach of developing a core foundation of basic science that drives the development of regionally specific knowledge, assessment methods, and management tools plays out at Forest Service R&D research labs throughout the Nation, addressing critical issues concerning wildlife, fish, water, air, forests and rangelands, invasive species, wood products utilization, recreation, economics, social science, and other needs critical to sustaining America's natural resources and public uses.

Allocation and Integration

Forest Service R&D priorities are based on the agency's mission and Administration priorities. The base Forest Service R&D program is established using input from the field. The research stations, the Forest Products Lab, and International Institute of Tropical Forestry prioritize research in response to local and regional needs. Field requests are reviewed, coordinated with critical needs identified at the national level, and then merged into a national research program. Funds are distributed to support the seven Strategic Program Areas.

For the FIA program, funds have been allocated historically in equal proportion to Eastern States and Western States, as forest acres are evenly split between these two broad regions. Partner contributions are 15 percent of the total funding of Eastern States and 10 percent of total funding in Western States, with the remainder coming from appropriated funds. For further detail and

trends see: http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/library/bus-org-documents/docs/FIA_Annual_Report_2012-opt.pdf.

The program also supports forest inventory activities with costs shared by States. Allocations to States are based upon the cost-effectiveness of past performance of State FIA implementation. State contributions represent approximately 11 percent of the total program funds and are contingent on FIA's ability to provide matching funds. To make efficient use of available resources, FIA contracts some services when partners can provide them at a lower cost.

Approximately 20 percent of the FIA program (funding and resources) supports the National Forest System, including strategic inventory across 193 million acres in support of forest planning with information such as volume, biomass, growth, removals, mortality, forest carbon storage, forest health, and fire fuel loads.

Partnerships

Forest Service R&D partners include Federal and State agencies, universities, industry, nongovernmental organizations, Tribal groups, and foreign government research cooperators. One of the most important functions of Forest Service R&D is the distribution of information to forest managers and users implementing land management projects. The agency provides valuable technology transfer to our research partners, land management practitioners, State agencies, urban planners, private forest owners, private organizations, horticultural organizations, agricultural interests, as well as forest practitioners internal to the Forest Service. Seeking and forging strategic partnerships is a critical activity of Forest Service R&D.

The FIA program is managed as a partnership, led by Forest Service R&D in cooperation with National Forest System, State and Private Forestry, and the National Association of State Foresters. FIA customers include: national forests and grasslands, State forestry agencies, Federal and State policy makers; corporations and consultants; researchers; environmental organizations; land managers; media; and anyone interested in reliable, current forest data. Partners contribute funds to leverage FIA programs commensurate with their individual needs. Partner funding is encouraged but not required to receive the base Federal program. In FY 2014, partners contributed over $7 million to shorten measurement cycles or otherwise enhance FIA programs. Participating State organizations include State forestry agencies, universities, nongovernmental organizations, and other partners. Partner contributions are primarily used to lower inventory cycles or cost share research. Nearly 34 percent of FIA's annual work is accomplished in this manner. Not all States participate each year, but over the last 10-years all States have contributed to FIA program efforts.

Land Area, Forest Area, FIA Federal Grants, and Partner Funds by State in FY 2014

Region and State	All Land	Forestland	Forest and Woodland	Federal FIA Grants	Partner Funds
	(acres in thousands)			*(dollars in thousands)*	
Alaska, Coast	39,041	13,718	13,718	$604,216	$7,282
Alaska, Int	326,575	114,859	114,859	0	0
Alabama	32,413	22,877	22,877	232,438	76,796
Arkansas	33,303	18,755	18,755	400,882	144,077
Arizona	72,700	10,795	18,643	42,624	0
California	99,699	32,057	32,618	0	67,389
Connecticut	3,099	1,712	1,712	0	500
Colorado	66,331	19,995	22,837	989,383	252,246
Delaware	1,247	340	340	118,000	28,290
*District of Columbia				0	7,770
Florida	34,447	17,461	17,461	161,000	59,388
Georgia	36,809	24,768	24,768	436,296	272,648
Hawaii	4,110	1,748	1,748	250,000	0
Iowa	35,749	3,014	3,014	92,831	17,645
Idaho	52,892	21,247	21,448	239,095	0
Illinois	35,532	4,848	4,848	0	23,359
Indiana	22,929	4,830	4,830	79,781	120,715
Kansas	52,326	2,502	2,502	146,400	34,938
Kentucky	25,271	12,472	12,472	320,000	131,418
Louisiana	27,650	14,712	14,712	0	0
Massachusetts	4,992	3,024	3,024	252,775	52,950
Maryland	6,252	2,461	2,461	0	12,300
Maine	19,739	17,660	17,660	232,270	381,061
Michigan	36,185	20,127	20,127	79,938	58,950
Minnesota	50,961	17,371	17,371	449,270	531,075
Missouri	43,995	15,472	15,472	11,250	98,547
Mississippi	30,031	19,542	19,542	0	92,263
Montana	93,149	25,169	25,573	72,000	213,400
North Carolina	31,115	18,588	18,588	1,030,060	24,552
North Dakota	44,161	734	760	28,326	7,200
Nebraska	49,167	1,576	1,576	71,880	5,853
New Hampshire	5,730	4,832	4,832	0	20,400
New Jersey	4,707	1,964	1,964	0	3,667
New Mexico	77,631	16,615	24,840	80,574	444,100
Nevada	70,260	8,121	11,169	796,242	220,595
New York	30,161	18,966	18,966	173,505	24,140
Ohio	26,151	8,088	8,088	44,400	11,345
Oklahoma	43,901	12,256	12,646	300,000	199,608
Oregon	61,432	29,787	29,804	786,310	485,855
Pennsylvania	28,635	16,782	16,782	0	115,536
Puerto Rico	2,192	1,213	1,213	42,175	100,000

*The totals for the District of Columbia are included in the totals for Maryland.

Land Area, Forest Area, FIA Federal Grants, and Partner Funds by State in FY 2014

Region and State	All Land	Forestland	Forestland and Woodlands	Federal FIA Grants	Partner Funds
	(acres in thousand)			*(dollars in thousands)*	
Rhode Island	662	360	360	0	3,069
South Carolina	19,239	13,120	13,120	348,900	124,000
South Dakota	48,519	1,911	1,911	58,397	21,851
Tennessee	26,390	13,942	13,942	444,200	102,940
Texas	167,188	40,318	62,425	720,500	309,409
Utah	52,589	11,866	18,135	863,524	529,952
Virginia	25,274	15,907	15,907	486,284	212,725
Vermont	5,899	4,591	4,591	0	100,600
Washington	42,532	22,435	22,435	101,406	88,280
Wisconsin	34,661	16,980	16,980	40,000	1,448,610
West Virginia	15,384	12,155	12,155	130,970	49,300
Wyoming	62,140	10,807	11,448	203,949	0
TOTAL	**2,260,955**	**766,237**	**818,816**	**$11,962,051**	**$7,608,594**

State and Private Forestry

Appropriation	State and Private Forestry (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**	**Percent of Program Changes**
State and Private Forestry					
Annual Appropriations	$229,980	$232,653	$236,611	$3,958	2%
State and Private Forestry Total	**229,980**	**232,653**	**236,611**	**3,958**	**2%**
Annual Appropriation FTEs	582	604	532	-72	-12%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**582**	**604**	**532**	**-72**	**-12%**
State and Private Forestry					
Landscape Scale Restoration	14,000	14,000	23,513	9,513	68%
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	58,922	58,922	58,998	76	0%
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	45,655	45,655	40,678	-4,977	-11%
State Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	0%
Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	0%
Forest Stewardship	22,398	23,036	23,049	13	0%
Forest Legacy Program	50,965	53,000	61,000	8,000	15%
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation	2,000	2,000	1,683	-317	-16%
Urban and Community Forestry	28,040	28,040	23,686	-4,354	-16%
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	0	0	0	0	0%
International Forestry	8,000	8,000	4,004	-3,996	-50%

State and Private Forestry Overview

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $236,611,000 for State and Private Forestry (S&PF), a decrease of $3,958,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

The S&PF programs help sustain the Nation's urban and rural forests, assist private landowners in maintaining their forests, and protect communities and the environment from insects, disease, and invasive plants. More than 50 percent our of Nation's forests—over 420 million acres—are privately owned. These forests supply almost 30 percent of the surface drinking water to cities and rural communities and over 90 percent of our domestically-produced forest products (*Report to Congress on Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act and Other USDA Programs That Benefit Private Forests, 2011).* The S&PF programs help protect these forests and provide support to keep working forests intact. This Federal investment leverages the capacity of State Foresters and their partners to manage State and private lands and produce ecological, social, and economic benefits for the American people. For example, almost 11 million acres are now being managed more sustainably because of landowner planning, have been treated to protect against wildfires and insects and diseases, or have been protected from development since 2008 as a result of S&PF program investments. In addition, between 2008 and 2011, Forest Service

programs assisted over two million landowners through education programs or other related services during this same timeframe.[7]

Partnerships are critical in implementing and delivering S&PF programs. Through a coordinated effort in management, protection, conservation education, and resource use, S&PF programs help facilitate sound stewardship of lands across all ownerships on a landscape scale, while maintaining the flexibility for individual forest landowners to pursue their objectives. The S&PF programs help Americans reconnect to the outdoors and are engines of job creation in rural communities. In addition, S&PF programs are key components of the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative to conserve important landscapes and reconnect Americans to the outdoors. Along with the National Forest System, Forest and Rangeland Research, the Department of the Interior, and State and local partners, S&PF programs also manage the impacts of wildland fires on communities and the environment.

S&PF Program Leverages $13.2 Million in FY 2014

In FY 2014, S&PF competitively allocated $12.5 million to State Foresters, supporting 49 projects in 39 States and Territories. These allocations enabled the Forest Service to leverage over $13 million in partner funds and in-kind contributions.

Landscape Scale Restoration

The new Landscape Scale Restoration program focuses and prioritizes funds and resources to better shape and influence forest land use on a scale, and in a way, that optimizes public benefits from trees and forests for current and future generations. This program funds competitive projects that focus on all-lands and result in a targeted, positive impact in high-priority areas by leveraging State capacity with strategic Federal investments. All States and Territories have crafted assessments of the forests within their boundaries and developed strategies to address threats and improve forest health. The resulting Statewide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies, or State Forest Action Plans (http://www.forestactionplans.org/), provide an analysis of forest conditions and trends and delineate priority forest landscape areas. Under the 2014 Farm Bill, Forest Action Plans will be updated as necessary; and where feasible, will include military installations to the extent that management of State and other public or private lands support and contribute to the mission of such installations. These State Forest Action Plans are an integral part of Landscape Scale Restoration and represent the first-ever "strategic plan" for the Nation's forests. The State Forest Action Plans focus on all-lands (State, private, Tribal, and Federal) and strategically assess the greatest need, highest value, or strongest innovation potential. State Forest Action Plans are a new path to effectively address contemporary conservation issues across the country in the urban-to-rural spectrum.

Cooperation and coordination across jurisdictional boundaries is needed to deal with the complex issues revealed in the State Forest Action Plans, most of which need to be addressed at a landscape level and by working through local communities. State forestry organizations and the Forest Service have a long history of working together on important forest management issues and State Forest Action Plans are helping us identify priority landscapes on which to focus

[7] This reference is from the September 2011 "Report to Congress on Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act and Other USDA Programs That Benefit Private Forests." This is the most current report published on this subject. http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/library/private_forest_report.pdf

critical conservation actions. These Plans enable the Forest Service and State partners to better leverage stakeholder partnerships and heighten public awareness of the value and importance of the Nation's public and private forests. The plans feature State-specific strategies based on local expertise and extensive public input. By linking the State Forest Action Plans with our national conservation and economic goals, they help facilitate long-term decisions for investing State, Federal, and other resources where there is the greatest need. By focusing on priority outcomes that address landscape-scale issues, the State Forest Action Plans guide investments to conserve, protect, and enhance our forests.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Budget Line Item	Landscape Scale Restoration (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Landscape Scale Restoration					
Annual Appropriations	$14,000	$14,000	$23,513	$9,513	68%
Landscape Scale Restoration Total	**14,000**	**14,000**	**23,513**	**9,513**	**68%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	1	0	0	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Landscape Scale Restoration						
Total value of resources (expressed as a ratio) leveraged through partnerships with states and other partners	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.3

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $23,513,000 for Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR), an increase of $9,513,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

In FY 2016, this program will continue to fund cross-boundary competitive projects that address priorities and needs identified in States' Forest Action Plans focused around conserving working forest landscapes, protecting forests from harm, and enhancing the public benefits of trees and forests. This continued investment in cross-boundary, landscape scale projects on State and private lands will spur innovation, bring partners to the table, support climate change activities, and allow the agency to leverage partner contributions. This investment will also result in sustaining and restoring forest health and vigor on hundreds of acres, accomplishing meaningful change on priority landscapes in States, allowing the agency to assist urban communities in protecting their forests, and maximizing the number of cross-boundary projects that can be funded. The LSR program work is critical to ensuring the continued health and resilience of our Nation's forested landscapes.

Past Performance

This new budget line item, first proposed in FY 2013, was enacted in the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. However, the Act was passed after the first quarter of the fiscal year and the competitive process was well underway in its prior State and Private Forestry (SP&F)

"Redesign" form. Because of the multi-phase nature of the competitive process, which is managed by three different State forestry regional organizations, the request for competitive project proposals and guidance for their submission was issued in the previous fiscal year. Therefore, FY 2014 was a "bridge" year where projects were funded with LSR, but were selected through the prior Redesign process, with updated guidance issued in conjunction with the National Association of State Foresters.

The updated guidance required, for the first time, that these projects be explicitly cross-boundary in nature and that their accomplishments be recorded spatially. In FY 2014, we tracked the spatial footprint of each LSR project, as well as cooperators involved and Forest Service objectives, for each of these projects in a new module in the Stewardship Mapping and Reporting Tool (SMART – see the Forest Stewardship section for more information on this tool). The LSR data from this new tool can be downloaded and used for accomplishment reporting and more in-depth program analysis.

In FY 2014, S&PF competitively allocated $12.5 million for 49 projects in 39 States and Territories. These allocations enabled the Forest Service to leverage over $13.2 million in partner dollars and in-kind contributions. Projects continued to be focused on those themes outlined in the 2008 Farm Bill and emphasized in the Redesign competitive process – conserving working forest landscapes, protecting forests from harm, and enhancing the public benefits of trees and forests.[8] Projects selected focused on diverse priorities identified by States in their State Forest Action Plans. For example, a project selected in Kentucky is evaluating ways to restore environmental quality and economic vitality in Appalachian communities. Water quality and urban forestry projects were a particular focus in the Eastern United States, with 10 of their 13 project selections centered on these themes.

Investments in S&PF programs have resulted in almost 11 million acres being sustainably managed, protected from wildfires and insects and diseases, or protected from development. A focused effort on collecting and recording partner dollar and in-kind contributions demonstrated that these projects were matched on a more than one-to-one basis each year. LSR will help further increase the pace and scale of these investments.

Program Description

Program Overview

There are over 500 million acres of non-Federal forest lands in the United States—two-thirds of the Nation's forests. These important resources generate millions of dollars in forest products revenues and recreation spending; provide well-paying rural jobs; supply almost 30 percent of the surface drinking water to cities and rural communities; and support imperiled wildlife and fish species. The LSR program helps ensure our Nation's non-Federal forestlands will be able to continue to provide these important benefits to the American public by allowing States to pursue innovative, landscape scale, projects that focus on their priorities, as identified in their State Forest Action Plans.

[8] These themes were codified in the 2008 Farm Bill as part of the State Action Plan Requirements. They continue in the 2014 Farm Bill.

Prior to the implementation of LSR, from FY 2008 through FY 2013, S&PF provided $13 to $20 million in funding annually through a process known as S&PF "Redesign". The Redesign funding was used for competitive projects focusing on issues and landscapes of national importance and on activities that provided meaningful outcomes on the ground. The funds for this effort were drawn from multiple S&PF budget line items. The Redesign process yielded numerous successful projects and leveraged over $125 million of partner funds and in-kind contributions during a six-year timeframe. Analysis of State Forest Action Plans has shown that forest management priorities differ across, and even within, States. Surveys conducted in conjunction with the National Association of State Foresters have indicated that many States would like to change the configuration of S&PF grant dollars they receive. LSR creates the ability to fund projects without the limits created by specific program funding. The LSR program is the next evolution of this process with a distinct budget line item that provides more flexibility for funding innovative projects in priority areas identified by States.

The LSR program's work is critical to ensuring the continued health and resilience of our Nation's forested landscapes. This program is a competitive grant program that provides opportunities to fund innovative projects across program boundaries and across landscape jurisdictions that address priorities and needs consistent with the State Forest Action Plans. Projects are focused on restoring healthy and resilient landscapes and communities in priority areas that States identify. This program provides States the opportunity to develop targeted, creative projects that most effectively leverage the agency dollar - spanning a wide spectrum to meet priority needs from expanding riparian forest buffers in urban watersheds in the Eastern United States, to shortleaf pine restoration in multiple states across the South, to preparing for the effects of a changing climate in at-risk forest areas of the Pacific Islands. By addressing threats to forest sustainability such as protecting lands from development, damaging wildfires, or the spread of insects and disease, these projects will also benefit adjacent National Forest System lands, creating healthier, more resilient landscapes.

Through new spatial tracking tools and improved reporting methodologies, these projects will also serve as a springboard for developing novel methods to measure and demonstrate improved outcomes on the ground in these priority areas such as enhanced water quality and quantity; reduced forest loss; improved forest markets; and the energy conservation and carbon sequestration benefits resulting from these projects. Spatial accomplishments are reported using the aforementioned Stewardship Mapping and Reporting Tool.

Allocation and Integration

Funds are allocated on a competitive basis focusing on cross-boundary projects, guided by the priorities outlined in State Forest Action Plans. Projects are focused in priority areas also identified in the plans. The projects are required to address nationally and regionally significant issues or landscapes and focus on conserving working forests, protecting forests from harm, and enhancing public benefits from trees and forests. Because there are different needs and focus areas in different parts of the country, appropriate regionally-specific evaluation criteria are used as part of the project evaluation and selection process. Projects involve diverse collaboration and partnerships in planning and implementation and coordination with complementary State and Federal programs when possible.

Partnerships

The development and implementation of these projects is coordinated through close collaboration with State and Territorial forestry agency partners. All projects are leveraged by non-Federal contributions on at least a 1:1 basis. The S&PF works directly with State forestry agencies to ensure that forest landowners have the best technical, educational, and financial assistance available to help them achieve their objectives in an environmentally beneficial way. This Federal investment leverages the capacity of State Foresters and their partners to manage State and private lands and produce ecological, social, and economic benefits.

Forest Health Management

Forest Health Management

(dollars in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Forest Health Management					
Annual Appropriations	$104,577	$104,577	$99,676	-$4,901	-5%
Forest Health Management Total	**104,577**	**104,577**	**99,676**	**-4,901**	**-5%**
Annual Appropriation FTEs	413	447	396	-51	-11%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**413**	**447**	**396**	**-51**	**-11%**
Forest Health Management					
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	58,922	58,922	58,998	76	0%
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	45,655	45,655	40,678	-4,977	-11%

Forest Health Management Overview

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $99,676,000 for Forest Health Management (FHM), a decrease of $4,901,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

The FHM program provides insect, disease, and invasive plant survey and monitoring information on forest health conditions on Federal and non-Federal (Cooperative) lands and provides technical and financial assistance to prevent, suppress, and control outbreaks threatening forest resources and watershed conditions. FHM utilizes science, active land management, and technology transfer expertise to restore and sustain forest landscapes, across urban, private, State, Tribal, and Federal forests, and creates private sector jobs because of the expertise required to carry out this work.

Federal Lands: Activities on Federal lands are carried out in cooperation with the National Forest System, other Federal agencies such as those within the Department of the Interior, and Tribal governments. Because pests and diseases affect forests across all lands, these activities optimize efficiency in executing a coordinated Federal program to prevent, detect, monitor, evaluate, and suppress insects and disease, and restore Federal forestlands.

Cooperative Lands: Activities on cooperative lands are carried out in cooperation with States and Territories. These activities optimize efficiency in executing a coordinated program to maintain and restore forestlands damaged by insects, disease, and invasive plants on lands owned by States, local governments, private organizations, and individual landowners.

Background

States' Forest Action Plans have, in many cases, identified forest health as a key State and Territory priority. For example, most States in the South identified the southern pine beetle as a key threat in their area. The most frequently mentioned invasive plant in the Southern State

Forest Action Plans was cogongrass, which easily spreads and thrives in disturbed landscapes making it hard to eradicate or slow down. These State Forest Action Plans are being used to help guide protection and restoration priorities at the national and regional levels.

This work helps to restore forest landscapes, and the communities that depend on them, and makes them more resilient and healthy. Healthy forests which maintain their tree cover conserve clean water, provide key wildlife habitat, provide sustainable forest products, and store carbon. With technical and financial assistance, FHM helps ensure that forests remain healthy and resilient by minimizing impacts of native and non-native invasive insects, diseases, and invasive plants. In addition, FHM works on gene conservation that involves reforestation and afforestation in those areas where species have been identified as vulnerable to effects of changing climate conditions.

The FHM program will continue to treat prioritized areas to reduce the potential for new outbreaks; to protect these areas from damaging insects and diseases; and to reduce the risks of undesired mortality from wildfire. Funding is based primarily upon current pest locations and populations detected through surveys, and level of risk as identified in the National Insect and Disease Risk Map (NIDRM), a tool developed by Forest Service researchers and scientists to predict how individual tree species will be affected by various types of diseases and pests over time. In particular, it highlights acres where mortality from these agents is projected to exceed 25 percent over the next 15 years. The most recent version was completed in 2012 and is a predictive tool modeled to 2027. It is underlain by Geographic Information System data layers and uses satellite imagery, field data, and climate and topography data and is driven by 186 risk models. The tool is also used extensively by Federal and non-Federal forest managers, as well as academia, and provides one of the most important tools for protecting the health of forests at risk from pests and diseases. In addition, other factors used to select and fund projects include cost-effectiveness and probability of successfully implementing a treatment. Forest health treatments are integrated with other Forest Service activities, such as hazardous fuels, forest management and watershed restoration, and maintenance activities, to most effectively restore resilience to key landscapes.

The Forest Service also continues to commit resources to address public safety concerns and forest health needs arising from the millions of acres of dead and dying trees from bark beetle infestations. In FY 2016, the Forest Service will continue management actions to reduce forest susceptibility to beetle outbreaks and protect high value trees through multiple funding sources, including FHM. In coordination with partners and stakeholders, the Forest Service will direct funds to high-priority areas that have been experiencing tree mortality as a result of bark beetle infestations to more aggressively focus our efforts to promote human safety, forest recovery, and resiliency. See the Special Exhibit on Bark Beetles for more detailed information.

Current and Future Conditions

Current conditions of mortality and defoliation (stripping of leaves or foliage) are monitored every year by extensive nationally standardized aerial and ground surveys conducted on over 400 million acres of forestlands. These surveys are an integral part of the FHM program because, in the long run, rapid and early detection of forest pests saves more forests and money. Surveys provide key information to forest managers, helping to best target treatments on impacted lands;

for example, addressing the growing bark beetle infestation in the West; monitoring the rate of spread and activity of the gypsy moth in the East; and tracking the activity level of the southern pine beetle in the South. Current conditions of mortality caused by other pests are not well-represented in aerial detection surveys, so FHM uses other reporting mechanisms, like ground surveys, to obtain information on current depictions of damage caused by the emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, Asian longhorned beetle, thousand cankers disease, and sudden oak death.

Current and Emerging Threats

To assist in the assessment and evaluation of the areas needing restoration, Regional and Area units will continue to document the occurrence of damage caused by forest insects, tree diseases, and invasive plants; changes in the population dynamics of host preferences of pests; and other changes in pest activity caused by climatic and other changing conditions. FHM continues to collect important genetic material that is at risk, including five-needle pine species such as whitebark pine, foxtail pine, limber pine, and bristlecone pine; as well as Atlantic white cedar, cypress, and table mountain pine. FHM works collaboratively with other Federal agencies, especially with the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service(APHIS), to combat several damaging invasive pests such as Emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, sudden oak death, gold-spotted oak borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, thousand cankers disease, and invasive plants on non-Federal lands. Most of the partnership work includes mapping surveys, using bait in streams for early detection of pests, control treatments, developing novel methods for combating pests including biocontrols, and education and outreach with the public.

Current pest issues FHM is working on:

- Several species of western bark beetle are causing severe mortality across many Western States, increasing risks for catastrophic fire, and health and safety of the people who use America's forests. FHM resources are focusing on prevention and suppression, especially in high value sites such as campgrounds, in coordination with other Federal land managers.
- Emerald ash borer has killed millions of ash trees and is now found in 24 States. APHIS is the lead agency in emerald ash borer survey, quarantine, and eradication. The Forest Service provides technical assistance to States and Federal land managers and continues to make significant advances in emerald ash borer management and detection. Since 2011, the Forest Service has worked with APHIS to develop a national emerald ash borer trapping model. Other staff and partners are working on developing biological control agents to mitigate the effects of this pest.
- Asian longhorned beetle poses a serious threat to several species of trees found in both urban and rural forests. APHIS is the lead agency for Asian longhorned beetle detection, eradication, and quarantine. The Forest Service provides technical and scientific support to APHIS and States to help manage Asian longhorned beetle.
- Sudden oak death threatens oak woodlands, urban forests, and horticultural industries. FHM continues to work with multi-agency partners, including Federal land managers, APHIS (lead Federal agency), the National Association of State Foresters, National Plant Board, and California Oak Mortality Task Force to better detect, contain, and manage this disease in forests where it is established. FHM funding continues to support the Oregon and California sudden oak death containment effort in the West.

- Oak wilt is the single most important disease affecting oaks in the eastern half of the Nation. The FHM program continues to support suppression efforts in the Great Lakes and Texas, including root graft disruption (sever roots that have grown together from several trees), spore tree removal (removing infected trees), and treat-to-the-line tactics (a strategy to treat oak wilt disease that creates a buffer zone between roots to stop transmission of the disease from infected to non-infected trees).
- Hemlock woolly adelgid remains a significant threat to the health of hemlock forests in the Eastern U.S., and the Forest Service has implemented a hemlock woolly adelgid strategic plan to address this non-native insect on private, State, and Federal lands. The multi-agency integrated effort focuses on management of high value hemlocks (using biological and chemical controls) and continues research and methods development to better manage hemlocks across their range.
- Thousand cankers disease is a recently described insect/disease complex causing black walnut mortality. A team of Federal and State agencies, universities, and conservation groups developed a National Response Framework for thousand cankers disease. This strategy provides land managers with current information to better manage thousand cankers disease. The Forest Service and APHIS have developed a reliable trap to detect the insect vector that was made available commercially in 2012 and is currently being used. FHM continues to organize and assist with thousand cankers disease surveys working across multiple agencies to provide guidelines and a thousand cankers disease survey database.
- Southern pine beetle, which has historically been the most destructive forest pest in the South, continues to remain at low levels across the region. Since 2004, the Forest Service has implemented the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program, which supports forest management activities reducing southern pine beetle risk. More than 1 million acres have been treated to reduce the risk of southern pine beetle on State, private, and Federal lands across the South. This program continues to be an example of Forest Service leadership and successful cooperation across all-lands.

The following table displays funding levels for selected insects, diseases and invasive plants for FY 2014 to FY 2016. The funding strategy is based in large part on the findings from the current surveys of pest conditions, NIDRM, and priorities in the State Forest Action Plans.

Funding for Selected Insects, Diseases and Invasive Plants by Fiscal Year
(dollars in thousands)

R&D (Research Appropriation) S&PF (S&PF and WFM Appropriations)	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Bud
Asian Longhorned Beetle (Total)	**$170**	**$108**	**$188**
R&D	120	50	40
S&PF	50	158	148
Douglas-fir Tussock Moth (Total)	**$110**	**$102**	**$97**
R&D	76	68	68
S&PF	34	34	29
Emerald Ash Borer (Total)	**$1,797**	**$1,668**	**$1,613**
R&D	1,297	1,168	1,168
S&PF	500	500	445
Gold Spotted Oak Borer, Thousand Canker Disease, Laurel Wilt (Total)	**$1,089**	**$1,079**	**$1,021**
R&D	509	499	499
S&PF	580	580	522
Gypsy Moth (Total)	**$10,089**	**$9,990**	**$7,978**
R&D	987	888	888
S&PF	9,102	9,102	7,090
Slow-the-spread	8,750	8,750	6,738
Suppression	270	270	270
Eradication	82	82	82
Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (Total)	**$3,792**	**$3,682**	**$3,473**
R&D	1,892	1,782	1,782
S&PF	1,900	1,900	1,691
Invasive Plants (Total)	**$3,803**	**$3,682**	**$3,396**
R&D	2,003	1,882	1,882
S&PF	1,800	1,800	1,514
Oak Wilt (Total)	**$574**	**$574**	**$519**
R&D	74	74	74
S&PF	500	500	445
Port Orford Cedar Root Disease - S&PF (Total)	**$175**	**$175**	**$89**
Sirex Woodwasp (Total)	**$370**	**$364**	**$337**
R&D	120	114	114
S&PF	250	250	223
Southern Pine Beetle (Total)	**$4,318**	**$4,318**	**$3,944**
R&D	918	918	918
S&PF	3,400	3,400	3,026
Subterranean Termites - R&D (Total)	**$323**	**$267**	**$267**
Sudden Oak Death (Total)	**$1,620**	**$1,569**	**$1,364**
R&D	270	219	219
S&PF	1,350	1,350	1,145

R&D (Research Appropriation) S&PF (S&PF and WFM Appropriations)	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Bud
Western Bark Beetles (Total)	**$5,875**	**$5,779**	**$5,644**
R&D	1,475	1,379	1,379
S&PF	4,400	4,400	4,265
Whitebark Pine Pests - (Total)	**$125**	**$125**	**$111**
R&D	0	0	0
S&PF	125	125	111
White Pine Blister Rust (Total)	**$621**	**$652**	**$616**
R&D	296	327	327
S&PF	325	325	289
Sub-Totals			
R&D	$10,360	$9,693	$9,693
S&PF	$24,491	$24,491	$20,923
TOTAL	**$34,851**	**$34,184**	**$30,606**

Forest Health Management - Federal Lands

Budget Line Item	Forest Health Management - Federal Lands (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands					
Annual Appropriations	$58,922	$58,922	$58,998	$76	0%
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands Total	**58,922**	**58,922**	**58,998**	**76**	**0%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	307	352	302	-50	-14%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**307**	**352**	**302**	**-50**	**-14%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands						
Federal acres treated - Invasives	104,037	126,460	146,338	153,577	146,338	122,997
Federal acres treated - Native pests	223,618	159,191	179,832	173,874	179,832	138,347

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $58,998,000 for Forest Health Management (FHM) Federal Lands, an increase of $76,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

Funds are used to conduct forest insect and disease surveys on over 400 million acres of forestlands; conduct forest insect and disease prevention, suppression, restoration, and eradication projects; provide technical assistance; and monitor forest health on all Federal lands including those of the Departments of Defense and the Interior, and the Army Corps of Engineers. In FY 2016, we will continue to work with States, Tribes, partners, stakeholders, and the public to develop and implement landscape scale restoration projects within designated insect and disease areas that reduce the risk of insect and disease infestations, using the new and improved tools provided in the 2014 Farm Bill to more efficiently combat insect and disease threats. Our partnership with the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will continue to leverage funds to combat several damaging invasive pests. Addressing these threats demonstrates a landscape-scale partnership approach to supporting the resilience and health of the forests and the communities that depend on them.

Insect and disease pests include those that are native and non-native invasive. Native insects and diseases are those that have evolved in the United States over millennia and are going through a cyclical outbreak period, whereas non-native invasive insect and disease pests are those that have been introduced from other countries and there is little or no resistance from the host, resulting in significant damage to the host species. Pests, both native and non-native invasive, can cause significant damage and mortality when populations are high; usually a result of the availability of

hosts, biology of the pest, and environmental factors such as moisture, temperature, and nutrients.

The request includes funding to meet the highest priority needs for:

- Western bark beetles
- Emerald ash borer
- Asian longhorned beetle
- Sudden oak death
- Oak wilt, root diseases
- Hemlock woolly adelgid
- Southern pine beetle

Funding also supports efforts such as slowing the spread, eradication of new outbreaks, and suppression of gypsy moth on forests and grasslands managed by the Forest Service, other Federal agencies, and Tribal governments.

In FY 2016, the Forest Service will continue to fund management actions to reduce forest susceptibility to beetle outbreaks and protect high value trees. This will result in resilient forests, enhanced visitor safety through reduction of hazard trees, and sustainable communities. In coordination with partners and stakeholders, the Forest Service directs funds to areas that have been experiencing bark beetle-induced mortality. Peer reviewed studies clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of bark beetle treatments on the landscape[9]. See the Special Exhibit on Bark Beetles for more detailed information.

Past Performance

Because forests cross jurisdictional boundaries, we employ an all-lands approach when dealing with forest health issues. Just as pests do not distinguish among different ownerships, some methods of pest management allow practitioners to affect entire landscapes, treating both public and private lands in an ecologically responsible and economically effective manner. One example of this is the cooperative approach being taken to reduce the impact of sudden oak death in the Western United States. Sudden oak death is a fungus that affects native oaks and related species, killing trees and disrupting ecosystems over large areas. In this program, we have been working with our Federal and Tribal partners, like the Department of the Interior, to develop new techniques to combat this disease. In FY 2014, together with our partners, we removed trees infected with this disease on a variety of Federal land ownerships, helping to ensure that neighboring trees would be less likely to be infested. We also increased homeowner awareness of this disease through an education campaign conducted with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service.

Recent efforts to protect native stands of white pine from white pine blister rust have fostered an integrative effort of a different nature. White pines are extremely important in high elevation landscapes. For example, they provide critical food sources for bears and other wildlife; they

[9] Christopher J. Fettig, Kier D Klepzig, Ronald F. Billings, A. Steven Munson, T. Evan Nebeker, Jose F. Negron, John T. Nowak. 2007. "The effectiveness of vegetation management practices for prevention and control of bark beetle infestations in coniferous forests of the western and southern United States." Forest Ecology and Management 238(1-3): 24-53.

maintain slope stability in steep areas; and they are culturally important to many Native people. We continue to work with our partners in Research and Development to identify individual trees that have withstood the impacts of white pine blister rust since its introduction in the 1930s because they are now recognized as having genetic resistance to the disease. The restoration of white pine to its important role in high-elevation forest depends on the ability to utilize the resistance of these survivor trees by maintaining the genetic stock. However, recent increases in bark beetle activity in the West have put all high elevation pines, including white pines, at increased risk of mortality – both from the beetle and the rust. Application of management techniques to reduce the impact of the beetle has allowed managers to protect the genetic resource of the resistant trees and ensure the future survival of white pines. In FY 2014, we prioritized the protection of high value trees were by applying protective sprays and using naturally occurring pheromones to disrupt beetle activity.

Many forested lands in the West are currently undergoing historically unprecedented bark beetle outbreaks. This outbreak is killing large numbers of mature trees over huge areas of forested lands. Bark beetles are native pests, but recent weather patterns of drier summers and warmer winters) have triggered beetle activity and large areas of susceptible trees have been impacted. This will most likely continue through the coming decade. Since most of the affected area is in roadless landscapes, the great majority of the affected lands will remain untreated. On public lands closer to the urban interface, actions have been taken to protect public safety; in FY 2014 nearly 11,000 acres were treated to remove hazard trees, especially in highly used areas like campgrounds. Restoration efforts are also underway to reforest and diversify the affected landscape. In FY 2014, over 18,000 acres of public lands were treated with restoration and replanting projects.

Sometimes control efforts utilize entirely different tactics to achieve a singular goal. Programs designed to control southern pine beetle populations have focused upon the fact that well-managed stands are much less prone to attack. Southern pine beetles are a native component of these pine forests, but beetle activity can sometimes disrupt forests by killing a significant numbers of mature trees. Thinning of susceptible landscapes and diversifying conditions throughout the forest are proven techniques that reduce beetle activity. These actions were undertaken on 33,000 acres in FY 2014. These tactics are even more effective when conducted over large landscapes, so the cooperation of all landowners is vital to ensuring the overall success of the program. While Federal funding has sponsored these treatments, a portion of these funds have been used to educate adjacent landowners on the benefits of management treatments. These efforts have resulted in cross- boundary cooperation that has reduced southern pine beetle numbers to their lowest levels in decades.

In total in FY 2014, the Forest Service, with partners, treated non-native invasive pests on 153,577 acres of Federal lands and native pest species on 173,874 acres of Federal lands.

Program Description

Program Overview

The FHM Federal Lands program monitors and assesses both short-term and long-term forest health conditions across the Nation. Pests cause billions of dollars in damage to trees and other forest resources each year, resulting in reduced productivity, loss of recreation opportunities for the public, and the creation of safety hazards in the Nation's forested lands. The FHM Federal Lands program investments provide for prevention, detection, monitoring, evaluation, and suppression of forest insects and diseases to protect forest lands managed by the Forest Service, other Federal agencies like the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of Defense (DOD), and Tribal governments. Pests that are managed include white pine blister rust, sudden oak death, bark beetles, hemlock woolly adelgid, and gypsy moth. Managed pests include white pine blister rust, sudden oak death, thousand cankers disease, hemlock woolly adelgid, and Asian longhorned beetle. Since pests cross administrative boundaries, FHM uses an all-lands approach involving all partners in the development of integrated management strategies to address each important pest. FHM treats the highest priority areas identified by aerial and ground surveys and the National Insect and Disease Risk Map in coordination with State Forest Action Plans to make the most efficient use of funding. Treating priority areas makes the most efficient use of Federal dollars. Treatments protect priority areas from damaging insects and disease, reduce the risks of mortality from wildland fire, and prevent future outbreaks by increasing the resilience of treated areas.

FHM also leads the Slow-the-Spread program for the gypsy moth, which continues to slow the progression of this invasive insect by 60 percent as it moves across the eastern U.S. Forest Service research indicates that without the Slow-the-Spread program, over 50 million acres of oak hardwood forests would be infested with gypsy moth. Slow-the-Spread is an integrated program of monitoring, trapping, and treating the gypsy moth so that populations do not spread rapidly. Additional projects also include gene conservation efforts to conserve at-risk tree species that will assist FHM projects that are negatively impacted by the effects of a changing climate, insects, and diseases.

The program continues to fund the Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center in Asheville, North Carolina, and the Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center in Prineville, Oregon. These Environmental Threat Assessment Centers are supported by S&PF, National Forest System, and Forest Service Research and Development and provide information on how multiple threats interact with pests, focusing on the effects of a changing climate.

Sudden Oak Death (SOD

Photo: Bruce Moltzan, Forest Service

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is an introduced invasive species that has killed millions of trees and poses an on-going threat to bay laurel, California coastal oak, and tan oak in 15 counties in CA and OR. APHIS-PPQ has imposed a Federal Quarantine for counties in California and Oregon. The threat of spread to eastern hardwoods is unknown but studies suggest eastern oak species are susceptible. The Forest Service on NFS lands conducts stream sampling, aerial, and ground surveys to determine spread of SOD. Slow-the-spread management through thinning in Oregon and California are funded each year in an effort to contain the disease.

Allocation and Integration

Annual priorities for mitigating the risk of future and current outbreaks are based, in large part, on the findings from the pest conditions and location as well as the National Insect and Disease Risk Map. Prevention and suppression programs for major pests such as the gypsy moth, western bark beetles, and southern pine beetle are directly related to the relative risk of these pests, areas currently experiencing pest outbreaks, and the availability of cost-effective treatment technologies. Some forest pests, such as southern pine beetle, can be more easily treated than others, such as butternut canker, for which there are few scientific tools available.

Some of the techniques used to determine integrated optimal areas for treatment include overlaying national map layers using Geographic Information Systems for insect and disease, fire, watershed condition, and wildland-urban interface. The spatial placement and sequencing of treatments on the National Forest System (NFS) lands are planned and coordinated with other Forest Service vegetation management program areas, such as hazardous fuels reduction and forest management through the "Sustainable Landscape Management" Board of Directors, a group of Directors from S&PF (FHM, Fire and Aviation Management), Forest Service R&D (Forest Management Sciences), and NFS (Forest Management; Range Management; and Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air, and Rare Plants). This coordination optimizes on-the-ground prevention and treatment and improves the overall health of forestlands across landscapes and ownerships.

Partnerships

This program funds the suppression of forest insect and disease pests on lands managed by all other Federal agencies and Tribal governments. Additionally, the FHM program provides technical assistance to other Federal agencies and Tribal governments to detect and assess pests on their lands. Where proposed treatment locations are adjacent to other Federal lands or non-Federal lands, treatment scheduling is coordinated with non-Forest Service partners to optimize improvements to forest health across landownership boundaries.

The Slow-the-Spread gypsy moth program works seamlessly across all landowners in a collaborative approach to implement this program on state and Federal lands. This program has significantly reduced the spread of gypsy moth by over 60 percent. The Forest Service works closely with all of the State departments of agriculture or State Foresters in 10 Slow-the-Spread States from Georgia to Wisconsin.

The Forest Service works with APHIS and other partners to combat important invasive pests and has systems established to survey, monitor, and respond to these invaders, as well as help communities restore degraded ecosystems. Other Federal agencies, such as DOI and DOD, submit suppression related project requests to the Forest Service regional or national office and the projects are evaluated in a competitive process. Coordination meetings occur frequently between the other agencies and the Forest Service to ensure the funds are used wisely.

Federal Health Management - Cooperative Lands

Budget Line Item	Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands					
Annual Appropriations	$45,655	$45,655	$40,678	-$4,977	-11%
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands Total	**45,655**	**45,655**	**40,678**	**-4,977**	**-11%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	106	95	94	-1	-1%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**106**	**95**	**94**	**-1**	**-1%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands						
Cooperative lands acres treated - Invasives	546,025	410,371	468,993	448,350	468,993	361,549
Cooperative lands acres treated - Native pests	33,483	34,203	49,032	38,362	49,032	41,460

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $40,678,000 for Forest Health Management (FHM) Cooperative Lands, a $4,977,000 decrease from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

Funds will provide technical and financial assistance to State forestry agencies and State departments of agriculture to conduct forest insect and disease surveys; to provide technical assistance; to conduct prevention, suppression, restoration, and eradication projects for forest insects, diseases, and invasive plants; and to monitor forest health on State and private lands. In FY 2016, the Forest Service will adjust monitoring and treatments based on allocations for some efforts such as the Slow-the-Spread (STS) program for gypsy moth and for work on southern pine beetle, sudden oak death, invasive plants, and hemlock woolly adelgid. Specifically, funding for Slow-the-Spread will be reduced, which may result in an increase in the rate of spread of this pest. Due to constraints with in limited resources, we are focused on the most pressing needs of forest restoration and reducing the risk of catastrophic fire to communities.

The program will fund the highest priority prevention and suppression needs for:

- Western bark beetles
- Hemlock wooly adelgid
- Oak wilt
- Southern pine beetle

- Gypsy moth

These pests are mentioned in State Forest Action Plans as high-priority pests.

Other pests will also receive high priority as they can affect and spread to all forestlands. These pests include:

- Emerald ash borer
- Asian longhorned beetle
- Sudden oak death
- Gold-spotted oak borer
- Thousand cankers disease

We will continue to work with our partners to inform the public, map the pests with new surveys, and develop methods to manage and mitigate these pests.

In FY 2016, the Forest Service will continue to fund management actions to reduce forest susceptibility to beetle outbreaks and protect high value trees. This will result in resilient forests; enhanced visitor safety through reduction of hazard trees; and sustainable communities. In coordination with partners and stakeholders, the Forest Service directs funds to the areas that have been experiencing bark beetle-induced mortality. Peer reviewed studies clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of bark beetle treatments on the landscape[10]. See the Special Exhibit on Bark Beetles for more detailed information.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)

Photo: Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is a serious threat to the hemlock forests of the eastern US. The Forest Service and its partners have implemented a HWA Initiative that has three components: development of biological control, treatments and survey/monitoring. Predatory beetles, used for biological control, are being released and established from Maine to Georgia. Funding is provided to state cooperators to treat high value hemlock stands. Each year more than 5,000 acres of valuable hemlock stands are treated.

Past Performance

Forest insects and pathogens impact forests on all-lands, and as such, FHM addresses these pests across ownerships. In the FHM Cooperative Lands program, we work specifically with our State partners, providing technical and financial assistance to address needs and issues identified in State Forest Action Plans, pest detection surveys, and areas at risk for infestations.

Using tools such as the National Insect and Disease Risk Map, the Forest Service and State forest health staffs identify areas that are at risk for increased levels of insect or disease activity. Treatments are then selected that can prevent the buildup of these pests before they reach damaging levels. The Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program is a good example of an all-lands program that works with State and Federal partners to encourage good forest management practices to prevent southern pine beetle outbreaks. These native insects can disrupt long term planning efforts by killing large areas of mature pine trees. In the past 10 years, this program has

[10] Christopher J. Fettig, Kier D Klepzig, Ronald F. Billings, A. Steven Munson, T. Evan Nebeker, Jose F. Negron, John T. Nowak. 2007. "The effectiveness of vegetation management practices for prevention and control of bark beetle infestations in coniferous forests of the western and southern United States." Forest Ecology and Management 238(1-3): 24–53.

treated more than 1 million acres of forests across the south. In FY 2014, almost 25,000 acres of State and private lands were treated as part of this program. These forests, thinned to be more resistant to the beetles, have seen very little beetle activity and, as a result, remain able to produce important benefits, like forest products for landowners as well as clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.

The gypsy moth Slow-the-Spread Program is also a proactive program that works with many partners across the landscape. Since its inception more than a decade ago, the STS program has prevented the spread of gypsy moth – one of North America's most devastating forest pests - from the infested area north and east of a line from North Carolina to Minnesota to 50 million acres of oak forests to the South and West. Lead by a team of State and Federal partners, STS treated more than 400,000 acres in eight States in FY 2014 and continues to identify areas of low, but building, gypsy moth populations. A variety of methods are employed to keep these gypsy moth populations at low levels, thus preventing further spread. An economic analysis of the program has shown that it has a benefit to cost ratio of 3:1 and has slowed the movement of gypsy moth by more than 60 percent.

With funding provided by this program, Federal and State forest health staffs also conduct aerial and ground-based surveys on more than 400 million acres per year, including in FY 2014, to detect insect and disease outbreaks. We work in partnership with States to most effectively leverage Federal funding with State funding to conduct more comprehensive surveys that can be used by all land managers working to combat native and non-invasive pests. When outbreaks or infestations are identified on non-Federal lands, funding is provided through this program to help combat those pests.

In cooperation with State Foresters, the Forest Service has implemented the national Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Initiative which focuses on expanded management and technology development. This invasive insect attacks mature hemlocks, which are an important component of eastern forests, and eventually kills them. The mortality caused by the aphid-like insect can change forest structure and create openings in the forest, encouraging invasive plants and affecting species makeup and dynamics. Through a cooperative effort with university scientists, States, conservation organizations, national forests and other Federal agencies, the Forest Service is working to reduce damage caused by the hemlock wooly adelgid within the 19 affected States. For example, in FY 2014, the use of biocontrols, and chemical treatments occurred on 10,060 priority acres of ecologically significant and high use hemlock forests.

Bark beetle activity throughout the West is currently at very high levels. Many forests are being affected by a variety of bark beetle species. This activity has been driven by weather conditions favorable to the beetles. Efforts to mitigate the impacts of the outbreak have focused on areas near the urban interface. Restoration activities have included removal of dead trees to protect public safety and reforestation of affected sites. Federal, State and local entities have cooperated to share expertise and resources; resulting in a synergistic effect across the landscape. Collaborative efforts resulted in the treatment of nearly 12,000 acres on State and private lands in the affected areas in FY 2014.

The Forest Service has also been working closely with State forestry agencies in California and Oregon to minimize the impacts of sudden oak death. This invasive plant pathogen has affected

the oak forests along the coasts of these States. With Forest Service funding, non-Federal land managers have treated infested areas to contain the outbreak and slow its spread. We have partnered specifically with Tribes and industry, who are heavily vested in combating sudden oak death because it has the potential to affect their timber products, which may be put into Federal quarantine if infested. Prevention, detection, treatments, research on new control methods, and outreach all work together to slow the spread of sudden oak death. The success of the program is not just found in the number of acres treated, but also includes acres surveyed in stream environments, acre surveyed through ground and aerial detection to identify pest activity, and acres protected by methods such as biocontrol.

Invasive non-native plant species aggressively compete with and displace native plant communities, impact forest productivity, increasing the threat of devastating wildfires and diminishing recreational enjoyment. FHM has provided essential matching funds and technical assistance to regional cooperative weed management organizations to combat economically significant invasive plant threats to forest lands. In FY 2014, the program provided funds that led to the treatment of 48,000 acres of private, State, and Federal lands.

The Forest Service partnered with States and other non-Federal partners in FY 2014 to treat non-native invasive pests on 448,350 acres of State and private lands and native pest species on 38,362 acres.

Program Description

Program Overview

The FHM Cooperative Lands program provides technical and financial assistance to States, the District of Columbia, and United States Territories to monitor, assess, and mitigate forest health threats on non-Federal lands across the Nation. Treatments protect priority acres from damaging insects, diseases, and invasive plants; reduce the risks of mortality from wildland fire; protect highly valued sites; and prevent future outbreaks by increasing the resilience of the vegetation in treated areas. The program also funds the use of Early Detection and Rapid Response efforts to detect invasive insects and diseases early, thereby reducing future costs to address pest outbreaks[11]. The support the Forest Service provides to its non-Federal partners is essential to protecting America's forested lands from pests. States identified forest health challenges as one of the most common problems requiring attention in their State Forest Action Plans, but often States and Territories do not have the scientific or financial resources to address these issues on their own. A 2011 study found that the cost of non-native invasive forest insects to local governments alone is, on average, more than $2 billion per year and that residential property value loss due to forest insects averages $1.5 billion per year[12]. The agency investment in the FHM Cooperative Lands program helps reduce these negative impacts. For example, the Forest

[11]Rabaglia, R., D. Duerr, R. Acciavatti, and I. Ragenovich. 2008. "Early Detection and Rapid Response for Non-Native Bark and Ambrosia Beetles". USDA Forest Service.

[12]Aukema J.E., B. Leung, K. Kovacs, C. Chivers, K.O. Britton, J. Englin, S. Frankel, R.G. Height, T.P. Holmes, A.M. Liebhold, D.G. McCullough, and B. Van Holle. 2011. "Economic impacts of non-native forest insects in the continental United States". PLOS ONE 6(9).

Service Slow-the-Spread gypsy moth program has reduced the spread rate of gypsy moth by 60 percent along a 1,000 mile long project area from North Carolina to Minnesota. Additionally, for every $1.00 invested in the Slow-the-Spread program, $3.00 are saved in future suppression costs. Without Slow-the-Spread, about 50 million more acres would be infested, resulting in larger and more costly treatment needs in the future.

Funds support three objectives: 1) conducting pest surveys and providing technical assistance, 2) conducting prevention, suppression, restoration, and 3) eradication projects; and monitoring the health of the Nation's forests. The Forest Service uses aerial and ground surveys and the National Insect and Disease Risk Map to select project locations for funding allocations to non-Federal partners. The State Forest Action Plans help guide FHM activities on non-Federal lands. Treatment placements incorporate local priorities including priority landscapes such as: wildland-urban interface areas, municipal water supply areas, outdoor recreational sites, and administrative sites.

Allocation and Integration

Forest Service annual priorities are based, in large part, on current surveys of pest conditions and priorities in the State Forest Action Plans, and expected predictions derived from the National Insect and Disease Risk Map. Some pests, such as southern pine beetle are more easily mitigated through management than others, such as sudden oak death. The Forest Service is working to more closely align funding allocations with identified risk, using an all-lands approach. The FHM Cooperative Lands program works with the FHM Federal Lands program to identify priority lands and manage forest insects and diseases across the landscape.

Partnerships

Partnerships leverage Federal financial assistance with a 1:1 match of non-Federal resources to implement programs and projects that protect forest resources and improve the health of the Nation's forests. In FY 2014, approximately $30 million in grant dollars for prevention and suppression were leveraged on a 1:1 basis with States and other non-Federal partners. Program activities are also coordinated closely with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and State departments of agriculture to detect and monitor introductions of new non-native invasive species such as the emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, sudden oak death, and laurel wilt.

The Slow-the-Spread gypsy moth program works seamlessly across all landownerships in a collaborative approach to implement this program on State and Federal lands. The Forest Service works closely with State partners to detect outbreaks, assess impacts, and conduct management activities. In cooperation with partners, the Forest Service conducts insect and disease surveys on more than 400 million acres per year and conducts special detection surveys such as thousand cankers disease trapping, sudden oak death stream-baiting, and non-native bark beetles. If treatments are needed, the Forest Service provides technical and financial assistance to conduct control activities.

Cooperative Forestry

Cooperative Forestry

	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**	**Percent of Program Changes**
Cooperative Forestry					
Annual Appropriations	$103,403	$106,076	$109,418	$3,342	3%
Cooperative Forestry Total	**103,403**	**106,076**	**109,418**	**3,342**	**3%**
Annual Appropriation FTEs	130	127	121	-6	-5%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**130**	**127**	**121**	**-6**	**-5%**
Cooperative Forestry					
Forest Stewardship	22,398	23,036	23,049	13	0%
Forest Legacy Program	50,965	53,000	61,000	8,000	15%
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation	2,000	2,000	1,683	-317	-16%
Urban and Community Forestry	28,040	28,040	23,686	-4,354	-16%
Economic Action Programs	0	0	0	0	0%
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	0	0	0	0	0%

Cooperative Forestry Overview

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $109,418,000 for Cooperative Forestry, an increase of $3,342,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

Cooperative Forestry promotes working in partnership with States, Tribal governments, communities, and private landowners to improve management and protection of forests and use of forest-based goods to enable them to care for their lands and communities.

The Cooperative Forestry programs are Forest Stewardship, Forest Legacy, Community Forest and Open Space Conservation, and Urban and Community Forestry.

Forest Stewardship Program

Budget Line Item	Forest Stewardship (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Forest Stewardship					
Annual Appropriations	$22,398	$23,036	$23,049	$13	0%
Forest Stewardship Total	**22,398**	**23,036**	**23,049**	**13**	**0%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	56	54	54	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**56**	**54**	**54**	**0**	**0%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Forest Stewardship						
Percentage of nonindustrial private forest acres in important forest resource areas being managed sustainably, as defined by a current Forest Stewardship Plan	2.8%	2.5%	3.0%	2.6%	3.5%	4.0%
Acres of nonindustrial private forest land that are being managed sustainably under forest stewardship management plans. (Annual)	1,652,087	2,178,735	1,500,000	3,203,423	1,500,000	1,500,000
Acres of nonindustrial private forest land that are being managed sustainably under forest stewardship management plans. (Cumulative)	21,045,039	20,687,289	20,000,000	25,981,974	21,000,000	21,500,000

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $23,049,000 for the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP), an increase of $13,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

State Forest Action Plans are enabling States to focus and coordinate program delivery to produce cumulative, landscape scale, measurable impacts, with multi-landowner and multi-partner planning, and technical assistance efforts. With their State Forest Action Plans, States are also identifying and addressing opportunities resulting from emerging ecosystem service and biomass energy markets, and focusing program assistance to conserve a "green infrastructure" of interconnected, viable forested landscape areas. The recently adopted Forest Stewardship Program strategy "FSP 20Twenty" provides State partners with a framework for focusing program delivery in priority landscape areas, further leveraging existing partnerships, and utilizing innovative tools for reaching more landowners with limited resources.

The program also continues to extend its reach through peer-to-peer efforts which support the program's long-term goal of managing significant landscapes, such as priority watersheds (as opposed to scattered, individual properties), and the conservation of strategically-located and

connected open spaces. With the use of the of the recently-deployed Stewardship Mapping and Reporting Tool (SMART), the program's cumulative impact is being tracked spatially, to assess progress in achieving forest resource management outcomes. SMART is also enabling landscape-based strategic planning, including the ability to leverage place based partnerships.

Landscape Stewardship

Landscape Stewardship focuses program delivery on priority landscape areas identified by State Forest Action Plans to achieve impacts at scales appropriate to forest health, wildfire, and other pressing resource management concerns. Landscape Stewardship includes the development and implementation of multi-landowner Forest Stewardship Plans and works to create economies of scale for local forest product markets.

The FSP continues to respond to the recommendations resulting from an extensive program evaluation study carried out in 2013 by the Forest Service's Family Forest Research Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The study utilized the results of existing quantitative and qualitative research to evaluate the program, including summaries existing performance metrics, catalogues of State forest stewardship activities, analyses of National Woodland Owner Survey data used to increase our understanding of how forest landowners use their lands, analyses of forest stewardship activities in relation to forest area trends, and focus groups. Study recommendations are being directly addressed with the adoption of additional performance elements that more comprehensively track the program's many educational and technical assistance activities, and a revision in FY 2015 to the FSP's National Standards and Guidelines. In the future, there will be a renewed emphasis on the educational and technical assistance activities shown by the study to be more cost-effective in reaching more landowners and having farther reaching impacts. The FSP plans to continue performing program evaluations to strengthen program effectiveness and find more creative ways to continue reaching forest landowners.

The FSP will also further extend the many new, innovative landowners outreach and education tools being developed by the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies Future Family Forest Initiative. In FY 2014, the FSP supported a series of Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively workshops around the country. The Forest Service intends to continue with many more workshops in FY 2016.

In addition, the FSP will work with Forest Service National Forest System staff groups to identify and address opportunities to coordinate landscape based work and make use of the expanded Good Neighbor and permanent Stewardship Contracting authorities. These tools could be leveraged in key geographies to join Federal, State, and private landowner resources in addressing priority resource management concerns.

Past Performance

The program continued implementation and refinement of the SMART spatial mapping tool in FY 2014. The use of SMART and the adoption of a SMART Data Quality Assurance Plan have resulted in much more reliable program performance data for FY 2014 by assigning roles and responsibilities to ensure that performance data are consistent with established, improved measure definitions and data collection and monitoring practices. SMART provides the ability

to spatially track all program accomplishments with respect to priority areas identified in States Forest Action Plans through statistically reliable and nationally consistent field monitoring and reporting programs. Several new geo-spatial performance elements were also added to SMART in FY 2014, thereby allowing the Forest Service to gain a much more comprehensive picture of FSP's programmatic impact and reach with respect to priority landscapes. These include: acres managed under a variety of practice and management plans which are supported by the program, but not "approved" Forest Stewardship Plans, and acres being managed under multi-landowner Landscape Stewardship Plans.

In addition, the program broadened implementation of the "Landscape Stewardship" approach in FY 2014, whereby the Forest Service is working with State forestry agencies and other partners to maximize program investments by tying individual landowners to surrounding landscapes and supporting the development of multi-landowner, landscape-scale Forest Stewardship Plans. Resource management challenges – like forest insects and pests, invasive species, economic viability, and protection of water supplies - cross multiple ownerships and are much more effectively addressed at the landscape scale.\

In FY 2014, nearly 26 million acres of non-industrial private forest lands nationwide were managed according to active Forest Stewardship Plans. Of this total, more than 13 million acres are within high priority landscape areas, as identified in State Forest Action Plans. An additional 3.1 million acres were managed under Landscape Stewardship Plans and 2.73 million acres were managed under a variety of management plan types supported by the program, but not officially approved Forest Stewardship Plans. These plans are in many cases precursors to more comprehensive Forest Stewardship Plans that meet the established national standard. Monitoring results for FY 2014 confirm that 87 percent of the acres covered by Forest Stewardship Plans are being managed as recommended. Additionally, FSP supported outreach to approximately 424,000 landowners in FY 2014, which includes 120,000 Forest Stewardship Plans and 304,000 landowners involved in other outreach activities, such as one-on-one technical assistance, participation in field days, field-based events, and classes.

The Forest Service will continue working with States to focus program investments where multiple resource outcomes are more likely, based on State Forest Action Plan assessment work. Performance is also likely to improve as the Forest Service and States implement the recently adopted Landscape Stewardship approach which includes the development of multi-landowner, landscape scale Forest Stewardship Plans. Program performance and impact within priority areas is increasing significantly.

Program Description

Program Overview

The FSP is the principle Forest Service program focused on private forest land management and conservation. Program assistance is provided to landowners through a national network of forestry technical assistance providers, primarily State forestry agencies, in the form of comprehensive, multi-resource Forest Stewardship Plans and a variety of educational and technical assistance programs and activities. This program also serves as an avenue through which landowners can gain access to other forms of assistance and incentives, including reduced

property tax rates, certification, and cost-sharing. The program is focused on delivery improvements, as demonstrated by the recently adopted Landscape Stewardship approach. The Forest Service is working with State forestry agencies and other partners to maximize program investments by linking an individual landowner's objectives to those of surrounding landscapes, and supporting the development of multi-landowner, landscape-scale Forest Stewardship Plans.

There are thousands of small forest landowners in the United States and many of them struggle to find resources to help them keep their lands healthy and productive. Private forest landowners are also under increasing pressure to sell and sub-divide their forested lands and, as the next generation inherits forest lands, they often do not have the knowledge, skills, or interest in managing them.

Actively managed forests provide water protection, timber, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and many other benefits for landowners and communities. More than 50 percent (420 million acres) of our Nation's forests are privately owned—and over 350 million acres of these are owned by small, private, non-industrial landowners, which are the focus of the FSP. Private forestlands provide numerous benefits for the American public and keeping them intact as working forests is critical to maintaining this stream of benefits. For example, private forest lands alone supply almost 30 percent of the surface drinking water to cities and rural communities, provide habitat for 60 percent of all at-risk species in the United States, and provide over 90 percent of all the timber harvested in this country.

Investments in the FSP help protect these forests and provide support to keep working forests intact, healthy, and productive. Forest Stewardship Plans help motivate landowners to become more active in planning and managing their forests, greatly increasing the likelihood that their forests will remain intact, productive and healthy, and that the social, economic, and environmental benefits of these lands will be sustained for future generations. The program also helps create jobs in rural communities by sustaining local forest product markets and increasing demand for qualified private forestry consultants, loggers, and State agency field foresters. Additionally, the program helps prepare forest landowners for participation in emerging ecosystem services markets as well as other incentive programs. Forest Stewardship Plans are required to consider the possible near and long-term impacts of a changing climate, including increased fire risk, invasive species migration, and species range and habitat shifts. Where appropriate and feasible, management plans will include actions to mitigate the adverse impacts of a changing climate.

The Forest Service maintains longstanding partnerships with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the American Forest Foundation, the National Association of Conservation Districts, and other partners to coordinate and streamline technical and planning assistance delivery and better address diverse landowner needs. This includes the deployment of the web-based SMART spatial accomplishment tracking tool to relate program accomplishments to a variety of landscape management objectives. Because of its unique role in reaching and assisting private forest landowners, and the fact that the majority of America's forests are privately owned, the FSP is critical to fulfilling the Secretary's all-lands vision for healthy and resilient forests.

Allocation and Integration

Funding for the FSP is allocated to Forest Service regions, the Northeastern Area and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry based on statewide comprehensive program potential and cumulative program impact within priority landscape areas, which are delineated in State Forest Action Plans. Program impact is measured primarily by the number of acres within high priority landscape areas being managed according to active Forest Stewardship Plans as confirmed through a statistically valid field monitoring program. States greatly enhance program impact by integrating programs and leveraging partnerships to target high priority areas, thus maximizing Federal program investment. This approach supports both the Secretary of Agriculture's all-lands vision and the Administration's emphasis on integrated, place-based program delivery.

Partnerships

All FSP activities are coordinated with and delivered through State and Territorial forestry agencies, leveraging substantial non-Federal financial and human resources. States are required to provide a minimum 1:1 match for Federal funds, but most far exceed this level. For example, in FY 2014, the FSP provided nearly $15 million in grants to States and other partners that were matched on average 2:1 with cash and in-kind contributions.

Partnerships remain a critical feature through which FSP assistance and programs are implemented. In FY 2014, the Forest Service has expanded its partnership with the American Forest Foundation Woodland Center Impact Projects to include several key landscapes: restoration of shortleaf pine in Alabama, watershed restoration in the Wisconsin Driftless Area, restoring the Mississippi Piney Woods landscape, and building community resilience to wildfire on the east face of the Elkhorn Mountains of Northeastern Oregon. Within all of these project impact areas the Forest Service and the American Forest Foundation are working together to develop innovative place-based landowner outreach and engagement strategies to encourage and inform forest landowners who have not historically benefitted from USDA technical assistance or conservation programs.

The RNGR Tribal Initiative

Photo: Jeremy Pinto, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station

Tribes face unique cultural issues in natural resource management including those surrounding the production and use of plant materials. Recognizing this, the goal of this program is to work with tribes to address their specific needs towards improving seedling quality and out planting success. Technical assistance, publications, and training opportunities that are tailored to Tribes are just a few ways the RNGR team facilitates these goals.

The FSP also continues to provide funding for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forestry program for ecosystem restoration activities because the Chesapeake is the Nation's largest estuary and a high priority for Federal investment to improving water quality. In executing this program, the Forest Service works closely with State and Federal partners and other organizations in the Chesapeake Bay program to implement forest stewardship, restoration, and conservation actions that contribute to overall watershed health, and specifically to water quality. This program helps to improve coordination in the installation of riparian forest buffers to protect water quality, and provides educational, and technical assistance to partners at all levels.

The FSP also provides funding in support of the NRCS to support the National Agroforestry Center, which successfully transfers sustainable agroforestry technologies to thousands of land management professionals each year. This center, a multi-agency USDA partnership, is focused on three primary outcomes: 1) increasing the adoption of agroforestry practices that improve water, soil and air quality; sustainable agriculture; product diversity and rural wealth; 2) creating tailored, science-based agroforestry tools that can be used by landowners to address complex environmental, economic, and social conditions across all lands; and 3) integrating agroforestry into USDA programs and policies.

Through its Rural Forestry Assistance component, FSP also supports the National Center for Reforestation Nurseries, and Genetic Resources, leveraging expertise within Forest Service‘s State and Private Forestry and Research and Development mission areas to provide technical assistance to Federal, State, Tribal, Territorial, and private nurseries, supplying them with the latest science-based information and supporting an extensive network for seedling production. The National Center primarily focuses on six strategic areas: 1) providing leadership in reforestation, conservation, and restoration, 2) maintaining technical expertise in growing and planting adapted seeds and seedlings, 3) expanding the use of native plants, 4) assisting underserved communities, 5) streamlining and leveraging resources, and 6) conserving and assuring the proper use and development of genetic resources. Currently, National Center members are working on national, interdepartmental teams to address the President’s Memo on Pollinators and the Federal Native Seed Strategy (June 2014).

The FSP also provides support to innovative committees and teams that help streamline and develop technical resources, program guidance, and efficient business practices in support of private forest management. The Joint Forestry Team is a collaboration of the Forest Service, the NRCS, National Association of Conservation Districts, and the National Association of State Foresters. Its purpose is to enhance the coordination of interagency delivery of forestry and conservation assistance for working forests, farms, and ranches. The collaboration seeks to improve the sustainability of the Nation’s forests in order to provide optimum levels of public benefits and ecosystem services. This is accomplished by determining where improvements may be made and by then removing overlap and duplication within programs and proposing actions to leadership. For example, collaboration members manage the Two Chiefs Partnership Awards, which honor groups and individuals for outstanding efforts in conservation and forest stewardship. The Joint Forestry Team also provides input on the Two Chiefs’ Joint Landscape Restoration projects, a multi-year partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and the NRCS to improve the health and resiliency of forest ecosystems where public and private lands intersect across the Nation.

The FSP also helps support the Forest Resource Coordinating Committee, which was established in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246). The Committee’s purpose is to provide direction and coordination of actions within the USDA, State agencies and the private sector to effectively address national priorities for private forest conservation. There are three key focus areas: 1) conserving and managing working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses; 2) protecting forests from threats, including catastrophic wildfires, hurricanes, tornados, windstorms, snow or ice storms, flooding, drought, invasive species, insect or disease outbreak; or development, and restoring appropriate forest types in response to such threats; and 3) enhancing public benefits from private forests, including air and water quality, soil conservation,

biological diversity, carbon storage, forest products, forestry-related jobs, production of renewable energy, wildlife, wildlife corridors and wildlife habitat, and recreation. In FY 2014, the Committee developed key recommendations for alignment of delivery systems, forest conditions, landscape conservation, forest markets, and inventory, monitoring, and analysis. For example, one recommendation was to prioritize investments in private forest landowner programs that promote forest health and resiliency and increase coordination and collaboration among regulatory and land management agencies at all levels to leverage existing programs and resources to support landscape scale conservation and management. These recommendations are publically available at: http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/frcc/.

Forest Legacy Program

Budget Line Item	Forest Legacy Program (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**	**Percent of Program Changes**
Forest Legacy Program					
Annual Appropriations	$50,965	$53,000	$61,000	$8,000	15%
Forest Legacy Program Total	**50,965**	**53,000**	**61,000**	**8,000**	**15%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	24	24	24	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**24**	**24**	**24**	**0**	**0%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	**FY 2013 Actual**	**FY 2014 Target**	**FY 2014 Actual**	**FY 2015 Target**	**FY 2016 Target**
Forest Legacy Program						
Acres of environmentally important forests protected from conversion (Annual accomplishment for Discretionary funds)	52,999	87,927	85,000	34,715	90,000	95,000
Acres of environmentally important forests protected from conversion (Annual accomplishment for Mandatory funds)	0	0	0	0	0	60,000
Acres of environmentally important forests protected from conversion (Cumulative)	2,275,320	2,362,577	2,447,577	2,410,512	2,617,577	2,565,512
Parcelization of forests avoided (number of parcels prevented) (Discretionary funds)	2,361	2,854	2,872	4,123	2,846	5,295
Parcelization of forests avoided (number of parcels prevented) (Mandatory funds)	0	0	0	0	0	3,385

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $61,000,000 in discretionary funds, $8,000,000 above the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. In addition, the request includes $39,000,000 in mandatory funds for the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) as a transfer from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in the Department of the Interior, for a total of $100,000,000.

The President's budget proposes to permanently authorize annual mandatory funding, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation for the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) programs beginning in FY 2017. During the transition to full permanent funding in FY 2016, the budget proposes $550 million in mandatory and $350 million discretionary funds total of $900 million in LWCF. Starting in 2017, the total of $900 million would be available annually in mandatory funds. The amounts requested include the authorized levels for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

In planning for FY 2016, 30 States submitted 52 proposed projects, totaling more than $147,730,425 million. Funding is provided to highest priority activities that can demonstrate

performance in a transparent manner. FLP projects are located in Priority Areas or Forest Legacy Areas identified in Forest Action Plans. In FY 2016, 41 projects are proposed for funding. Refer to the *FY 2016 Forest Legacy Program Proposed Projects* at the end of this section. The FY 2016 program targets include new measures for the acres of environmentally important forests protected from conversion using mandatory funds and parcelization of forests avoided using mandatory funds.

Past Performance

Since FLP was authorized in 1990, a total of 2.398 million acres have been protected across the country. These acres include approximately 169,186 acres of water bodies and 2,733 miles of streams. In FY 2014, FLP completed nine conservation easements and nine fee simple tract purchases, leveraging $17,886,000 of Federal funds with $9,958,000 of partner funds to protect a total of 34,715 acres. One acquisition highlight in FY 2014 was closing on the Androscoggin Headwaters project in New Hampshire. This acquisition completes a contiguous 63,000 acre protected forested landscape that includes the new Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge and two previously funded FLP projects. Forest Service analysis shows this landscape as one of the few areas in New Hampshire that will likely maintain deep snow packs that is more resilient to the effects of a changing climate—supporting sustained and manageable water flows and important refuge for wildlife and plants.

In FY 2014, we also expanded our accomplishment queries to include an analysis of anticipated project closures and fund expenditures over time to better project accomplishments and understand trends in project timelines. The results of this analysis reiterates the difficulties in accurately forecasting the amount of time it takes to close complicated real estate transactions, particularly when faced with staffing constraints at multiple levels in a program executed by both Federal and non-Federal staff. In light of these observations, we are currently evaluating changes to predicted accomplishment calculations. In addition, we launched an effort to update FLP program implementation guidelines in FY 2014, with a final product anticipated in FY 2015.

In FY 2014, we identified an emerging challenge in the FLP program related to the lack of qualified appraisers in some parts of the country. The Forest Service currently supports one Senior Review Appraiser to help address program needs. The program is also able to meet some of this need using field unit appraisal staff, but there are limits to what they can provide given their workloads and being responsible for other programs. The Forest Service is currently evaluating options to these challenges, which may include hiring an additional Review Appraiser who could provide assistance to partners and who could also conduct Quality Assurance Inspections.

Program Description

Program Overview

Forest Legacy funds are used for the protection of important forests that are under significant development pressure and that protect air and water quality, provide access, and protect important habitat for threatened or endangered wildlife or fish species. The Forest Legacy Program is funded through the LWCF. By permanently protecting important working forest lands, the FLP helps to create and maintain rural jobs and ensure a robust forest infrastructure.

The Forest Legacy program is a key component of the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative to conserve important landscapes and reconnect Americans to the outdoors. The funding helps the Forest Service continue to work across boundaries to support projects that protect forests in key landscapes as identified in States' Forest Action Plans to address the national priorities for private forests. These projects are coordinated with other partners to create viable and cohesive zones where the economic, social, and environmental values of forests are conserved.

The Forest Service is able to protect critical forest landscapes that are threatened by land conversion through FLP. These lands are protected through conservation easements and fee-simple purchases with partners such as State agencies, private landowners, and other conservation partners (e.g., The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, The Conservation Fund and other local/ regional conservation organizations). Projects are evaluated by a panel to fund the highest priority land conservation areas. Funds for the FLP are provided through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Upper Rio Chama River Watershed Forest

Photo: Trust for Public Land

The Upper Rio Chama River Watershed Forest Legacy Project permanently protects 11,665 acres of forest land in northern New Mexico, including valuable watershed resources for communities and wildlife. A conservation effort that began in 2009, the largest and final phase of the project was completed in November 2014. Located within the Jarosa Creek-Rio Vallecitos watershed, the property contains high elevation mixed conifer, aspen and spruce-fir forests interspersed with mountain meadows and 18 miles of cold, clear tributary creeks. With seeps, springs, and 18 miles of tributary creeks, the property provides abundant water to the Rio Chama, which flows into the Rio Grande, and contributes to the local water supply for communities which continue irrigation, ranching and cultural traditions dating back to the 18th Century. The property is also visible from the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, which winds for 18 miles along the property's eastern border, and encompasses a mosaic of habitats that support a high diversity of plants and animals including habitat for two federal Candidate species (Rio Grande cutthroat trout and Canada lynx), and the threatened Mexican spotted owl. The Upper Rio Chama River property, which adjoins the Carson National Forest on three sides, will stay in private ownership but will be permanently protected from development through a conservation easement.

More than 50 percent (over 420 million acres) of our Nation's forests are privately owned. Family forest owners and timber companies (including Timber Investment Management Organizations (TIMOs) and Real Estate Investment Trust (REITs)) are facing increasing pressure to sell, subdivide, and develop their land. Protection of private forests through the FLP helps provide private landowners with a conservation option. Intact private forest lands provide a multitude of benefits for the American public, including places to recreate and enjoy nature; working forestlands that provide jobs and forest products like wood and paper; and habitat for fish and wildlife. The FLP helps mitigate development in the Wildland Urban Interface, which reduces community exposure to wildfire danger, and maintains open space, thus increasing the

likelihood of firefighter success in defending property. Conservation across a landscape rather than focusing solely within ownership boundaries is essential to address large-scale conservation issues such as protection and restoration of watersheds, reduction of wildfire risk, and protection of at-risk species. The program operates on a willing buyer-willing seller basis and is a non-regulatory, incentive-based land conservation program.

Protection of private forests through FLP maintains a multitude of public benefits and ecosystem services. Eighty-nine percent of all FLP acres are adjacent to other protected lands. Research also shows that approximately 17 percent of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions world-wide are the result of deforestation or conversion of forest land to other uses (Congressional Research Service, International Forestry Issues in Climate Change Bills; 2009). Protecting forests from conversion is critical to ensuring resiliency to impacts of a changing climate on resource conditions.

Allocation and Integration

The FLP projects are nominated through a two-stage competitive process that includes State-level identification and approval of projects as well as a national review and ranking of these State-nominated projects. This two-tiered review results in high-quality projects that are supported both locally and nationally. Each project is ranked using standardized criteria: (1) importance—public benefits gained from the protection and management of the property, (2) threat—likelihood of conversion to non-forest uses resulting in a loss of forest values and public benefits, and (3) strategic relevance—project fits with a larger conservation plan, strategy, and initiative, and enhances previous conservation investments. Project management funds are allocated to Forest Service regions based on management needs for the projects.

Partnerships

As of the close of FY 2014, more than 2.3 million acres of environmentally important private lands have been protected through FLP. States and landowners are the primary partners, but land trusts and other conservation organizations play a critical role in identifying and completing projects. While the program requires a 25 percent non-Federal match, the program averages a 50 percent non-Federal match.

FY 2016 Forest Legacy Program Proposed Projects

Priority Rank	State	Project Name	Request
Administrative Funds			$6,400,000
1	MT	Trumbull Creek Watershed	6,500,000
2	GA	Lentile Longleaf Pine Tract	3,500,000
3	ID	Hall Mountain-Kootenai Valley	3,300,000
4	FL	Silver Springs Watershed	3,700,000
5	NY	Rensselaer Plateau Working Forest	5,455,000
6	ME	Big Six Forest	3,800,000
7	WA	Mt. St. Helens Forest Phase 2	3,800,000
8	UT	Zion-Orderville Gulch	2,630,000
9	TN	Sherwood Forest	3,345,000
10	OR	East Moraine Wallowa Lake	3,000,000
11	NC	East Fork of French Broad Headwaters Phase III	2,800,000
12	CT	Whip-Poor-Will Woods (WPWW)	1,430,000
13	AR	Pine-Flatwoods Recovery Initiative	1,150,000
14	HI	Helemano Wilderness Area	3,000,000
15	PA	The Northeast Connection	2,985,000
16	TX	Longleaf Ridge	2,000,000
17	SC	Chestnut Ridge Extension	1,005,000
18	CA	Rainbow Ridge Wherrit Conservation Easement	650,000
19	MI	Pilgrim River Forest	550,000
Subtotal, Discretionary			**$61,000,000**
20	VT	Worcester Woods	4,000,000
21	WA	South Puget Sound Coastal Forest	3,500,000
22	UT	Tavaputs Plateau	1,425,000
23	OR	West Klamath Lake Forest	2,000,000
24	HI	Jimmy and the Giant Palms	2,060,000
25	NY	Fort Ann Working Forest	710,000
26	TN	Grassy Cove Project	1,540,000
27	FL	Wolfe Creek Forest	2,000,000
28	VT	Groton Forest Legacy Initiative	1,335,000
29	MO	Eleven Point Forest	3,000,000
30	MI	Gitcha-ninj Nebish Forest	680,000
31	CA	Pacific Union College Forest	3,000,000
32	NH	Oliverian Valley	510,000
33	AR	Wye Mountain Headwaters	2,000,000
34	AL	Coastal Headwaters Forest	2,500,000
35	MS	Pascagoula River Conservation Lands	1,600,000

FY 2016 Forest Legacy Program Proposed Projects

Priority Rank	State	Project Name	Request
36	VA	New River Headwaters	1,665,000
37	FSM	Yela Forest Watershed	560,000
38	DE	Sussex Timberlands	1,860,000
39	KY	Knobs State Forest and Wildlife Management Area	1,200,000
40	VA	The Cove	1,035,000
41	RI	Arcadia Woodlands	820,000
Subtotal, Mandatory			**$39,000,000**
Total Funding			**$100,000,000**

Community Forest and Open Space Conservation

Budget Line Item	Community Forest and Open Space Conservation (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation					
Annual Appropriations	$2,000	$2,000	$1,683	-$317	-16%
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Total	**2,000**	**2,000**	**1,683**	**-317**	**-16%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	0	1	1	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0%**

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $1,683,000 for the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP), a decrease of $317,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

Based on projects submitted in prior years, we expect to use the FY 2016 funding for 6 to 10 projects. We will also continue to monitor previously funded projects and ensure the agency has capacity to continue implementation of this program.

Past Performance

The CFP was authorized in FY 2008, the final rule was issued in FY 2012, and grants for the first ten projects were also issued in FY 2012. In three fiscal years, 21 grants have been issued funding and 12 projects have been completed. Since the inception of CFP, the Forest Service has established or expanded 12 community forests providing important community benefits. The total acreage of the 12 closed projects totals more than 8,000 acres.

During implementation of the first round of projects, it became apparent that the rule contained significant challenges for grantees that impacted the overall success of the program. In light of these challenges, the Forest Service began a process to update the rule to improve program implementation and administration. Working closely with partners and stakeholders, revisions to the rule were made to adjust requirements and clarify language within CFP. Specific revisions were made to allow CFP grantees to take advantage of additional funding sources as match to Federal funds, as long as the requirements of those funds are consistent with the intent and purposes of the Community Forest Program. Additional revisions were aimed at reducing the administrative burden for applicants by eliminating the draft community forest plan from the application process and requiring only those applicants who are selected for funding to fill out additional grant paperwork, instead of all applicants. These changes to the rule are expected to increase the number of applicants requesting the program, as well as increase the agency's efficiency in ensuring these important forests are protected in perpetuity. A final rule is

anticipated within FY 2015 and program staff will work closely with OGC to apply the revised rule to current and future projects.

Program Description

Program Overview

The purpose of CFP is to achieve community benefits through grants to local governments, Tribal governments, and qualified nonprofit organizations to establish community forests by acquiring and protecting forestlands. By creating community forests through land acquisition, communities and Tribes are able to provide public access and recreational opportunities, protect vital water supplies and wildlife habitat, address the effects of a changing climate, provide demonstration sites for private forest landowners, and derive financial and community benefits from sustainable management.

The CFP achieves community benefits through grants to local governments, Tribal governments, and qualified non-profit organizations to establish community forests by acquiring and protecting forestlands. Community benefits under CFP include, but are not limited to: (1) economic benefits of sustainable forest management, including forest products, jobs and recreational opportunities, (2) environmental benefits, including clean water and wildlife habitat, (3) educational benefits from forest-based programs, including vocational and environmental educational programs, (4) benefits from serving as replicable models of effective forest stewardship for private landowners, (5) recreational benefits, including hunting and fishing, and (6) public access benefits. This program promotes protection and enjoyment of the Nation's outdoor heritage by empowering people and communities to protect and restore places they cherish. This program is important in the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative because it promotes connecting people to the outdoors where they live. Community forests are special public places that promote health, provide a place to find quiet and solitude, and generally improve quality of life.

The Federal contribution to the project cannot be more than 50 percent of the total project cost. Cost sharing provides key opportunities to increase financial capacity and promotes local investment, allowing communities to actively participate in sustainable management of their local forests.

Pilgrim Community Forest
Houghton County, Michigan

Photo: Nathan Miller; the Keweenaw Land Trust

The Keweenaw Land Trust in Michigan's Upper Peninsula purchased a 276 acre parcel to establish the Pilgrim Community Forest on September 3, 2014. The acquisition was made possible with grant funding through the U.S. Forest Service Community Forest Program (USFS-CFP) and with matching funds provided by the J.A. Woollam Foundation and private donors. The Pilgrim Community Forest includes about one mile of the Pilgrim River's main channel and has a variety of forest cover types dominated by northern hardwoods, with diverse, uneven aged stands. The public benefits of the Pilgrim Community Forest are clean air and water; wildlife habitat; education, research and demonstration value; economic benefit through timber and non-timber forest products; diverse public recreational opportunities, including hunting and fishing; and maintaining the area's attractive forested esthetic. The Pilgrim Community Forest supports goals of the Pilgrim River Watershed Project – a community partnership working to protect watershed health, support sustainable forestry, and provide public recreation benefits. The direct costs of acquiring the Pilgrim Community Forest were $510,400, supported by a USFS-CFP grant of $255,200.

CFP complements, but is not duplicative of, the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) and the Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF). CFP is focused on creating community forests through land acquisition, as opposed to FLP which protects at-risk forests through easements and land purchase. CFP is focused on creating community forests through land acquisition, while FLP protects at-risk forests through easements and land purchase. While a few projects may align with the intent of both programs, most projects will qualify for only one. Also, unlike U&CF which builds capacity for communities to develop and implement urban forestry programs, CFP is a land protection program. The program provides another tool to those entities that have demonstrated a sustained commitment to community forestry.

Allocation and Integration

Funding in support of CFP projects is distributed through competitively awarded Federal grants to qualified entities. Projects are selected by a diverse panel of experts based on specific selection criteria, which includes: community benefits provided by the project, degree of public participation in project development, strategic contribution of the project to landscape conservation, and threat of conversion to non-forest uses, like urban or sub-urban development.

Partnerships

The CFP has received and continues to receive support from State and local governments, Tribal governments, land trusts and other conservation organizations, and communities. Though not required, some State forestry agencies provide assistance to applicants in the development of their applications. In the case of one funded project, two non-profits and a Tribe worked closely together to develop a project and the application even though the non-profit organizations will not hold title to the community forest. The degree of community and partner support for the program is evident from the project cost-share dollars, currently averaging a 60 percent match – above the 50 percent cost share requirement.

Urban and Community Forestry

Budget Line Item	Urban and Community Forestry (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Urban and Community Forestry					
Annual Appropriations	$28,040	$28,040	$23,686	-$4,354	-16%
Urban and Community Forestry Total	**28,040**	**28,040**	**23,686**	**-4,354**	**-16%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	48	48	42	-6	-12%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**48**	**48**	**42**	**-6**	**-12%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Urban and Community Forestry						
Percentage of people living in communities managing programs to plant, protect, and maintain their urban and community trees and forests.	46.2%	47.0%	46.0%	47.4%	47.0%	47.0%
Percentage of people living in communities developing programs and/or activities to plant, protect, and maintain their urban and community trees and forests.	31.0%	31.2%	31.0%	27.4%	31.0%	31.0%

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $23,686,000 for the Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) program, a decrease of $4,354,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

With the proposed FY 2016 President's Budget, U&CF will work with State forestry agencies and other partners to assist communities in developing and enhancing their urban forestry programs. The U&CF program will work to optimize the social, economic, public health, and environmental services that urban and community trees and forests provide. Currently, more than 83 percent of Americans live in metropolitan areas. This program's investment in the i-Tree research tool provides communities with the evidence needed to enhance and expand their urban tree canopy. Metropolitan areas are using i-Tree to quantify the monetary benefits of city trees and inform strategic decisions on the development of master plans and launching major tree planting initiatives. The U&CF program will continue to support valuation research and cost-benefit analyses tools that can inform local budget and investment decisions. Special emphasis will be placed on projects and partnerships that bring more attention to the value of public health benefits of urban forests, city trees and green spaces.

Investing in Climate Resilience

The President believes that we must do more to help communities across the country become more resilient to the effects of a changing climate. Recent events have reinforced our knowledge that our communities and economy remain vulnerable to extreme weather and natural hazards. The Urban and Community Forestry program is improving community trees and forests, resulting in carbon removed from the air, reduced storm water treatments, flood mitigation in addition to other ecosystem services.

Past Performance

In FY 2014, the Urban and Community Forestry Program reached more than 190 million people in communities across the U.S. through the development and maintenance of local urban forestry programs. U&CF ensures that people in the U.S. are living in communities that are healthier and more livable.

The U&CF program also continued to work with State forestry agencies and other partners in FY 2014 to assist more than 7,100 communities in developing and advancing their urban forestry programs. In addition, the U&CF program funded high-priority activities that demonstrated results in a transparent manner. For example, in an effort to improve our Nation's water systems and promote their economic, environmental, and social benefits in urban communities, U&CF continued to leverage support of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) by offering competitive urban watershed revitalization grants. The UWFP is one of 10 high-profile priority projects in the *USFS Public-Private Partnership;* is an identified action within the *USDA Environmental Justice Strategy;* and is one of the agency's deliverables in the President's *America's Great Outdoors* Initiative. The UWFP is a Federal partnership with 14 Federal agencies, including the Department of Agriculture (USDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Commerce, the Department of the Interior (DOI), Health and Human Services, and the Housing and Urban Development. This Federal partnership expanded on the ground with local government and non-profit organizations in more than 18 cities across the Nation. The White House launched the Partnership in 2011, which has improved coordination among Federal agencies, and advanced community-led revitalization efforts in numerous cities, including Denver, Seattle, Atlanta, Baltimore, New Orleans, and the District of Columbia. The UWFP targets investments to reduce urban waterway pollution and the associated environmental hazards, restoring urban waterways and making them available to the community. These investments create local jobs; leverage investments among Federal, state and local partners; and improve America's waters and the associated communities. The UWFP grants have resulted in the creation of more than a dozen Ambassador Jobs to facilitate and coordinate local projects; the implementation of waterway

Calculating and Quantifying the Human Health Benefits of Urban Trees

Photo: USDA Forest Service

UCF is working closely with researchers to further investigate and calculate the human health benefits of urban trees and green infrastructure. Ultimately, UCF would like to enhance the i-Tree software application with quantifiable public health benefits. i-Tree's popularity and public-access smartphone application has the capacity to deliver awareness facts on common public health challenges, such as, childhood asthma, obesity and stress.

improvement projects and tree planting in many underserved neighborhoods and communities; the "greening" of 25 schools" with shade trees, fruit trees and rain gardens; and the engagement of nearly 2000 volunteers, many of whom are students.

Program Description

Program Overview

The U&CF assists cities, suburbs, and towns across the country in improving the condition of community trees and forests. The U&CF program investments are critical to reaching a majority of Americans, including minority and underserved communities, to connect them to their natural heritage and ensure that our Nation's public and private forests remain relevant to the next generation—over 83 percent of the Nation's population live in urban areas. There are over 100 million acres of urban forest lands in the U.S. Research has shown that urban forests provide critical benefits to Americans, including energy conservation; flood and pollution control; climate change mitigation; and open spaces that improve human health and quality of life. For example, Forest Service research has found that street trees in Minneapolis, Minnesota, save $9.1 million in stormwater treatments annually[13]. The urban trees of Los Angeles, California, remove about 77,000 tons of carbon per year and about 1,976 tons of air pollution per year[14]. The U&CF leverages State and other partner resources to ensure that communities across the country continue to protect their urban forests and the economic and health benefits they provide.

The U&CF leverages State and other partner resources to ensure that communities across the country continue to protect their urban forests and the economic and health benefits they provide. For example, the Forest Service is working in partnership with the University of Washington to synthesize and promote the most cutting-edge research on the public health benefits of the urban canopy and green spaces in cities. A recent study in New York City found that an increase of just 343 urban trees per square kilometer was associated with 29 percent lower prevalence of early childhood asthma.[15] In addition, other recent research has shown that living in communities with access to nature and restorative outdoor settings can reduce stress and increase exercise frequency, as well as improve immune system response, reduce depression, lower glucose levels in diabetics, and increase ability to cope with major life issues.[16]

Allocation and Integration

This program allocates funds based on performance, tracked in a web-based accomplishment reporting system. Allocations target communities that have established one or more of the following: (1) professional urban forestry staff, (2) tree ordinances, (3) urban forest management plans, or (4) tree boards or advisory organizations.

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[13] Nowak, David, R. Hoehn III, D. Crane, L. Weller, and A. Davila. "Assessing Urban Forest Effects and Values, Los Angeles' Urban Forest." USDA Forest Service. (2011). Web. http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/rb/rb_nrs47.pdf.

[14] E. Gregory McPherson, James R. Simpson, Paula J. Peper, Scott E. Maco, Shelley L. Gardner, Shauna K. Cozad, Qingfu Xiao. "City of Minneapolis, Minnesota Municipal Tree Resource Analysis." Center for Urban Forest Research, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, June 2005. Web. https://www.itreetools.org/resources/reports/Minneapolis%20Municipal%20Tree%20Resource%20Analysis.pdf

[15] G S Lovasi, J W Quinn, K M Neckerman, M S Perzanowski, A Rundle, 2008. "Children Living in Areas with More Street Trees have Lower Prevalence of Asthma." Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health 62:647–649.

[16] BBC News, "Tree-lined Streets Cut Asthma." http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7374078.stm.

The U&CF program is well integrated with other Forest Service programs. The U&CF and Forest Health Management programs work together to survey and monitor conditions of urban forests' health, including the early detection and response to invasive insect pests such as emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle.

U&CF works with Forest Service Research & Development to develop, disseminate, and support i-Tree, a state-of-the-art, peer-reviewed software suite that provides urban forestry analysis and benefits assessment tools. The i-Tree tools are designed to help communities of all sizes strengthen their urban forest management and advocacy efforts by quantifying the environmental services that trees provide and the structure of the urban forest. The software tools are public domain and are freely accessible.

The i-Tree tools have over 12,000 unique users across all 50 States and 100 different countries. Version 5.0 of i-Tree provides an innovative watershed hydrology modeling application and includes the ability to calculate human health benefits acquired from trees. For example, i-Tree can calculate ways trees can reduce asthma cases and missed work days due to illness, as well as the dollar values associated with these benefits. Version 5.0 of the i-Tree software was released in October 2012 providing application upgrades and an innovative new watershed hydrology modeling application. Version 5.0 features a new data collection web form that allows any device, such as smart phones or tablets, with a modern internet browser to be used to collect and enter field data. Additionally, a new function within i-Tree forecasts the growth and benefits of trees through time, based on species and location-specific growth models. Major cities across the country are using i-Tree to inventory and analyze the benefits of their urban forest as a decision-support tool. For example, the City of Pittsburgh developed a master plan to expand its urban tree canopy after i-Tree calculations showed the city's trees provided a monetary benefit three times greater than the annual cost of upkeep.

Partnerships

The U&CF delivers its program through State forestry agencies, other Federal agencies, local governments, community organizations, and volunteers. State programs leverage the Forest Service investment with other funding sources to deliver financial assistance to communities for urban and community forestry, often providing at least a 2:1 match for the Federal funds.

To achieve program priorities, U&CF is also working with the USDA National Agroforestry Center, The Conservation Fund, Sustainable Urban Forest Coalition, National Association of Regional Councils, National Academy of Sciences Arbor Day Foundation, the Alliance for Community Trees, and other national partnership organizations. The Forest Service is the Urban Waters Federal Partnership lead on behalf of USDA. This Federal partnership, launched in 2011, has expanded to 18 pilot cities and 14 Federal agencies, including USDA, EPA, the Department of Commerce, HUD, Department of Transportation, DOI, and the

Tree City USA 40th Anniversary

Since 1976, Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA Program has provided a framework for building and maintaining community tree canopy. This strong partnership between the U.S. Forest Service, the National Association of State Foresters, and the Arbor Day Foundation includes more than 3,400 Tree City USA communities, home to more than 135 million Americans.

Department of the Army. This innovative Federal partnership aims to stimulate regional and local economies, create local jobs, improve quality of life, and protect Americans' health by revitalizing urban waterways in under-served communities across the Nation. The partnership also supports President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative aimed at making the Federal government a better partner with communities that are working to provide safe, healthy, and accessible outdoor spaces.

International Forestry

Budget Line Item	International Forestry (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**	**Percent of Program Changes**
International Forestry					
Annual Appropriations	$8,000	$8,000	$4,004	-$3,996	-50%
International Forestry Total	**8,000**	**8,000**	**4,004**	**-3,996**	**-50%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	38	30	15	-15	-50%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**38**	**30**	**15**	**-15**	**-50%**

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $4,004,000 for the International Forestry program, a decrease of $3,996,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. The Forest Service will conduct its highest priority international work under existing Forest Service authorities and in partnership with other Federal agencies whose missions are more centrally focused on international development.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Forest Service Office of International Programs promotes sustainable forest management overseas and brings important technologies and innovations back to the United States. Effective forest management at the global level is necessary to protect American trade interests—such as the ability of U.S. timber producers to compete on a level playing field—and the sustainability of critical domestic and foreign natural resources. Forest management policy discussions routinely tackle complex issues such as: trade, U.S. competitiveness, climate change, economic growth, preventing illegal logging, and national security. The program also addresses several critical domestic natural resource conservation issues, including protecting the Nation from invasive species as well as conserving habitat for U.S. migratory species of high importance. The FY 2016 President's Budget would maintain programs in the following areas:

Climate Change - International policy discussions on climate change have increased the focus on the role of forests and grasslands in greenhouse gas mitigation. Developed countries are considering how best to include the land sector in greenhouse gas reduction commitments. For example in developing countries, a coordinated effort to reduce deforestation, called REDD (Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) is gaining momentum. International Forestry works closely with the Department of State and other U.S. government agencies in the international policy arena to: engage in a worldwide forest restoration network to strengthen efforts across the globe to rehabilitate degraded land for carbon sequestration, as well as other economic and social benefits;

- contribute technical expertise to climate change negotiations; and
- participate in forest management and policy discussions. A good example is our ongoing work with the MegaFlorestais group, a network of forest agency leaders from the 12 largest forested countries. The group advances international dialogue and exchange on forest governance and public forest agency reforms—with a focus on climate change.

Combatting Illegal Logging - Worldwide trade of forest products is estimated to exceed $1 trillion per year, approximately 15 percent of which is from illegally harvested wood. The artificially low price of the illegal harvest leads to an imbalance in which world markets cannot equally participate. This imbalance undercuts the competiveness of U.S. forest products companies who are following policies and regulations, resulting in the loss of jobs in the U.S. One of the major problems in policing illegal logging worldwide has been the difficulty in identifying wood species, especially tropical wood species. Identification is complex because of the sheer number of species and the difficulty in tracing illegally harvested wood. The FY 2016 President's Budget allows for maintenance level support for this work.

Protecting U.S. Forests from Invasive Species - Effectiveness in protecting the U.S. economy from the damage that invasive species inflict on our forests, our work involves facilitating collaboration among scientists to identify and use biocontrol agents for invasive forest pests - more effective and economical than traditional methods. We collaborate with partnering agency scientists and land managers with counterparts in those countries where the invasive species originate. Without international collaboration, we cannot effectively control pests already in the U.S. and prevent further introductions. One of our efforts addresses one of the most destructive invasive forest pests, the emerald ash borer (EAB). The goal is to understand why the EAB is so resilient and pervasive so that land managers can predict and prevent potential future outbreaks of related wood boring beetles. The partnership was formed between the Forest Service's Northern Research Station, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Agriculture Research Service (ARS) and the Chinese Academy of Forestry. With support from International Forestry, the team has been working to find natural enemies of EAB in its native range. Two locations with different forest types were selected in China and specimens of key natural enemies, primarily egg and larval parasitoids, were collected and evaluated for their potential use in biological control programs. The work resulted in breakthroughs from ARS scientists who found three natural enemies of the EAB. The FY 2016 President's Budget allows for maintenance level support for this work.

Conserving U.S. Migratory species that are declining or at risk - Many U.S. organizations, including environmental groups, private citizen groups, and governmental and nongovernmental agencies, together invest millions of dollars in protecting habitat for listed and at-risk migratory species. The American public cares about these birds, bats, butterflies and dragonflies which often spend the winter in Latin America and the Caribbean. Our work protecting habitats in these areas making the large U.S. domestic investment in conservation ultimately less effective, the current situation is dire: some 64 percent of neotropical migratory species are declining.

Allocation and Integration

The program prioritizes work in collaboration with other Forest Service programs and in conjunction with the U.S. Department of State to address the most important international natural

resource management issues including illegal logging, climate change, migratory species habitat, invasive forest pests, and sustainable forest management.

Partnerships

The International Forestry program works in coordination with Forest Service field units, domestic and international partners including those in other Federal agencies, foreign governments, international and local environmental organizations, universities, and the private sector, on a range of forest management and policy issues. International Forestry engages in technical collaboration to develop capacity, strengthen institutions, and develop economic alternatives to unsustainable and illegal harvesting.

National Forest System

Appropriation	National Forest System (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**	**Percent of Program Changes**
National Forest System					
Annual Appropriations	$1,496,330	$1,494,330	$1,648,314	$153,984	10%
National Forest System Total	**1,496,330**	**1,494,330**	**1,648,314**	**153,984**	**10%**
Annual Appropriation FTEs	10,845	10,846	11,243	397	4%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**10,845**	**10,846**	**11,243**	**397**	**4%**
National Forest System					
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	822,110	822,110	0%
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	40,000	40,000	60,000	20,000	50%
Restoration Partnerships	2,000	0	0	0	0%
Land Management Planning, Assessment & Monitoring	0	0	184,236	184,236	0%
Land Management Planning	37,754	37,754	0	-37,754	-100%
Inventory and Monitoring	151,019	151,019	0	-151,019	-100%
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	261,719	261,719	263,942	2,223	1%
Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Management	140,466	140,466	0	-140,466	-100%
Grazing Management	55,356	55,356	49,706	-5,650	-10%
Forest Products	339,130	339,130	0	-339,130	-100%
Vegetation & Watershed Management	184,716	184,716	0	-184,716	-100%
Minerals and Geology Management	76,423	76,423	70,689	-5,734	-8%
Landownership Management	77,730	77,730	71,601	-6,129	-8%
Law Enforcement Operations	126,653	126,653	126,030	-623	-0%
Valles Caldera National Preserve	3,364	3,364	0	-3,364	-100%

National Forest System Overview

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $1,648,314,000 for the National Forest System (NFS), an increase $153,984,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

The NFS appropriation provides funds for the stewardship and management of over 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands. The FY 2016 President's Budget includes budget structure changes designed to increase efficiency in program administration and delivery and to reduce redundancy and administrative costs while continuing to support the Administration's highest priorities.

Following Secretary Vilsack's "All Lands" vision, the Budget focuses on meeting the challenges of building landscape and community resilience through collaborative approaches to ecological restoration, connecting Americans to the outdoors, expanding on recreation benefits, creating a wide range of opportunities for economic expansion to retain and create jobs, and partnering with communities and other agencies to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildland fires.

Conserving forests and grasslands not only conserves air quality, water, plants, and wildlife; it responds to the public's interests and needs. Forests and grasslands generate wealth by providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism such as camping, picnicking, skiing, snowboarding, hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, scenic driving, and visiting cultural sites and visitor centers. People improve their health and well-being by engaging in the wide array of outdoor activities available on national forests and grasslands. The restoration of landscapes, sustainable forest management, and the development of markets for ecosystem services provide jobs to communities that benefit rural economies.

Management of the vast array of natural resources on national forests and grasslands requires the effective integration of many different and complex program areas. The suite of NFS programs support the planning, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of activities that provide a wide variety of ecosystem services including: water-quality protection and improvement, recreation opportunities for the public, energy for the Nation, food security, timber and non-timber forest products, maintenance of open space, and wildlife habitat and habitat connectivity. All of these services support the maintenance of jobs as well as growth in the domestic job market. These activities are managed to meet the needs of the Nation while maintaining or improving the health of the land and protecting the environment to provide the greatest good for the greatest number in the long term.

Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR)

The FY 2016 President's Budget continues to emphasize IRR as the leading approach to accomplish on-the-ground restoration. In FY 2016, IRR is expanded beyond the pilot stage in three regions to full implementation across all Forest Service regions to meet the agency's commitment of increasing the pace and scale of restoration. Full IRR implementation will help meet the social and economic commitments made to communities centered on restoration. However, if Congress decides that more time is needed to demonstrate the success of the pilot program before granting Nation-wide authority, we ask that the pilot program be continued in FY 2016. A fifth year of the pilot program would allow us to further clarify what benefits can be gained, and what challenges remain, from this new approach.

This IRR budget structure aligns with the Secretary's vision of integrating watershed protection and restoration into all aspects of our management of national forests and grasslands and to create or maintain local economic opportunities and jobs. This budget structure will allow us to more effectively accomplish forest health and water quality improvement goals.

The table below compares the FY 2016 President's Budget proposed funding level to previous years as if IRR were previously approved, by adding the amounts of the legacy budget line items.

Integrated Resource Restoration Consolidated Budget Line Items
(dollars in thousands)

Approp.	Budget Line Item	FY 2014 Comparable Basis	FY 2015 Comparable Basis	Change	FY 2016 Pres. Bud
NFS	Integrated Resource Restoration (max total to IRR)[1,2]	[$170,000]	[$190,321]	$822,110	$822,110
NFS	Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Mgmt.	140,466	140,466	(140,466)	
NFS	Forest Products	339,130	339,130	(339,130)	
NFS	Vegetation and Watershed Management	184,716	184,716	(184,716)	
CIM	Legacy Roads and Trails	35,000	40,000	(40,000)	
WFM	Hazardous Fuels non-Wildland Urban Interface[3]	76,625	90,437	(90,437)	
Total		**$775,937**	**$794,749**	**$27,361**	**$822,110**

1. Integrated Resource Restoration in FY 2012 to FY 2015 is a pilot program in Regions 1, 3, and 4.
2. The FY 2014 Appropriations Act and Consolidated and Continuing Further Appropriations Act, 2015 allowed the Forest Service to transfer "up to" these amounts to the IRR Pilot Program.
3. Figures calculated as 25 percent of total Hazardous Fuels BLI.

Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring

The President's Budget proposes a consolidated budget line item to facilitate an integrated approach to landscape management. In the Budget, we propose to merge Land Management Planning and Inventory and Monitoring, into a single budget line item called Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring. Forest Service management occurs around a continuous cycle of assessing, planning at multiple levels, implementing and adjusting programs, and projects based on information acquired through integrated inventory and monitoring activities.

The proposed consolidated budget line item provides the agency flexibility to achieve efficiencies in several central activities in this cycle that are core to implementing the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule. Requirements include an increased focus on agency assessment and monitoring activities. The 2012 Planning Rule promotes a collaborative science-based approach for planning, monitoring, and conducting assessments that considers information from and about all lands that may be affected by or influence planning unit activities. The need to integrate regional and local monitoring and assessment activities with unit planning efforts can be accomplished more effectively, clearly, and efficiently under the proposed budget line item.

The proposed budget structure improves accountability within the activities funded and facilitates a more complete alignment with other budget line items that fund agency information management activities by reducing the complexity of agency budgeting and accounting structures. Accountability is improved though aligning priority management, information needs, and communicating explicit performance expectations in agency direction.

Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring
Consolidated Budget Line Items
(dollars in thousands)

Approp.	Budget Line Item	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	Change	FY 2016 Pres. Budget
NFS	Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring	-	-	$184,236	$184,236
NFS	Land Management Planning	37,754	37,754	(37,754)	
NFS	Inventory and Monitoring	151,019	151,019	(151,019)	
	Total	**$188,773**	**$188,773**	**($4,537)**	**$184,236**

Integrated Resource Restoration

Budget Line Item	Integrated Resource Restoration (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Integrated Resource Restoration					
Annual Appropriations	0	0	$822,110	$822,110	0%
Integrated Resource Restoration Total	**0**	**0**	**822,110**	**822,110**	**0%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	0	0	5,473	5,473	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**0**	**0**	**5,473**	**5,473**	**0%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Integrated Resource Restoration						
Number of watersheds moved to an improved condition class	9	12	15	10	19	20
Acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience	2,569,617	2,533,121	2,700,000	2,906,018	2,900,000	2,900,000
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	3,704	4,168	3,262	3,488	3,262	3,262
Volume of timber sold (million board feet (MMBF))	2,644	2,610	2,800	2,831	2,900	3,200
Miles of roads decommissioned	2,103	1,490	1,200	1,415	1,600	2,000

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

Note: Timber volume sold is the total agency target/accomplishment from all funding sources.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $822,110,000 for Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR) as a single budget line item. The Forest Service has continued to implement the pilot program authorized by Congress in Regions 1, 3, and 4, and to emphasize IRR as the leading approach to accomplish on-the-ground restoration. This work will lead to improved forest and grassland health and resilience using landscape scale restoration to recover watershed health and clean water and create or maintain local economic opportunities and jobs. Funding of this program is a critical part of the Forest Service's capacity to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, improve water quality and quantity, and increase carbon sequestration.

In view of pilot program success, we propose fully implementing IRR across all of the national forests and grasslands in FY 2016 as the best way to capitalize on the lessons learned thus far from the pilot program. However, if Congress decides that more time is needed to demonstrate the success of the pilot program before granting nation-wide authority, we ask that the pilot program be continued in FY 2016. A fifth year of the pilot program would allow us to further clarify what benefits can be gained, and what challenges remain, from this new approach.

The IRR budget line item was first introduced in FY 2011 and proposed again in FY 2012 with the addition of portions of Hazardous Fuels from the Wildland Fire Management budget line item and Legacy Roads and Trails, the road decommissioning activity from the Capital Improvement and Maintenance appropriation. National authority to consolidate these budget line items was not provided in the Consolidated and Continuing Further Appropriations Act, 2015. However, the agency was provided with continuing limited authority under a pilot program.

As in FY 2012 through FY 2014, the FY 2015 pilot authority includes Regions 1, 3, and 4. For FY 2015 the Forest Service is authorized to transfer up to $190,321,000 from the traditional budget line items to the IRR pilot regions. IRR includes activities accomplished through previous budget line items for Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management, Vegetation and Watershed Management, Forest Products, Legacy Roads and Trails, and Hazardous Fuels outside of the wildland-urban interface (WUI), to reestablish watershed, forest and grassland health fire-adapted landscapes, and ecosystem function.

The pilot authority delivered the benefits expected from the IRR approach including:

- An increased ability to achieve integrated outcomes at landscape scales,
- a reduced administrative burden within IRR regions, and
- better integration of programs to achieve shared restoration goals.

Integrated Resource Restoration Consolidated Budget Line Items
(*dollars in thousands*)

Approp.	Budget Line Item	FY 2014 Pilot	FY 2015 Pilot	Increase or Decrease	FY 2016 Pres. Budget
NFS	Integrated Resource Restoration[1]	0	0	$822,110	$822,110
NFS	Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Mgmt.	31,000	31,360	(31,360)	0
NFS	Forest Products	53,000	65,560	(65,560)	0
NFS	Vegetation and Watershed Mgmt	50,000	50,581	(50,581)	0
CIM	Legacy Roads and Trails	12,000	14,743	(14,743)	0
WFM	Hazardous Fuels Non-Wildland Urban Interface	24,000	28,077	(28,077)	0
Total		**$170,000**	**$190,321**	**$631,789**	**$822,110**

1. Integrated Resource Restoration in FY 2012 to FY 2015 is a pilot program in Regions 1, 3, and 4. The FY 2014 and FY 2015 amounts are the amounts authorized for transfer in the FY 2014 Appropriations Act and Consolidated and Continuing Further Appropriations Act, 2015, respectively.

Investing in IRR in FY 2016 is expected to result in 2,900,000 watershed acres treated, 3.2 billion board feet of timber volume sold, approximately 2,000 miles of road decommissioned, and 3,262 miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced.

The outcome measure for IRR is the number of watersheds moved to an improved condition class, meaning that the health of the watershed has been improved. The Forest Service has established a framework to guide the improvement of watershed health on national forests and

grasslands called the Watershed Condition Framework, a comprehensive approach for: 1) evaluating the condition of watersheds, 2) prioritizing work in areas important to the public and where work results in noticeable differences in overall watershed condition, 3) strategic integrated restoration, and 4) tracking and monitoring outcomes.

Under the FY 2016 President's Budget, an additional 20 watersheds are expected to be improved in FY 2016. This is a significant increase from the four watersheds improved in FY 2011, the first year of this new outcome performance measure. The agency has been building momentum in watershed improvement by focusing restoration efforts towards the most important areas within the priority watersheds. We are making good progress implementing work required by the watershed restoration action plans and improving our projections for project duration and cost. Part of this learning process has been the recognition that it may take longer than originally estimated to complete the full suite of essential restoration projects and activities required to improve a watershed's condition—particularly for our more complex watershed restoration action plans.

Past Performance

FY 2014 marked the third year of the IRR Program piloted in Regions 1, 3, and 4. These pilot regions continued to make progress working across disciplines to plan and implement landscape scale restoration projects in collaboration with our partners and local communities. While the primary changes in IRR are simply the combining of budget line items, to realize the intended benefits and outcomes the agency is in the process of changing how it operates and how it thinks about restoration.

These changes are complex and long-term. To better understand our progress and challenges as we implement the program, the Forest Service sought a third party evaluation of IRR and its effects. A team from the University of Oregon and Colorado State University are conducting a three-phase analysis of IRR and delivered their Phase 1 report in the Spring of 2014. A Phase 2 report is forthcoming. The objectives were: 1) to understand strategic planning approaches and whether improvements in efficiency, prioritization, flexibility, and achievement of restoration outcomes are occurring under the IRR pilot; 2) to assess internal perceptions of the pilot, current challenges, and opportunities for improvement; and 3) to determine the extent to which current performance measures and targets facilitate accomplishment and communication of outcomes. Summary findings are included below with greater detail available in the full Phase 1 report (and forthcoming Phase 2 report), which is available online at http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/IRR/index.shtml.

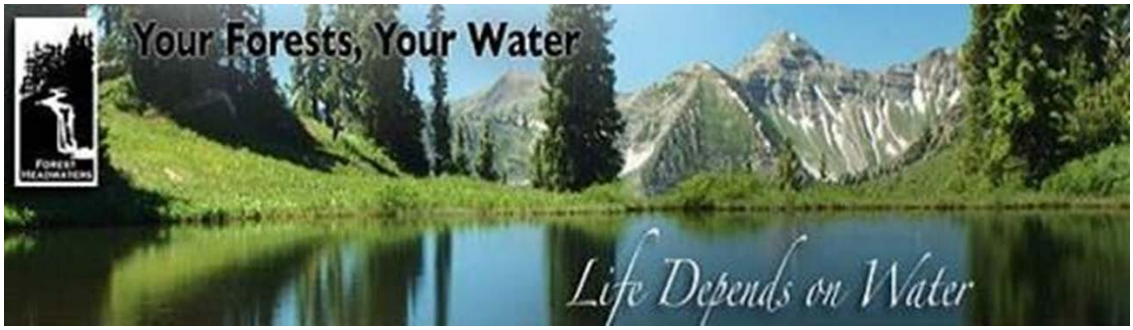
Third Party Review, Phase 1 results found that IRR has:
• Resulted in greater emphasis and time spent on program integration and project prioritization at the regional and forest levels. • Allowed staff to spend less time budgeting. • Increased flexibility to move dollars between programs, enter into multi-year contracts, focus on priority work, and fund larger scale projects in priority areas. • Allowed forests to focus on the most important work in any given year and to focus on the highest priority work for individual units. • Consolidated decision-making with line officers as opposed to program managers. • Changed regional and forest level strategic planning approaches for identifying priority restoration projects.

Third Party Review, Preliminary Phase 2 results found that IRR is:

- Improving our ability to implement projects with multi-stakeholder collaborative groups, and is facilitating implementation of resource specific projects with individual partners.
- Increasing our flexibility to focus on high priority restoration work and landscapes, move dollars between programs, address unexpected challenges, conduct larger projects, and enter into multi-year contracts.
- Complementing other restoration authorities, including the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, the Watershed Condition Framework, Stewardship Contracting, and Good Neighbor Authority.

Denver Water Partnership

This utility-backed partnership highlights the importance of investing in healthy and resilient watersheds in order to avoid the massive costs associated with wildfire through hazardous fuel removal and proactive insect control. The arrangement between the city of Denver's water utility and the Forest Service utilized $33 million over five years (with each party contributing half of the funding) via a slight ratepayer increase to restore watershed and vegetation health and reduce fire risks to public water supply for city residents and businesses. Damages from the past two fires exceeded $118 million in property loss, water quality treatment, and wildfire suppression. In addition to these avoided costs, the headwaters of critical concern provided potable water for 1.3 million people and provide the ancillary benefits of wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, and galvanized both public and private sector participation.



Challenges identified include the need for better communication both internally between different levels of the Forest Service, and externally with our stakeholders. Information about approaches to prioritization and integration was also identified as a need. The primary outcome measure currently associated with IRR is the number of watersheds moved to an improved condition class. There are also four output-based measures that indicate the Forest Service's progress toward improving the condition class of watersheds: 1) acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function or resilience, 2) miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced, 3) volume of timber sold, and 4) miles of roads decommissioned. The IRR pilot regions again led the way moving watersheds to an improved condition class, achieving 60 percent of total agency result. Each pilot region met their target with the exception of Region 4, which is delaying completion of the Muddy Creek Watershed action plan until FY 2015 to incorporate some additional work to improve riparian conditions. Across all regions, the agency fell slightly short of its annual goal; however, over the period of FY 2012 to FY 2014, the Forest Service achieved 30 of 32 planned watersheds moved to an improved condition class. As an outcome measure, the annual result is not only reflective of work implemented this year, but represents the culmination of integrated watershed-based work that started with the development of watershed restoration action plans. As we progress in our experience with the Watershed Condition Framework, we

are seeing that some watershed plans may need five to 10 years to complete all the restoration actions required instead of the three to five years originally envisioned, due to the complexity and/or expense of watershed improvement.

To ensure water quality is protected, the Forest Service has developed procedures, methods, and controls, consistent with Federal and State requirements, to address potential water pollutants and pollution at their sources. These specific practices or actions are referred to as best management practices, or BMPs, and are used to reduce or control impacts to water bodies from nonpoint sources of pollution, most commonly by reducing the loading of pollutants, such as sediment, from such sources into storm water and waterways. They are instrumental in ensuring high-quality fresh water that originates or flows through the national forests and grasslands.

The Forest Service has established the first, and currently only, National BMP Program used to help strengthen implementation of BMPs to protect water quality from ground-disturbing activities on national forests and grasslands. This is the first systematic approach to BMP implementation across all national forests and grasslands and the first comprehensive approach to BMP implementation for the diverse range of activities that occur on national forests and grasslands. In FY 2014, the Forest Service monitored implementation and effectiveness of BMPs to protect water quality for over 500 activities.

Cossatott River, Ouachita National Forest, AR

BEFORE **AFTER**

We replaced a deficient, unsafe bridge with a new bridge that provides for passage of aquatic organisms including the sensitive Ouachita Shiner and allows vehicles to cross during high flows.

Stream restoration work directly affects habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive aquatic species as well as habitat for native fishes with commercial and non-commercial value, and for desired non-native species important to recreational fishing. For the second year in a row, we exceeded our goal by taking advantage of integrated planning and the effective use of partnerships. The cumulative accomplishments associated with this measure are a critical component of our threatened, endangered, and sensitive aquatic species restoration. Expanding the available habitat is making these species less susceptible to impacts associated with catastrophic events such as climate change, wildfire, or flood damage. In FY 2014, there were 168 stream crossings improved to provide for fish passage. The removal of aquatic organism

passage barriers significantly expands the potential range available to these species. This stream crossing work is also a critical component of reducing the potential for road crossing failure following high intensity fires and higher volume flows associated with climate change.

Providing timber and woody biomass from national forests is important not only in support of restoration efforts, but is also critical to rural communities and economies. The agency met its goal by selling just over 2.8 billion board feet of timber—an increase from last year's output of 2.6 million board feet. The regions were able to achieve this result in balance with strong performance on the other IRR output measures. A combination of IRR funding, forest products appropriations, and permanent and trust funds were used to accomplish this work. In recent years, forest products from NFS lands have contributed approximately 42,000 jobs and $2.7 billion annually to the national economy. As we increase the volume of board feet sold, we expect to have an even greater impact on local economies.

Road decommissioning makes important contributions to our portfolio of restoration efforts by reducing the environmental impact of our transportation systems. Road decommissioning activities include restoring lands occupied by roads to a more natural state. In FY 2014, the agency decommissioned 1,415 miles of roads, 57 percent of which were accomplished through IRR or Legacy Roads and Trails funding. Other important work done that improved water quality was using IRR and Legacy Roads and Trails funding to maintain or improve 2,296 miles of roads and 462 miles of trails.

Program Description

Program Overview

IRR implementation emphasizes collaboration with stakeholders and internal interdisciplinary planning in an effort to continuously improve restoration projects and increase community support for restoration work. In return, the agency expects to accomplish more on-the-ground work, create or maintain jobs, and improve the stability of rural communities and the safety of their drinking water.

Watershed restoration; fish, wildlife and threatened and endangered species habitat enhancement activities; timber and vegetation management; and road restoration activities contribute to the enhancement and maintenance of jobs in rural communities where employment opportunities are often limited. These restoration activities provide critical support to local economies.

The Secretary of Agriculture's vision for active forest management advances the role of healthy forests to protect and enhance water resources and to maintain landscape resilience in response to impacts of a changing climate and other stressors. The IRR program focuses on priority needs for landscape scale activities that promote watershed resilience on NFS lands. Included in the IRR program of work are all traditional work activities associated with investments, management, and services that occurred under the previous individual budget line items of Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management, Forest Products, Vegetation and Watershed Management, Legacy Roads and Trails, and a portion of Hazardous Fuels. Active management of the national forests and grasslands is critically necessary to address threats to the health and safety of America's forest-dependent communities and watersheds. The IRR enhances the

capacity of the agency to increase the pace and scale of restoration activities agency-wide. The IRR landscape scale approach aligns and emphasizes restoration actions through forest management, range management, wildlife and fisheries habitat management, vegetation and watershed management, hazardous fuels management in non-WUI areas, and road decommissioning.

Activities previously accomplished under the Legacy Roads and Trails activity continue under IRR, including urgently needed road and trail decommissioning, long-term road storage, repair, and maintenance and associated activities. The removal of fish passage barriers is especially important in areas where roads may be contributing to water quality problems in streams and water bodies that supported threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Removal of barriers also can help to offset the impacts of climate change to these species. Road and trail repairs required due to storm disturbances in local communities that are urgently needed to protect community water resources are also an important consideration for funding within IRR.

The IRR program also incorporates implementation of the Watershed Condition Framework. This important tool is used to identify areas where road and trail decommissioning needs to occur within priority watersheds and where culverts blocking fish passage should be removed or upgraded to protect aquatic resources and provide resiliency to flooding. Road and trail decommissioning will continue to be based on the travel management analysis to reduce impacts by putting roads into long term storage for future use to protect water quality and other resources such as wildlife, fish, and plant communities. Roads placed in long term storage are closed to all traffic, including administrative traffic, for a period greater than one year, during which time many receive treatment to reduce ecological damage.

By combining the budget authority of multiple land management programs into one budget line item, we gain flexibility to schedule multiple resource management activities at one time and in one place. Several activities contribute to the number of watershed acres treated, including reforestation, rangeland improvements, invasive species treatments, terrestrial habitat improved for wildlife, soil and water resource improvements, and non-WUI fuel treatments. Other work supported in the IRR program includes air quality monitoring, wildlife interpretation and education programs, water rights management, and soil quality management, stewardship contracts, timber sales, special forest products, and firewood sales.

The IRR, landscape scale approach also allows the agency to better address many of the resource challenges facing NFS lands, such as the bark-beetle epidemic, the decline of longleaf pine and other forest ecosystems, threatened and endangered species management, wild horse and burro management, restoring lands historically used as roads to a natural state, replacement of bridges or major culverts to allow aquatic organism passage, and impacts from climate variability, while protecting the overall resiliency of forests and grasslands.

Stewardship contracts are an important tool used to implement IRR projects across priority watersheds and Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program projects. Use of the stewardship contracting authority creates jobs in the forest products industry, helping to sustain communities and develop and maintain forest operations infrastructure. By using the value of forest products to offset the cost of services, we can better provide opportunities to achieve landscape scale management goals.

Allocation and Integration

Allocations to the regions represent a strategic investment of financial resources focused on sustaining, improving, and restoring natural ecosystems. Funding is included in the IRR program for are all traditional work activities associated with investments, management, and services that occurred under the previous individual budget line items. Other work supported in the IRR program includes, to name a few, air quality monitoring, wildlife interpretation and education programs, water rights management, soil quality management, restoration of native vegetation, special forest products, and firewood sales. Allocations reflect priority needs for landscape and watershed restoration; reducing wildfire risk; support for local economic infrastructure and jobs; decommissioning of roads or trails; forest vegetation management; and resource needs to address threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, air quality, invasive species, and those activities that are critical to the overall management of the national forests and grasslands. Funds continue to also support core and historical operations and management functions to prevent the decline in the health and condition of the national forest and grassland ecosystems.

Restoration activities reflect the need to support strong and diverse forest products and livestock grazing industries, facilitating their important contributions to jobs and communities. Integration and collaboration with other programs not included in IRR is important to implementing land management activities. Coordination of efforts with State and Private Forestry programs, Federal and State Fish and Wildlife programs, and other USDA agencies such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service, has resulted in a synergistic effect in restoring priority watersheds on a landscape scale.

Partnerships

The agency continues to enhance program delivery and accomplishments through an extensive network of collaborators and long-term partners, Federal and State agencies, Tribal governments, nongovernmental organizations, and local communities. For decades, we have worked closely with a diverse set of partners including civic organizations and national conservation-oriented organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Forest Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wildlife Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

In FY 2014 external partners helped the agency complete thousands of fish and wildlife projects on national forests and grasslands. The Forest Service investment of approximately $16.5 million of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation related funds was matched with the dollar and in-kind value of partner contributions totaling over $60 million.

Successful partnerships and collaborative efforts have led to the improvement of millions of acres of terrestrial habitat, and thousands of miles of streams for imperiled, common, and economically significant species throughout the Nation. Our partnerships bolster landscape restoration efforts that ensure we continue to provide ecosystem services such as clean water from NFS lands—which provide the drinking water supply for approximately one-fifth of U.S. communities.

The Forest Service has also entered into partnership agreements with several organizations and businesses to increase the amount of NFS lands receiving reforestation treatments following wildfires and other natural events. These partnerships have increased our capacity to conduct restoration through sizeable contributions of matching funds and in-kind support from external partners. (See Special Exhibit on Partnerships for more detailed information.)

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration

Budget Line Item	Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration					
Annual Appropriations	$40,000	$40,000	$60,000	$20,000	50%
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Total	**40,000**	**40,000**	**60,000**	**20,000**	**50%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	283	283	278	-5	-2%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**283**	**283**	**278**	**-5**	**-2%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration						
Acres of forest vegetation established	20,906	15,539	19,400	17,954	24,250	30,782
Acres of forest vegetation improved	34,591	67,511	173,200	71,738	167,500	74,923
Acres of noxious weeds and invasive plants treated	19,478	18,180	24,700	16,749	30,875	26,062
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	298	111	222	200	244	170
Acres of terrestrial habitat enhanced	182,046	398,231	382,000	399,861	420,200	356,533
Volume of timber sold (million board feet (MMBF))	216.0	379.0	420.0	417.0	462.0	651.0
Number of green tons and/or volume of woody biomass from hazardous fuel reduction and restoration treatments on Federal land that are made available through permits, contracts, grants, agreements, or the equivalent	354,906	756,882	534,900	211,868	601,500	870,868
Acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) high-priority hazardous fuels treated	142,661	277,966	304,500	283,889	380,625	345,247
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the Wildland Urban interface to reduce risk of catastrophic fire	114,758	141,912	197,300	138,136	246,625	139,947
Miles of roads decommissioned	169	152	555	122	243	332
Miles of passenger car system road reconstruction and capital improvement	89	120	229	184	229	274
Miles of high clearance system road reconstruction and capital improvement	56	137	87	137	120	143

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

Note: Targets are estimates of annual outputs/accomplishments from CFLRP project activities.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $60,000,000 for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), an increase of $20,000,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Funding of this program is a critical part of the Forest Service's capacity to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, improve water quality and quantity, and increase carbon sequestration.

The FY 2016 President's Budget would expand the authority of the 23 existing projects and also permit the investment into up to 10 new CFLRP projects. New CFLRP projects will be submitted by Forest Service Regions and reviewed by an Advisory Committee. The Advisory

Committee will then submit recommendations for funding projects to the Secretary of Agriculture, who will make a final decision regarding which projects will receive CFLRP funds. The Secretary may select up to 10 new projects for funding in FY 2016.

This additional capacity will also allow the agency to continue to encourage ecological, economic, and social sustainability, re-establish natural fire regimes that reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires, and improve forest health. By directly working with communities and local organizations when developing these projects, the Forest Service will be able to accelerate restoration work while providing sustainable jobs in rural communities. As detailed in the project emphasis area descriptions below, these projects benefit people, water, wildlife, and local economies by creating strong markets for wood by-products that will in turn reduce treatment cost for projects.

Existing projects continue to build the scale and the capacity of their collaboratives as they work toward achieving outcomes on the landscape. The five year CFLRP report is under development and is expected to be released in the first half of 2015. The report will provide further insight into program impact and results to date.

For FY 2016, project activities and outputs will continue to include:

- safety enhancement through the treatment of hazardous fuel acres,
- restoration of watershed function and resilience,
- improvement of forest vegetation and wildlife habitat, and
- generation of commercial timber and biomass for bioenergy as a result of restoration treatments.

The FY 2016 existing projects and emphasis areas are listed in the following table and described below.

FY 2016 CFLRP Existing Projects

Project Name	Region	Forest(s)
Southwestern Crown of the Continent	1	Flathead, Lolo and Helena NFs
Selway-Middle Fork	1	Nez Perce-Clearwater and Bitterroot NFs
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative	1	Idaho Panhandle NF
Uncompahgre Plateau	2	Uncompahgre NF
Front Range	2	Pike, San Isabel, Arapaho and Roosevelt NFs
Four Forest Restoration Initiative	3	Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab and Tonto NFs
Southwest Jemez Mountains	3	Santa Fe NF
Zuni Mountain CFLRP	3	Cibola NF
Weiser-Little Salmon Headwaters CFLRP	4	Payette NF
Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project	5	Sierra NF
Burney-Hat Creek Basins Project	5	Lassen NF
Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group Cornerstone Project	5	Eldorado and Stanislaus NF
Tapash	6	Okanogan-Wenatchee NF
Deschutes	6	Deschutes NF
Lakeview Stewardship CFLRP	6	Fremont-Winema NF
Southern Blues Restoration Coalition	6	Malheur NF
Northeast Washington Forest Vision 2020	6	Colville NF
Accelerating Longleaf Restoration	8	Florida-Osceola NF
Shortleaf-Bluestem Community	8	Ouachita NF
Grandfather Restoration Project	8	Pisgah NF
Ozark Highlands Ecosystem Restoration	8	Ozark-St. Francis NF
Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration and Hazardous Fuels Reduction	8	De Soto NF
Missouri Pine-Oak Woodlands Restoration Project	9	Mark Twain NF

FY 2016 Project Emphasis Areas

Southwestern Crown of the Continent

This project, located on the Flathead, Lolo, and Helena National Forests, will work towards achieving their 10-year fuels reduction, ecosystem restoration, economic, and social sustainability goals with their partners. The Southwest Crown of the Continent Monitoring Committee will continue to work with local schools on stream and forest monitoring to build capacity and engage youth in rural communities in stewardship efforts. The project will treat

hazardous fuels near communities to enhance safety, and generate forest products to support local economies.

Selway-Middle Fork

The Selway-Middle Fork project, located on the Nez Perce-Clearwater and Bitterroot National Forests, will work towards watershed restoration goals, improve wildlife habitat, complete fuel reduction treatment, and conduct critical road and trail maintenance. The project remains a testament to what can be accomplished when a sound restoration strategy is paired with a strong collaborative and implementation funds provided through the program.

Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative

This project, located on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, will include a diverse portfolio of activities to work towards landscape scale restoration goals. The project's program of work includes prescribed burning, thinning, and reforestation; invasive plant management; fish passage replacement and instream fisheries improvement; road decommissioning and maintenance; and trail construction and maintenance. The project will continue to harvest commercial timber and biomass to support local communities.

Uncompahgre Plateau

The Uncompahgre Plateau Project, located on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, will focus on achieving program and vegetative goals to restore the structure and function of priority ecosystems. Their work will include enhancing terrestrial and aquatic habitat, generating forest products to support the local economy, and improving water quality. The project will continue to utilize collaborative, multi-party monitoring to drive restoration efforts.

Colorado Front Range

This project, located on the Pike, San Isabel, Arapaho, and Roosevelt National Forests, will continue to emphasize protecting communities from uncharacteristic wildfire through hazardous fuels reductions and restoring ponderosa pine ecosystems. Restoration activities will generate forest products to support local economies and area businesses.

Four Forest Restoration Initiative

The Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) is located on the Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab, and Tonto National Forests. We will be increasing implementation of the 4FRI Integrated Resource Stewardship Contract. Good Earth Power is expected to increase treatments by at least 30,000 acres in 2016. Associated outcomes include watershed restoration and increased resilience; improved forest vegetation, water, and soil resources; treatment of hazardous fuels; and reduced risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Southwest Jemez Mountains

This project is located on the Santa Fe National Forest. Implementation will focus on reducing wildfire risk through mechanical thinning and prescribed burning to protect forest health and surrounding communities, with positive effects across the landscape. Activities will include meadow and watershed restoration and road maintenance and decommissioning to support watershed health. The project will also support local communities by building the capacity of local wood product businesses.

Zuni Mountain

The Zuni Mountain project, located on the Cibola National Forest, will build on mechanical treatments completed in previous years and increase prescribed burning activities. Treatments will support forest vegetation improvements and watershed health. The project will also continue to work with partners to enhance utilization of wood products to support restoration work and local economies.

Weiser-Little Salmon Headwaters

This project is located on the Payette National Forest. It will focus on watershed restoration activities and utilizing a range of treatment options for forest restoration and generation of forest products. Working with partners on trail maintenance and construction will also be an area of focus, as will substantial road improvements and decommissioning, and passage construction projects to improve watershed condition.

Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project

This project is located on the Sierra National Forest, and will implement a range of activities to restore watershed resiliency, enhance forest health, and support local communities. This portfolio includes protecting native ecosystems by treating noxious weeds and restoring terrestrial habitat. The project will treat forestlands using timber sales and focus work on high priority hazardous fuel treatments in areas surrounding nearby communities.

Burney-Hat Creek Basin

This project, located on the Lassen National Forest, will focus on the restoration of areas impacted by fire, hazardous fuels reductions, and improving wildlife habitat. Landscape scale restoration and improved forest health outcomes will be supported by timber sales and service contracts, working with partners, and supporting local communities.

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group Cornerstone

This project, located on the Eldorado and Stanislaus National Forests, will continue to work with partners and the public to improve forest health and resiliency. Areas of focus include commercial and pre-commercial thinning and removal of biomass, soil stabilization through road maintenance and decommissioning, and reducing hazardous fuels in priority areas including cultural sites. The project will continue its work in diversifying small businesses for woody biomass value-added utilization as well.

Tapash

This project is located on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The project is focused on achieving integrated outcomes through reduction of hazardous fuels and wood product utilization, including improved forest and range vegetation, enhanced terrestrial habitat, and decreased risk of catastrophic wildfire near communities.

Deschutes

This project, located on the Deschutes National Forest, will continue to implement forest vegetation improvements and hazardous fuels reductions through mechanical and prescribed fire treatments. The project will improve soil and water conditions and enhance wildlife habitat by treating noxious weeds within the project landscape and maintaining or improving roads and trails.

Lakeview Stewardship

This project is located on the Fremont-Winema National Forests. Restoration projects will include thinning, hazardous fuels reduction, prescribed fire, and stream crossing improvements to enhance aquatic habitat. Trail and road maintenance will protect soil and water resources and watershed function.

Southern Blues Restoration Coalition

This project is located on the Malheur National Forest. Working with local and State officials and the Governor's Office, the project is working to address the loss of wood product infrastructure and to increase the pace of restoration. This will allow the project to increase a range forest management activities, including treating acres through timber sales and commercial timber harvest. The project will also work on riparian treatments to restore aquatic habitat.

Northeast Washington Forest Vision 2020

This project, located on the Colville National Forest, will continue to work towards the objectives outlined in the original project proposal, including improving forest and watershed health. These goals will be achieved through trail improvements, road management, stream crossing projects for aquatic organisms, and invasive species treatments. The project will treat priority hazardous fuels to protect communities from uncharacteristic wildfire and encourage economic opportunity through wood product utilization.

Accelerating Longleaf Restoration

This project, located on the Osceola National Forest, will continue to enhance and establish forest vegetation and build on success in thinning stands for red-cockaded woodpecker habitat, and endangered species. Utilization of timber sales to treat forestlands continues to improve forest health, as does the use of prescribed fire treatments and palmetto roller chopping. The project will also work towards desired watershed conditions by maintaining and improving water and soil resources.

Shortleaf Bluestem Community

This project, located on the Ouachita National Forest, will complete a range of restoration activities on the landscape. Vegetation improvements will involve local partners to re-establish milkweed and other native plants. Improvements also include treating invasive species, prescribed burns, and commercially thinning forest areas to promote forest health and support the local economy through the generation and sale of wood products. The project will also improve terrestrial and aquatic habitats through the enhancement of stream crossings, continuation of the turkey research program, and improvement of nesting and foraging habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker.

Grandfather Restoration Project

This project, located on the Pisgah National Forest, will focus on a watershed restoration project incorporating timber stand improvement, timber harvest, prescribed burning, and watershed and stream restoration. The project will also reconstruct stream crossings to provide for aquatic organism passage and complete stream habitat restoration activities. Forest health goals will also be accomplished through the treatment of vine growth and road and trail maintenance to reduce soil movement and sedimentation.

Ozark Highlands Ecosystem Restoration Project

This project is located on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests. Project implementation will increase the health, function, and resiliency of the landscape through a range of restoration activities. Wildlife habitat will be enhanced through forest stand and pond improvements, including the restoration of abandoned grazing areas, treatment of noxious and invasive species, and lake dredging to improve aquatic habitat. The Ozark Highlands Ecosystem Recreation Project will continue to develop natural re-vegetation by closing down illegal trails as well.

Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration & Hazardous Fuels Reduction

This project, located on the National Forests in Mississippi, De Soto National Forest, continues to implement high priority accelerated restoration and hazardous fuels reductions, including longleaf pine restoration, pitcher plant bog restoration, and invasive cogongrass treatments. The project plan of work also includes boundary line maintenance, trail and road maintenance, and watershed restoration.

Missouri Pine-Oak Woodlands

This project is located on the Mark Twain National Forest. Project implementation includes a range of activities across the landscape to enhance forest vegetation, improve watershed functioning, and support the local community through generation of commercial timber and biomass. Restoration activities will be supported through timber sale contracts, stewardship contracts, and understory thinning contracts.

Past Performance

In FY 2014, CFLRP projects delivered substantial progress on fulfilling the intent of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (the Act) to restore ecosystem resilience and reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildland fire. In pursuit of these goals, the projects continue to build collaborative partnerships and increase capacity for on-the-ground project implementation and monitoring, as well as support local communities and their economies.

Forest Service program managers and agency leadership continued to conduct field based reviews of the CFLRP projects. The objectives of the visits were to validate that projects were being implemented within the intent of the Act, to better understand implementation challenges and common themes, and to provide support and recommendations for improvements. While the projects are diverse, with some benefitting from established collaboratives and long-term partners and others being in the development stage, all projects reviewed are moving towards their restoration goals. For example, in the West, projects are shifting from treatment sizes that covered small blocks of less than 100 acres to larger landscapes over 1000 acres. In the South, where prescribed burning has been a practice for many years, CFLRP projects are accomplishing annual treatments of tens of thousands of acres per year.

During the site visits, it became clear that much is gained by strengthening relationships and collaboration among diverse parties. For projects struggling with establishing effective collaboration, review teams shared best practices from projects with well-established collaboratives. Recommendations included creating more structure within the collaborative, bringing in new parties with new perspectives, and making use of outside support. Challenges also remain in the evolving program including recognition of the necessity of investing in maintenance to sustain desired conditions. Conversations resulted in a broader understanding that restoration should include not only improving, but also maintaining and protecting desired conditions.

As part of agency efforts to move to an outcome-based performance framework, CFLRP developed a new performance measure to track progress toward reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire—one of the key purposes of the program as set forth in the Act. The measure takes the Wildfire Potential map and adapts it to create a landscape index of current conditions including potential wildfire severity and intensity. As program management actions change the risk of wildland fire on the landscape, the index will reflect progress towards lower risk conditions. Fire severity and intensity are two key factors that play a major role in fire management costs and the index will provide new insights at both the project and landscape level. The index was field tested on the Lakeview Stewardship project on the Fremont-Winema National Forest in Oregon in FY 2014. Additional work will be done in FY 2015 to examine changes from baseline conditions on individual CFLRP projects and on approaches to scale up the results and information to a national level, including appropriate targets.

Selected accomplishments and outputs across all projects that contribute to restoring ecosystem resilience and reducing the risk of wildland fire are shown in the performance table at the beginning of this section. It is important to note that targets shown are only estimates provided for reference since decisions on how to allocate resources and the specific mix of project

activities undertaken each year are made at the local project level. Changing conditions or circumstances can affect the mix of planned activities.

Program Description

Program Overview

CFLRP encourages collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. The CFLRP was authorized by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (L. 111-11, Title IV, March 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1141). This Act authorizes the ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes that must be at least 50,000 acres in size, with the goal of promoting the resilience and adaptive capacity of ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged, or destroyed.

Investing in CFLRP advances restoration by engaging diverse communities and leveraging partner resources through collaboration, implementation, and monitoring. The program is unique in that projects are selected based on proposals collaboratively developed with diverse partner communities. These collaborative groups continue to be involved, providing feedback and input through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and partnering as appropriate to complete implementation and monitoring. The CFLRP funds can be matched with appropriated, permanent, trust, or partnership funds; in-kind contributions; and restoration treatments funded through timber value within a stewardship contract. The CFLRP funds may be used to pay up to 50 percent of the cost of carrying out and monitoring ecological restoration treatments that occur on National Forest System (NFS) lands. Activities implemented using CFLRP funds include: reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire, including the use of fire for ecological restoration and maintenance and reestablishing natural fire regimes; improving fish and wildlife habitat; maintaining or improving water quality or watershed function; preventing, remediating, or controlling invasions of exotic species; maintaining, decommissioning, and rehabilitating roads and trails; and facilitating the removal and utilization of woody biomass and small trees produced from projects implementing the strategy. No more than $4 million of CFLRP funds may be allocated to an individual project in any one year. Land areas for consideration must have a substantially complete restoration strategy, be primarily composed of forested NFS lands, and be accessed by wood-processing infrastructure to use the woody biomass removed during ecological restoration treatments.

By working more closely with communities, CFLRP projects are identifying innovative techniques for getting work done, increasing community buy-in for restoration projects, and generally increasing the capacity and pace of restoration work in CFLRP project areas. The program also supports local rural communities through the generation of forest products such as timber and biomass for bioenergy production, as well as the creation and maintenance of jobs.

Effective monitoring and evaluation provides projects with the opportunity to learn and adapt as implementation progresses. CFLRP projects bring together multiple partners to plan and implement monitoring processes that assess ecological, social, and economic impacts of treatments on the landscape. This innovative, multiparty approach helps promote efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

Allocation and Integration

The CFLRP Advisory Panel, a 15 member committee authorized by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, reviewed CFLRP project proposals in 2010 and 2011 and made recommendations for project selection. The Secretary of Agriculture then made the final decision as to which projects would receive funding, selecting 10 projects in 2010 and 10 more in 2012. Three additional projects were recommended by the CFLRP Advisory Panel in FY 2012 and began receiving funding in FY 2013. No additional projects were selected for FY 2014 funding, but all existing projects continued to be funded.

The CFLRP funds may be spent on up to 50 percent of implementation and monitoring within the CFLRP project boundary on NFS lands. The other 50 percent of implementation and monitoring must be funded by specified matching Forest Service budget line items, funds contributed through partnership agreements, partner in-kind contributions, or service work accomplished through goods-for services funding with a stewardship contract. Matching budget line items are interdisciplinary, and must be consistent with the CFLRP project description and landscape restoration strategy. Determination as to whether a budget line item is an appropriate match is based upon the purpose for which it is appropriated and determination that the treatment activity is necessary in the context of the project restoration strategy.

Partnerships

At the national level, the Forest Service works with the National Forest Foundation to provide support to the field units in implementing CFLRP projects. The National Forest Foundation has facilitated several peer-to-peer webinars for CFLRP projects. These webinars are designed to facilitate the sharing of information and best practices, and have focused on topics such as implementation, collaboration, multi-party monitoring, and ecological indicators. The Forest Service also works with field units and partners to develop methodologies for tracking project progress. In June 2011, the Forest Service met with interested partners and field representatives to develop indicators of project progress to develop the five year report to Congress required by the Act. These indicators cover topics including ecology, jobs, fire cost reduction, leveraged funds, and collaboration. Four of these indicators were implemented by the Forest Service in FY 2012. The CFLRP Coalition, a partner group spearheaded by five non-governmental organizations, is taking on the collaboration indicator independently. The Forest Service also partnered with the CFLRP Coalition to draft a report on the program's progress in November 2011; an updated version of this report was published in late 2012.

Described below are two examples (Selway-Middle Fork and the Deschutes Collaborative) of how public and non-governmental organizations are working together to prioritize and accomplish forest landscape restoration.

Selway-Middle Fork: Collaboration in Action

The Clearwater Basin Collaborative offers a path away from conflicts over natural resource management towards a more constructive future by bringing together local communities, conservationists, timber industry, sportsmen, and the Nez Perce Tribe to take strong steps towards creating local jobs and restoring healthy forests. The Selway-Middle Fork project, selected in the initial CFLRP cohort 2010, uses innovative, collaborative tools to enact their comprehensive restoration strategy to restore and maintain ecological conditions within the 1.4 million acre Selway-Middle Fork ecosystem.

As one local participant noted, "the Selway-Middle Fork Clearwater CFLRP project is a critical tool for us to maintain the historic way of life here in the Clearwater Basin." The Selway-Middle Fork project provides educational and work opportunities to local youth via partnerships with the Idaho Youth Conservation Corps. Participants reported that they gained self-confidence and learned how to work cooperatively to solve problems while gaining life skills, making friends, and having fun. The project also leverages local knowledge. Through a long standing partnership, the Nez Perce Tribe provided technical expertise in watershed restoration and weed management as well considerable financial resources. In addition, three partners, Montana Conservation Corps, Selway Bitterroot Foundation, and the Back Country Horsemen contributed thousands of hours of in-kind and volunteer work on a number of projects. Partnerships with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and several universities are contributing towards important wildlife monitoring. Wildlife and wildlife habitat is perhaps the number one concern brought up in project litigation in Region 1. Furthering knowledge through these monitoring efforts will pay dividends as the project progresses across our landscape with future management projects.

Through strong partnerships, the project has made great strides towards creating a more resilient landscape. Between 2010 and 2014, the project improved 1,767 acres of vegetation and restored or enhanced 15,776 acres of terrestrial habitat. In 2014, on NFS lands, the project treated hazardous fuels on 690 acres, maintained more than 123 miles of roads, and managed noxious weeds and invasive plants on 1,116 acres. The project has also helped to attract funds to the broader landscape, assisting Idaho County in winning a State and Private Forestry Western Competitive Resource Allocation Grant for restoration on private lands. These funds will go towards stream habitat restoration and forest health improvements.

Deschutes National Forest in Oregon

The Deschutes Forest Supervisor speaks with a collaborator in a restored forest stand on the Deschutes National Forest.

Deschutes Collaborative: Leveraging Trust into Restoration Accomplishment

The future of forestry in a changing world lies in finding new and effective ways to collaborate with the public we serve. Approaches that allow us to work more closely with communities are altering the way forestry supports local economies and the way the Forest Service interfaces with stakeholders. The work occurring on the Deschutes National Forest exemplifies this shift. The Forest built on its history of successful collaboration to form an overarching collaborative group in 2010. This group

generated the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project, which became one of the first projects selected under CFLRP. The collaborative effort brought former adversaries to the table to work through the prioritization of restoration projects. A collaborator from an environmental non-profit group that has previously litigated the Forest said that through the collaborative effort, he has "gone from horrified to pretty darn optimistic about the future of this forest." As another collaborator noted, "this represents a new way of doing business in the forest. Through collaborative baby steps we have built the relationships, the trust, and the transparency necessary to generate solutions that work for the community." Partner groups include Oregon Hunters Association, Oregon Trails Alliance, Central Oregon Running Klub, High Cascade Forest Volunteers, Sisters Trail Alliance, Travel Oregon, Trout Unlimited, Central Oregon Community College Forestry Club, East Cascades Audubon Society, Sisters Schools, and various private citizens. In 2013, volunteers contributed to fisheries, riparian, invasive weed, wildlife, and trails work totaling over 14,000 hours.

The collaborative effort has allowed the forests to pursue innovative techniques for getting work done. The Forest has successfully utilized stewardship contracts on several restoration projects, which have in turn grown restoration capacity in the local community. One contractor reported having a colleague who had previously struggled to find consistent work and often relied on gathering firewood to generate income. When the forest began offering stewardship contracts, he recognized a need for new skills in the community, and now owns four mowers and employs a hand crew.

The success of the collaborative project is allowing the CFLRP project to make measurable impacts on the ground. Between 2010 and 2014, the Deschutes CFLRP has established 2,759 acres of vegetation and improved 8,321 acres of vegetation, and they saw an increase in fuels treatments of 48,317 acres in the WUI. Over 8,611 acres and miles of terrestrial and aquatic habitat were restored, with an additional benefit of over five miles of road decommissioning activities.

Restoration Partnerships

Budget Line Item	Restoration Partnerships (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Restoration Partnerships					
Annual Appropriations	$2,000	0	0	0	0%
Restoration Partnerships Total	**2,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	0	0	0	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Restoration Partnerships						
Total value of resources (expressed as a ratio) leveraged through partnerships with states and other partners	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $0 for Restoration Partnerships, the same level as the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. The budget line item is no longer requested, as similar activities can be carried out through partnerships under the proposed Integrated Resource Restoration budget line item.

Past Performance

In FY 2014, Restoration Partnership funding was used to create and build on partnerships for improving municipal and beneficial-use watersheds, reducing risks from wildfire to public utilities and infrastructure, and reducing biomass to sustain landscape fuel reduction and watershed investments. Program resources funded 10 projects and were leveraged with dollars from numerous partners including utility companies, universities, nonprofit organizations, and Federal, State, and local governments. These projects included such work as forest thinning, prescribed fire, stream and channel restoration, trail and road stabilization, and water crossing improvements that protected municipal watersheds and preserved healthy sources of water for communities across the country.

Program Description

Program Overview

For a century, the Forest Service has maintained a commitment to working with a variety of organizations and interests while fulfilling our motto of "Caring for the land and serving people". We exercise many creative and innovative approaches to address place-based needs and opportunities and to promote healthy and vibrant watersheds, forests, grasslands, and communities. These opportunities for partner engagement, such as Integrated Resource Restoration and the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, include not only funding support, but significant volunteerism and in-kind contributions across the country in areas where partner and Forest Service interests intersect. Expanding public-private partnerships, and the strong and enduring relationships they build, are essential to ensuring that the national forests and grasslands continue to offer the myriad of benefits the American public has come to expect from them.

Allocation and Integration

Since there is no program funding planned for FY 2016, there will be no allocation of funding for Restoration Partnership activities. The intent of this work, collaborative and innovative restoration on a landscape scale, will be accomplished in FY 2016 through other programs.

Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring

Budget Line Item	Land Management Planning, Assessment & Monitoring (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**	**Percent of Program Changes**
Annual Appropriations					
Inventory and Monitoring	$151,019	$151,019	0	-$151,019	-100%
Land Management Planning	37,754	37,754	0	-37,754	-100%
Land Management Planning, Assessment & Monitoring	0	0	$184,236	184,236	0%
Land Management Planning, Assessment & Monitoring Total	**188,773**	**188,773**	**184,236**	**-4,537**	**-2%**
Annual Appropriation FTEs					
Inventory and Monitoring	896	896	0	-896	-100%
Land Management Planning	260	260	0	-260	-100%
Land Management Planning, Assessment & Monitoring	0	0	1,234	1,234	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**1,156**	**1,156**	**1,234**	**78**	**7%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	**FY 2013 Actual**	**FY 2014 Target**	**FY 2014 Actual**	**FY 2015 Target**	**FY 2016 Target**
Land Management Planning, Assessment & Monitoring						
Number of land management plan amendments underway	38	28	20	30	20	20
Number of land management plan revisions or creations underway	23	31	16	25	28	25
Acres of inventory data collected and acquired	30,489,750	45,675,608	16,650,000	59,671,991	16,200,000	16,200,000
Number of annual monitoring requirements completed	1,542	1,330	1,158	1,170	1,130	1,130
Number of land management plan assessments completed	49	35	21	38	20	20

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $184,236,000 for the Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring Program, a net program decrease of $4,537,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes consolidating the Land Management Planning and Inventory and Monitoring programs into one new budget line item called Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring. The proposed budget line item will provide flexibility to achieve efficiencies in several central activities in the planning cycle that are core to successfully implementing the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule and supporting accelerated restoration. The net amount was calculated using the combined totals from the FY 2015 Enacted level as illustrated in the table below.

Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring
Consolidated Budget Line Items
(dollars in thousands)

Approp.	Budget Line Item	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	Change	FY 2016 Pres Bud
NFS	Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring	-	-	$184,236	$184,236
NFS	Land Management Planning	37,754	37,754	(37,754)	
NFS	Inventory and Monitoring	151,019	151,019	(151,019)	
	Total	**$188,773**	**$188,773**	**($4,537)**	**$184,236**

Forest Service management occurs around a continuous cycle of assessing, planning at multiple levels, implementing and adjusting programs and projects based on information acquired through integrated inventory and monitoring activities. The proposed BLI provides the agency flexibility to implement the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule which includes an increased focus on agency assessment and monitoring activities. Under the proposed budget line item, critical work would not be constrained by activity funding levels. Flexibility will allow successful implementation of the full range of activities in the management cycle. The need to integrate regional and local inventory, monitoring and assessment activities with unit planning efforts can be accomplished more effectively and efficiently under the proposed budget line item. These efficiencies help achieve plan revisions in three to four years instead of the five to six years it currently takes.

The 2012 Planning Rule has been developed under 36 CFR 219 and replaces the 2008 Planning Rule invalidated by the Federal district court decision in *Citizens for Better Forestry v. USDA*, 632 F. Supp. 2d 968 (N.D.Cal., 2009). The 2012 Planning Rule promotes a collaborative science-based approach for planning, monitoring, and conducting assessments that considers information from and about "All Lands" affected by, or influencing, planning unit activities. National Forest System (NFS) units work with counterparts in Research and Development and State and Private Forestry, as well as with the public, Tribes, and other partners, to revise and amend plans, develop unit and regional monitoring programs and strategies, conduct assessments in advance of plan revisions, and ensure that inventories, data management, and corporate data systems support these and other business requirements.

Management priorities and actions funded under each activity area include:

Land Management Plan Revisions and Amendments - The FY 2016 President's Budget includes funds for the creation, revision, and amendment of land management plans (LMPs). Funding supports LMP revisions required under the National Forest Management Act. These funds will allow continued work on 25 revisions under way and up to seven units conducting pre-revision assessments. Eight of these plan revisions are currently scheduled for completion by the end of FY 2015. The agency will continue to improve its capacity to revise LMPs and implement the other provisions of the 2012 Planning Rule. In addition, the agency amends, corrects or adjusts, as needed, the plans not currently under revision, focusing on completing amendments to address critical issues and decisions, including energy corridors, integrated forestry, travel management

plans, and watershed restoration opportunities. This funding level supports work on 20 LMP amendments.

Assessments and Monitoring - The FY 2016 President's Budget funds inventory, monitoring, and assessment work on national forests and grasslands in support of LMP revisions, amendments, and other agency priorities. The agency also integrates and improves databases and ensures that all existing and newly acquired data reside in a centralized repository which supports the efficient implementation of the 2012 Planning Rule and other programs requiring forest-wide inventory data. Assessments conducted in advance of LMP revisions determine the need to change direction in existing plans. Units not revising plans can conduct assessments designed to establish the need and priorities for project-level work. Including the seven pre-revision assessments mentioned above, the agency will complete 20 assessments in FY 2016.

The 2012 Planning Rule establishes a planning framework that emphasizes developing collaborative, science-based unit-monitoring programs and broad-scale monitoring strategies at regional and national levels to address high-priority resource questions, conditions, and issues. These could include watershed and ecological conditions, focal species, visitor use and recreation objectives, influences from a changing climate, and other local, regional, and national objectives. This multi-tiered approach highlights ecological, social, and economic trends and conditions relevant to LMPs. The approach also generates efficiencies in data collection, mapping, storage, reporting, and use. Units will be completing and compiling monitoring information prior to initiating revisions or amendments to assess plan direction and identify resource issues.

Past Performance

The Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring program provides the foundation for all the ecosystem services derived from NFS lands. This program is key to effective management, helping identify the highest priorities and addressing community needs. This is done by having up-to-date LMPs revised or amended with full community engagement, based on the best available science generated through affective inventory, monitoring and assessment activities.

As the agency moves forward on implementation of the 2012 Planning Rule, we are emphasizing meaningful public engagement throughout all phases of the planning process including assessments, revisions and amendments, the objections process, and ongoing monitoring. Quality public engagement also extends to plan implementation. Decisions are also being made for larger areas encompassing longer time periods. As a result, we are producing larger, more comprehensive planning efforts at less cost, and producing more on-the-ground accomplishments and benefits for the American people.

The planning and assessment processes have been enhanced by more effective inventory and monitoring resulting from having clearly established requirements, efficiencies in data management, data collection standards and protocols, improved analytical tools, and corporate applications designed to make data accessible to managers, partners, and the public. Quality data and information helps us understand the conditions on the land and the social and economic

issues associated with natural resources. They also support agency decision making at all levels and the prioritization of management actions.

While we transition to the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule, several plan revisions using the 1982 Procedures under the 2000 Planning Rule are being completed. Generally, revisions using the 1982 Procedures have taken five to six years to complete, with some taking considerably longer. As we learn from the first units implementing the 2012 Planning Rule and incorporate those lessons into our processes, we anticipate reducing that completion time for revisions to an average of three to four years. New planning directives or procedures that will be released in early 2015 will also assist units in more efficiently meeting the new Planning Rule requirements. Our emphasis on being more efficient in meeting the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act will also help with completing project level analyses and documentation necessary to implement these plans. Increased documentation efficiencies include electronic publishing and e-filing planning and project environmental documents with the Environmental Protection Agency.

Several forests and grasslands have conducted multiple unique social, economic, and ecological assessments to meet the 2012 Planning Rule requirements. Assessments are a key initial step for determining the need to revise or amend plans in response to changing ecological, social, and economic conditions and for collaborating with the public. What we've learned from these initial efforts will be used to streamline the assessment process for future LMP revision efforts.

The agency will continue to amend and revise LMPs as we transition to the requirements under the 2012 Planning Rule. We expect the number of major amendments to stabilize over the next two to three years as we complete this transition. We will also be striving to achieve a consistent level of planning and assessment activity (i.e., number of units initiating and engaged in either assessment or revision work) within the agency. We expect to reach this point in two to three years as the revisions using the 1982 procedures are completed.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring program is foundational to ensuring that the agency can continue to provide to the American people all of the ecosystem services derived from NFS lands, including the economic benefits from timber, grazing, outdoor recreation, and the many other types of goods and services. Without adequate planning and monitoring, economic and restoration activities could not occur on NFS lands. Collaboration and engagement with partners and the public is critical to developing, revising, or amending LMPs, conducting assessments, and developing and implementing a monitoring program.

The Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring program funds the acquisition, analysis, and storage of data that supports land management planning and a variety of other business requirements and resource management needs of the agency. This includes the inventory, assessments, and monitoring essential to the development, amendment, or revision of LMPs. Funding this program allows us to comply with the National Forest Management Act, which requires that each unit of the NFS have a LMP that is revised every 10 to 15 years to

address changing conditions and to incorporate new information and the best available science related to natural resources, management goals, and public use.

The Forest Service will engage diverse communities in the revision of LMPs under the 2012 Planning Rule and provide the planning, inventory, and monitoring resources needed to establish long-term restoration priorities and conduct environmental analyses required to implement projects. Implementing the 2012 Planning Rule will help restore resources across larger landscapes and help to increase the pace of ecological restoration to ensure landscapes are more productive and adaptable to climate change while creating more jobs in rural communities. The Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring program funds all planning activities associated with LMP revisions, creations, amendments, corrections, and other plan maintenance identified in the current planning rule. A LMP provides broad guidance for identifying, prioritizing, and implementing the programs and projects that move a NFS unit towards achieving desired conditions and agency objectives. Goals and objectives include adapting to a changing climate, ensuring abundant clean water, reducing hazardous fuel loads, providing recreation opportunities, restoring and maintaining forest and rangeland ecosystems, and improving priority watersheds across larger landscapes.

Collaboration and public engagement are critical to developing, revising, or amending LMPs and result in plans that address a wide variety of programs and issues. Collaborative activities assist in identifying needs, establishing desired conditions, crafting alternatives or scenarios for future management, and identifying information needs and monitoring requirements. Agency field units work closely with citizens, organizations, Tribes, and State and local governments to develop, revise, and maintain LMPs as well as to inventory and monitor the condition of agency lands.

The development and implementation of broader scale monitoring strategies assist in obtaining information on specific resource issues that need to be addressed consistently at the regional or national level. They also provide a direct link to other programs, initiatives, and projects utilizing the same information including restoration activities, climate change evaluations, travel management, watershed condition assessments, wildlife species needs assessments, and roadless area evaluations. The Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring program also supports the development, maintenance, and coordination of numerous corporate applications and systems that support resource information storage and analysis needs of the agency.

The program is delivered through the following major activities:

Land Management Plan Revisions and Amendments - This activity includes all planning activities associated with LMP revisions, creations, amendments, corrections, and other plan maintenance identified in the 2012 Planning Rule. This includes: collaboration and public involvement; development of LMP components; conducting any analyses after legal notice initiating an amendment or revision; development and evaluation of alternatives; preparation of draft and final environmental impact statements; content analysis of public comments; and resolving appeals, litigation, and objections to the LMP.

Assessments and Monitoring - This activity includes the inventory, assessments, and monitoring essential to the development, amendment, or revision of LMPs. Resource inventories are

designed to meet LMP requirements and other management needs of the agency. Resource inventory activities include data collection and acquisition; data entry, including migration of legacy data, and storage in corporate systems; data evaluation and analyses to ensure accuracy and determine data classifications; documentation and implementation of quality control procedures and compilation of metadata; and resource mapping.

LMP development and revision assessments evaluate current and desired resource conditions and trends for the unit at appropriate scales. These assessments rapidly evaluate existing information about relevant ecological, economic, and social conditions, trends and sustainability and their relationship to the LMP within the context of the broader landscape. LMP implementation assessments assist in identifying and locating projects and activities designed to achieve plan objectives. Monitoring and evaluation assists in determining if there is a need to change direction in a LMP. Both implementation and effectiveness monitoring are needed to evaluate progress towards achieving desired LMP conditions and objectives. The development and implementation of broader scale monitoring strategies assist in obtaining information on specific resource issues that need to be addressed consistently at the regional or national level.

Allocation and Integration

Integrated allocations for this program are based on several factors related to each activity. These include the number of LMPs in each region that are under revision, the number of plans in a non-revision or maintenance mode, and the number of units and total acreage in each region. Priority for allocating funds for planning is given to those units revising their LMPs and conducting inventory, assessment, and monitoring activities supporting land management planning under the 2012 Planning Rule. Additional funding may also be allocated to field units conducting roadless area evaluations. Adjustments may be made among regions based on regional capability or to mitigate situations where a proposed allocation would create undesirable transition effects. Coordination with other programs with responsibility for inventory, monitoring and assessments ensures that appropriate direction, funding, and performance expectations are included in agency program and information resource direction.

Partnerships

Collaboration with partners and the public is critical to developing, revising or amending LMPs, conducting assessments, and developing and implementing a monitoring program. Collaborative activities assist in identifying needs, establishing desired conditions, crafting alternatives or scenarios for future management, and identifying information needs and monitoring requirements.

For plan development, revision, and maintenance activities, agency field units work closely with citizens and organizations with an interest in how the land is managed. The agency also works with Federal, regional, and local partners to inventory and monitor its lands. Within the Federal Geographic Data Committee, the Forest Service has the lead responsibility to work with other agencies to set standards for vegetation classification. The agency also works with governmental and nongovernmental partners to collect data and set inventory and monitoring protocols for consistent data collection methods.

In November of 2013, the Federal Advisory Committee for Implementation of the Planning Rule presented to the Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service recommendations for revisions to the proposed directives. The Committee is comprised of 21 members who provide balanced and broad representation of public interests including industry and user groups; environmental organizations; conservation organizations; recreation interests; members of the scientific community; State, county, or local elected officials (or designee); Tribal representatives; and other public interests. The Department and the Forest Service will consider the Committee's recommendations, along with public comment, as it revises the directives for final publication.

Units Completing Revisions using the 1982 Planning Procedures by Fiscal Year

FS Region	Unit	State	Expected Completion
1	Idaho Panhandle NF	ID	2015
1	Kootenai NF	MT	2015
2	Shoshone NF	WY	2015
3	Apache-Sitgreaves NF	AZ	2015
3	Coronado NF	AZ	2015
3	Prescott NF	AZ	2015
5	Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit	CA	2015
8	George Washington NF	VA	2015
3	Coconino NF	AZ	2016
6	Malheur NF	OR	2016
6	Umatilla NF	OR	2016
6	Wallowa-Whitman NF	OR	2016
6	Colville NF	WA	2017
6	Okanogan/Wenatchee NFs	WA	2017

Units Implementing Revision Requirements under the 2012 Planning Rule by Fiscal Year

FS Region	Unit	State	Assessment Initiated	Revision Initiated	Expected Completion
1	Clearwater NF	ID	2012	2014	2016
1	Nez Perce NF	ID	2012	2014	2016
5	Inyo NF	CA	2012	2014	2016
5	Sequoia NF	CA	2012	2014	2016
5	Sierra NF	CA	2012	2014	2016
8	El Yunque NF	PR	2012	2014	2016
3	Cibola NF	NM	2012	2015	2017
10	Chugach NF	AK	2012	2015	2018
8	Francis Marion NF	SC	2013	2014	2016
8	Nantahala-Pisgah NF	NC	2013	2014	2016
1	Flathead NF	MT	2013	2015	2017
2	Rio Grande NF	CO	2014	2016	2017
3	Carson NF	NM	2014	2015	2018
3	Santa Fe NF	NM	2014	2015	2018

FS Region	Unit	State	Assessment Initiated	Revision Initiated	Expected Completion
3	Tonto NF	AZ	2014	2015	2018
1	Helena NF	MT	2014	2016	2018
1	Lewis & Clark NF	MT	2014	2016	2018
3	Gila NF	NM	2015	2016	2019
3	Lincoln NF	NM	2015	2016	2019

Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness

Budget Line Item	Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness					
Annual Appropriations	$261,719	$261,719	$263,942	$2,223	1%
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Total	**261,719**	**261,719**	**263,942**	**2,223**	**1%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	2,005	2,005	2,074	69	3%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**2,005**	**2,005**	**2,074**	**69**	**3%**
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness					
Manage Recreation Operations	151,797	151,019	154,768	3,749	2%
Administer Recreation Special Use Authorizations	39,258	39,258	41,590	2,332	6%
Manage Heritage Resources	28,789	28,789	28,593	-196	-1%
Manage Wilderness & Wild & Scenic Rivers	41,875	41,875	38,991	-2,884	-7%

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness						
Number of recreation site capacity (PAOT days) operated to standard	83,127,395	71,371,135	74,080,790	69,395,856	69,396,000	70,000,000
Percentage of NFS lands covered by travel management plans resulting in visitor safety, resource protection using best management practices, and less visitor conflict with off-road vehicle usage	79.0%	85.5%	100.0%	87.1%	100.0%	100.0%
Number of recreation special use authorizations administered to standard	13,784	17,506	12,279	15,429	15,400	15,000
Number of wilderness areas managed to minimum stewardship level	307	356	365	415	415	0
Number of wildernesses meeting baseline performance for preserving wilderness character	0	0	0	0	0	44
Number of wild and scenic river areas meeting statutory requirements	53	55	57	49	57	57
Number of heritage programs managed to standard	77	81	61	74	75	75
Heritage program score	5,108	5,231	4,130	5,125	5,125	5,000
Customer satisfaction with value for fee paid	83.0%	84.0%	80.0%	85.3%	85.0%	84.0%

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $263,942,000 for the Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness program, an increase of $2,223,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

These programs connect communities and people to the outdoors by aligning our activities with the Framework for Sustainable Recreation and the Forest Service Strategic Plan. We support the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative; the stewardship of our natural, cultural and

historic resources; and youth and volunteer engagement. In FY 2016, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness programs will strengthen privately provided services through improving administration of special use permits, enhance information delivery and customer service through contemporary tools like Recreation.gov, complete Subpart B implementing the Travel Management Rule, initiate Subpart C of the Travel Management Rule for over-snow vehicles, prepare to celebrate the 50th anniversaries of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, implement a new approach to wilderness stewardship, and connect with younger generations through urban and youth conservation corps.

Recreation Contributes Nearly $13 Billion to National Gross Domestic Product

Each year, outdoor recreation and tourism, including hunting and fishing, contributes nearly $13 billion dollars and about 194,000 jobs to the U.S. economy.* This comprises around 40 percent of the Forest Service's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product.

*2012 Forest Service National Visitor Use Monitoring Report

Volunteers and Service Engagement

Volunteers and service participants are critical contributors to Forest Service mission accomplishment. Annually, about 100,000 private citizens give of their time and talent. Approximately 75 percent of participants are volunteers while the remaining 25 percent are service participants seeking job training, national service, and other development opportunities. The majority of our volunteers and service participants are engaged through partners that represent non-government organizations including the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC), educational institutions, and non-profits that serve youth and veterans.

In addition to programs operated directly by the Forest Service, such as the Youth Conservation Corps, the Forest Service works with thousands of partners to effectively stimulate local economies and provide developmental opportunities for the next generation of conservation stewards. Launched in 2014, the 21CSC program engages youth and veterans on projects that address critical natural resource and outdoor recreation needs. This program will continue to be a high priority in FY 2016 with an expanded focus on building a sustainable foundation for increasing citizen stewardship of public lands representative of America's diversity. The Forest Service will emphasize outreach to stakeholders to promote new 21CSC partnerships including expanded involvement and participation of Tribal groups, enhanced access to youth interested in serving on public lands projects, and engaging 21CSC partners to help the Forest Service address critical priorities in the areas of restoration, fire prevention and mitigation, facilities and recreation management, and trails maintenance and construction.

Providing training to program staff will further enhance our ability to develop high quality conservation projects with partners. Building increased awareness about the skills and capabilities of 21CSC partners among Forest Service staff areas will accomplish essential work while also developing a new source of conservation stewards to preserve and protect public lands. By promoting transparency among Forest Service staff and cooperation with partnership organizations, we will enhance the agency's ability to support employment opportunities for youth and veterans.

The Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness program is subdivided into four activities; specific priorities within each activity include:

Manage Recreation Operations - The FY 2016 President's Budget provides funding for Recreation Operations. While integrating key concepts of the Framework for Sustainable Recreation and the Forest Service Strategic Plan, we will provide to the public such services as campgrounds, cabins, lookouts, reservations, visitor centers, picnic areas and other day use sites, interpretive and heritage services, outfitter guides, and recreation events. These resources, when leveraged with cost recovery and visitor fee collections authorized by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, provide us the ability to operate 26,750 recreation sites to millions of visitors.

The Framework for Sustainable Recreation[17] also stresses the importance of providing the right information to the public. Recreation information is the most sought-after Forest Service information on the web, and the public expects it to be credible, accurate, open, and accessible from anywhere. By FY 2016, we anticipate all Forest Service recreation sites will be presented on the Interactive Visitor Map[18]. With broad agency collaboration, we will make a concerted effort to prepare the program for a future of rich information collection and sharing. Updates to our digital infrastructure will allow for more efficient, mobile, and consistent data management, as well as an increased capacity for leveraging volunteers and partners' involvement. These efforts will be essential in engaging current and future generations, enhancing access to recreation opportunities, and expanding our visitor base.

Implementation of route and area designations for motor vehicle use, reflected on Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUMs), helps us sustain critical watersheds and ecosystems in the face of climate change, and enables us to provide recreation opportunities for Off-Highway Vehicle enthusiasts. By 2016, we will fully implement the Forest Service's Route and Area Designation Implementation Guide and be at 100 percent completion for all units with Motor Vehicle Use Maps. Implementation centers management of designated routes and areas around four activities: education, engineering, enforcement, and evaluation.

We engage stakeholders, youth, and volunteers as we implement the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, the Administration's National Travel and Tourism Strategy, and the Framework for Sustainable Recreation. Our coordination with Federal, State, local agencies, and stakeholders provides efficiencies in planning and delivers improved access to recreation opportunities on NFS lands. These efforts strengthen communities and connect people to the outdoors by supporting community-based outdoor recreation and sustainable tourism development, resulting in job creation and economic expansion. We will expand our partnerships and volunteer programs to build inclusive support to restore and conserve our resources and improve public access and employment opportunities.

Administer Recreation Special Use Authorizations - The FY 2016 President's Budget provides funds for Recreation Special Use Authorizations, supporting approximately 5,000 outfitters and guides, 122 ski areas, and a multitude of resorts, marinas, and concession campgrounds that help create tourism-oriented identities for the local areas in which they operate. These permittees provide access to public lands which many people would not otherwise have.

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[17] Connecting People with America's Great Outdoors: A Framework for Sustainable Recreation - http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5346549.pdf
[18] US Forest Service Interactive Visitor Map - http://www.fs.fed.us/ivm/

We are taking a number of actions to improve the efficiency and public access to special use permits, including an update to our special uses database with revised business requirements. These changes will help ensure that local managers apply a streamlined approach to issuing permits. We are also developing special use training to help managers in the field improve their skills and ability to issue new permits. Finally, by FY 2016 we anticipate having a public facing website that will provide a single source of information for applying for and tracking permits. We expect these changes to improve both overall program management as well as customer service.

In response to recommendations in an USDA Office of Inspector General audit of the Special Uses program, we prioritize monitoring and inspections on situations where, if noncompliance occurs, there may be adverse impacts on natural resources or on health and safety. We are also updating inspection requirements for all ongoing and new authorizations. By FY 2016, we expect to implement a revised inspection schedule that will improve our ability to monitor health and safety in the delivery of public facilities and services to visitors on our national forests and grasslands.

Historic Preservation Success
Fabyan Cabin, White Mountain NF

A successful recent *Historic Preservation 21CSC partnership* between HistoriCorps, the White Mountain National Forest, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, and the Monongahela National Forest provided employment and education for 22 veterans who preserved significant historic buildings for public use. HistoriCorps also employed 63 non-veteran youth on 13 Forest Service units elsewhere in the nation, while restoring 27 structures, providing continued use of facilities to the agency and public, and reducing the agency's Deferred Maintenance by $1.2 million.

Manage Heritage Resources – October 2016 will mark the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, a legislative cornerstone to the management of heritage resources for the Forest Service. Commemorative events, projects and products will highlight accomplishments and historic properties preserved by the Forest Service, thanks to the Act. The importance of volunteerism and partnerships will be common themes as we work with the historic preservation community to celebrate the past and build a new program for the future. We will work with partners like HistoriCorps and Passport in Time so national forests and grasslands can continue to provide high quality stewardship for the greatest public benefit, including making historic properties available to visitors and heritage tourism.

The FY 2016 President's Budget provides funding for the stewardship of our heritage and cultural resources, including investments into partnership initiatives. These programs preserve and sustain historic places and resources for public benefit through partnerships that foster public involvement, engage volunteers, and provide training and education. We will further support local communities by rehabilitating significant heritage assets linked to community economic development and sustainable operational plans, and we provide useful asset evaluations and inventories for agency Tribal, and public benefit.

At the requested funding level, we will manage less than 65 percent of our 114 forest and grassland unit programs to standard. Heritage program managers will use information from an

advanced corporate database to facilitate monitoring the condition of over 370,000 historic properties, the most of any Federal agency. We monitor program sustainability through a set of criteria established in 2012. In FY 2014, 74 out of 114 heritage programs (65 percent) reported programs that successfully met agency standards.

Family Views the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness – MT/WY

Implementation of both the new wilderness performance measure and a consistent, interagency approach for monitoring wilderness character will better enable the Forest Service to protect the ecological resiliency of the wildernesses they steward while providing for the many public benefits of wilderness, such as recreation, habitat refugia for wildlife and clean water and air.

Manage Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers - The FY 2016 President's Budget provides funding for the planning and stewardship of America's Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers. These funds allow us to continue to make progress on two important wilderness program priorities: 1) implementing a new performance measure to evaluate the effectiveness of our wilderness stewardship program, and 2) revising the national protocol for monitoring wilderness character.

The new performance measure, "number of wildernesses meeting baseline performance for preserving wilderness character", will be implemented in FY 2016, building off the success of the 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge. This measure allows a national forest to select the 10 elements, out of a list of 19, that most closely represent the wilderness stewardship priorities in a specific wilderness, such as the management of invasive plant and wildlife species, the ability to restore the natural role of fire, or the success at engaging partners and volunteers to accomplish crucial stewardship work. While there is some flexibility in the choice of elements, these selections are made within a consistent national framework, thereby making the results comparable between wildernesses. This measure will closely track the Forest Service's ability to implement the stewardship actions needed to preserve wilderness character. We estimate that 44 wilderness areas, 10 percent of the 442 wilderness areas managed by the agency, will be managed to this standard in the first year of implementation.

Concurrently, the Forest Service will be completing the revision to the national protocol for monitoring wilderness character in FY 2016, to be consistent with the approach used by the other Federal wilderness management agencies, allowing the eventual evaluation of the status and trends of wilderness character across the entire National Wilderness Preservation System. Once implemented, wilderness character monitoring will enable the Forest Service to evaluate the outcome of our stewardship actions on wilderness character, as well as the overall health and resilience of lands designated as wilderness.

As we look forward to the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 2018, we anticipate that a total of 57 out of a total of 119 wild and scenic rivers managed by the Forest Service will meet statutory requirements. We continue to ensure that wilderness and wild and

scenic rivers values are addressed as part of agency efforts in response to the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. In addition, we ensure that wilderness and wild and scenic river values are recognized for their contributions to addressing climate change and for providing recreation, renewal, subsistence, and employment to surrounding communities.

Past Performance

Our Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness programs provide a broad range of outdoor recreation benefits to the public, individual businesses, and local economies. In FY 2014, we focused our resources on completing the 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge, updating the administration of Recreation Special Use authorizations and implementing year-round recreation opportunities on ski areas on NFS lands. We implemented visitor safety actions identified for developed recreation sites, expanding accessible recreation opportunities, and through 21CSC programs we supported youth and veteran employment opportunities while developing the next generation of public land stewards.

Recreation Operations

Travel management plans are a key component to supporting resource protection and visitor safety and reducing visitor conflicts resulting from unmanaged off-road vehicle usage. Approximately 90 percent of NFS units have completed travel management plans using best management practices. In FY 2014, we updated all existing plans while completing new plans on several units where public controversy, appeals, and litigation have delayed producing Motor Vehicle Use Maps. Forests have been taking the extra time to engage the public in crafting collaborative decisions. Although this approach takes longer, it will result in decisions that are more effective to implement.

The 21CSC partnership continued to be a high priority as an avenue to expand employment opportunities for youth and veterans through partnerships with non-profits, universities, local, state, and other federal agencies. In 2014, we exceeded our 2013 engagement numbers by 30 percent, achieved a 30 percent increase in Youth Conservation Corps participation to 1,400 youth, and orchestrated growth in the 21CSC organization, recognizing and approving 152 partner organizations to exceed our own USDA goal. To accomplish this, we expanded partnerships with Conservation Service Corps in every region and some research stations, established a memorandum of understanding with the Corporation for National & Community Service through which we engaged AmeriCorps members on public lands, and we collaborated with the Partnership for 21CSC to increase awareness about the effectiveness of working with service and conservation corps to accomplish essential work.

This past year, we implemented several projects in support of goals to expand and support accessible recreation opportunities and information for the public, including an updated Forest Service accessibility guidebook for outfitters and guides, guidelines to support more inclusive recreation opportunities, and we provided online and in person accessibility training to more than 2,300 Forest Service employees and partners.

Administration of Recreation Special Uses

The administration of Recreation Special Use permits is a critical activity in providing community economic benefits as well as enabling and enhancing guest services through the hands of our partners. In FY 2014, we made a significant step forward in supporting this program through publication of a directive regarding additional seasonal or year round recreation use at ski areas. This directive implements the Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act allowing other seasonal and year-round natural resource-based recreation activities and associated facilities to be authorized at the 120 ski areas on NFS lands. Several ski areas are already in the process of adding additional facilities to capitalize on this new authority.

This past year we also continued to implement changes to our authorization inspection cycle, a major change which will ensure consistency in our monitoring and reporting. This will also enable our staff to better plan their five-year program of work and help us coordinate administration efforts with our customers.

Heritage Resources

The Heritage program protects and restores significant cultural resources for interpretive, educational and scientific use and to support community economic development and tourism.

In FY 2014, the Forest Service published *"A Guide to Maintaining the Historic Character of Your Forest Service Recreation Residence,"* helping Forest Service staff and Recreation Residence owners design acceptable changes to residences while maintaining historic character and preserving these special cabins for private use on the national forests and grasslands. The Forest Service also recently received the *Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Chairman's Award for Exemplary Achievement* for a partnership with the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience that contributes to heritage tourism in Seattle, Washington. The award underscores the importance of sharing the stories of early Asian pioneers for all Americans to appreciate. The partnership highlighted 16 sites under Forest Service stewardship.

Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers

In FY 2014, the Forest Service successfully concluded the Chief's 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge, initiated in 2005 with the goal of having all 406 wildernesses under Forest Service stewardship at that time managed to a "minimum stewardship level" in time for the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. By the conclusion of the Challenge, the number of wildernesses managed to standard increased from 44 wildernesses (10.8 percent) in FY 2005 to 404 (99.0 percent) in FY 2014. This increased level of stewardship represents a significant improvement in the protection of the wilderness character of these areas, and is attributable to focused national support of on-the-ground management activities, as well as partnerships leveraged through the National Forest Foundation's Wilderness Stewardship Grant program.

The Forest Service also celebrated the Wilderness Act 50th anniversary year as an opportunity to connect with the public and raise awareness of wilderness values and benefits. In collaboration with various partners and volunteers, we held more than 300 events nationwide, engaging youth and fostering wilderness stewardship. We also actively participated in *Wilderness50*, a broad national coalition of government agencies, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and

other wilderness user groups, sharing photographs and displays of wilderness in a wide range of local to national venues.

Program Description

Program Overview

Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness programs on the National Forest System (NFS) offers a diverse range of recreational opportunities across NFS lands, connecting people with nature in an unmatched variety of settings and activities. Outdoor recreation is by far the single greatest use of the NFS, supporting approximately 194,000 jobs and contributing up to $13 billion to the communities surrounding national forests and grasslands. NFS lands host more than 166 million visits annually, engaging the public in activities such as camping, picnicking, skiing, snowboarding, hunting, fishing, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, and visiting cultural sites. The benefits to rural communities from visitors to NFS lands continue long after visitors leave the forest. Visitors spend money in rural communities on everything from lodging and restaurants to ski lessons and river guides.

In addition to these economic benefits, recreation opportunities contribute greatly to the physical, mental and spiritual health of individuals, bonds families and friends, and instills pride in our natural and cultural heritage. Heritage resources, particularly those that offer opportunities for the public to visit, make significant contributions to local economies, providing authentic experiences for cultural tourism. Wildernesses fulfill a deep seated need for an alternative to urban and suburban parks, and furnish a frequently sought environment for undisturbed relaxation.

Aspects of the Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness programs also restore and maintain landscape character, and support a sense of place on landscapes visitors recreate within, the trails they hike, and the viewsheds they value. High-value recreation settings and scenery support community identity and influence quality of life and our sense of place. These settings shape our public image and guide experiences of visitors recreating on NFS lands. Participation in recreational activities is the way that most people come to our national forests and grasslands, making recreation a critical avenue for developing an understanding of the relevance of our lands and natural and cultural resources, and creating support and a future constituency for public land management.

Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness programs manage and administer 26,750 recreation sites, over 30,000 recreation special use authorizations, 25 major visitor centers, 22 National Historic Landmarks, over 362,000 heritage assets, 136 national scenic byways, 442 designated wildernesses (over 36 million acres), and 119 designated wild and scenic rivers (over 4,900 miles). Through advancements in innovation and technology, we are expanding access to information and reservation services to encourage public enjoyment of these recreation opportunities.

Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness programs are delivered through the following activities:

Manage Recreation Operations - This activity funds the operation of developed sites, such as campgrounds, day-use areas, boat ramps, solid waste disposal facilities, and visitor centers; general forest areas, including landscape corridors for national trails and scenic byways, snow play areas, lakes, streams, and roads; interpretive and educational services; and dispersed recreation activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, and wildlife and scenic viewing. This activity also funds sustainable recreation and tourism planning, visitor use management, cleaning facilities and sites; providing safety and security measures for visitors and employees; conducting prescribed inspections; managing partnerships and volunteers; and providing interpretive or educational programs, presentations, and products to visitors. In addition, this activity also provides for the assessment, inventory, protection, enhancement, and monitoring of NFS recreation settings and scenic character.

Administer Recreation Special Use Authorization - This activity funds processing new requests for recreation special use permits and administering existing authorizations, including permits for downhill ski areas; campground management; organization camps; outfitting and guiding; resorts and marinas; recreation events; and recreation residences. This activity funds responses, analyses, and decisions to proponents and applicants who request the use of NFS lands to provide recreation opportunities and benefits to forest visitors. This activity also includes providing inspection, oversight, and monitoring of authorizations issued to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the authorizations. Special use permits make it possible for the public to enjoy many recreational opportunities which we would not otherwise be able to provide.

Manage Heritage Resources - This activity supports the protection of significant heritage assets and contributes interpretive, educational, site stewardship, and scientific and technical information to governmental entities, the public, and tribes. Agency efforts include heritage asset rehabilitation, both to reduce deferred maintenance and to provide enhanced opportunities for community economic development and tourism. Funded activities include identifying, evaluating, protecting, monitoring, and preserving heritage resources, sites and areas, and promoting heritage values through interpretation, Passport in Time projects, presentations, and other public information and outreach efforts.

Manage Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers - This activity funds the protection and management of designated wilderness and wild and scenic rivers. Funded activities include managing visitor use and impacts, education and outreach, inventory and monitoring, information management, protecting wilderness character for designated wilderness, and protecting free-flowing conditions for wild and scenic rivers through collaborative public, private, and interagency management. Funded activities also include evaluating and recommending areas and rivers worthy of addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System during forest planning.

Allocation and Integration

Funds are allocated to the regions based on program capability, core operations, and national priorities. The allocation process considers past performance and future needs regarding developed recreation site use; special use permit processing and administration; heritage resources; and management of wilderness areas and wild and scenic rivers.

Recreation and wilderness programs achieve multiple management objectives by integrating with other land and resource programs. Examples include: joining resources with Capital Improvement and Maintenance programs to implement travel management; coordinating with other programs to address interpretation and education needs that connect the American public to nature; identifying and pursuing acquisition of needed access with and through the Landownership Management program; coordinating with the Integrated Resource Restoration program to complete resource tasks in wilderness areas such as invasive species management, air quality monitoring, and prescribed burning; and utilizing Research and Development programs to address the effects of climate change on wilderness areas.

Partnerships

The Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness program is supported through volunteers, Youth Conservation Corps, and hosted programs. Hosted program organizations such as the Greening Youth Foundation, Student Conservation Association, AmeriCorps, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Southwest Conservation Corps, and others work with us to offer public service opportunities to connect youth with nature and prepare the next generation of conservationists. More than 80 percent of these contributions have been in the areas of recreation, trails, and wilderness.

The public's use and enjoyment of resources on national forests and grasslands is enhanced through a variety of partnerships including volunteers and non-governmental organizations such as outfitting and guiding, ski areas, and campground concessionaires. We collaborate with the Departments of Transportation, Commerce, and the Interior; States and communities; and other recreation providers to improve programs, provide access, and to support social and economic benefits derived from federally managed lands. Partnerships and programs that enable youth and veterans to serve and work on public lands are essential to sustaining these resources for future generations and developing our workforce. This program consistently involves the highest number of volunteers and service participants within the agency.

Volunteers and service participants contribute significantly to assisting the agency in managing heritage resources, providing interpretive services, maintaining trails, and managing youth programs and campgrounds. In addition, we work with partners at the national level, such as the National Forest Foundation, National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, and the River Management Society to recruit wilderness and wild and scenic river volunteers and with the WILD Foundation on international skill exchanges.

In FY 2013, more than 103,000 volunteers and service participants contributed 4,048,333 service hours valued at $89.6 million. Their hourly contributions were equal to 1,946 full-time equivalent employees each working 2,080 hours for the year.

Grazing Management

Budget Line Item	Grazing Management (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Grazing Management					
Annual Appropriations	$55,356	$55,356	$49,706	-$5,650	-10%
Grazing Management Total	**55,356**	**55,356**	**49,706**	**-5,650**	**-10%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	441	441	420	-21	-5%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**441**	**441**	**420**	**-21**	**-5%**
Grazing Management					
Manage Grazing Allotments	24,453	24,453	21,958	-2,495	-10%
Prepare Grazing Allotment NEPA	30,903	30,903	27,748	-3,155	-10%

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Grazing Management						
Allotment acres administered to 100% of Forest Plan standards	30,396,997	29,268,333	27,000,000	29,794,000	27,000,000	27,000,000
Number of grazing allotments with signed decision notices	111	123	125	103	110	110

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $49,706,000 for Grazing Management, a decrease of $5,650,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

Funding the Grazing Management program supports two primary activities: administering livestock grazing use on approximately 93 million acres of National Forest System (NFS) lands and approximately 10 million acres of private land within grazing allotments; and completing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis on grazing allotments in accordance with the NEPA schedule established under the provisions of the Rescissions Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-19, section 504), along with the subsequent implementation of management practices derived from NEPA decisions. In FY 2016 a balance between the completion of allotment NEPA and the administration of existing permits will be emphasized. Administration of existing permits will focus on basic stewardship in order to ensure grazing will be sustained at the appropriate levels. Implementation of newly developed management practices aimed at restoration and/or rehabilitation of rangelands will continue at a reduced level, extending the timeframe for gaining overall improvement in sustainability and proper functioning of these lands.

NEPA allotment planning and management is a dynamic process. The NEPA national summary of allotment schedules is published every three years to incorporate a new three-year planning period and to maintain a long term schedule. FY 2014 was the first year of a three-year cycle. At the end of FY 2016, a new national summary of allotment NEPA schedules will be published to include the next 12-year span, 2017-2028. The reduced rate of completion of NEPA will necessitate extending the scheduling timeframe for all needed NEPA analyses.

We propose to assess an administrative fee of $2.50 per Head Month based on annual authorized Head Months to offset administrative costs associated with administering grazing permits on NFS lands. Based on the total Head Months of use, the Forest Service could generate approximately $15 million in administrative fees that could be used to offset costs associated with grazing permit administration.

Benefits from the FY 2016 program of work will include: a sustainable supply of forage for livestock; economic opportunities for rural communities; sustaining grazing management practices to support ecosystem restoration efforts; and working landscapes associated with open space and habitat connectivity across NFS and other Federal, State, Tribal, and private lands. Opportunities to coordinate sustainable landscape management on grazing lands will be at similar levels as those projected under the FY 2015 President's Budget.

Specific priorities within each activity include:

Manage Grazing Allotments - The FY 2016 President's Budget includes administration of 27,000,000 acres of grazing allotments to 100 percent of Land Management Plan standards. This measure reflects the level of permit administration relative to implementing all grazing management direction prescribed in land management plans, project level NEPA decisions, grazing permits or agreements, and other relevant documents. Administering allotments to standards assures that management decisions identified during the NEPA process are implemented, achieve desired outcomes, or are adjusted if initial actions are not effective. Although all grazing allotments are administered, priority is placed on administering allotments with known critical resource issues, such as management of habitat for endangered species.

Prepare Grazing Allotment NEPA - The FY 2016 President's Budget provides funding to complete grazing NEPA analysis and decisions for 110 grazing allotments. The planned accomplishment level reflects an accurate capacity assessment based on a number of factors including a lower funding request compared to FY 2014 enacted levels, reflecting national efforts to reduce Federal budgets; an anticipated increase in NEPA analysis unit costs due to many controversial and complex allotments; and prioritized allocation of funds towards restoration activities. In addition, survey work needed for completing grazing NEPA analysis is closely connected to the agency's Integrated Resource Restoration budget line item. Adjusting priorities in response to dynamic change on the landscape (such as fires, floods, and other unplanned events) could have a direct impact on the number of grazing decisions completed. Effective NEPA analysis and decisions ensure that livestock grazing strategies are designed to provide for the restoration and long-term sustainability of rangeland vegetation and dependent resources while continuing to provide essential goods and ecosystem services.

Past Performance

Ensuring grazing allotments meet forest plan standards is important to sustain healthy, resilient rangelands—which has a direct relationship to the quality and quantity of water flowing from and through public rangelands. The measure tracking allotment acres administered to 100 percent of forest plan standards was designed so that we would know how close we are to having all allotment plans fully implemented and monitored. Maintaining a focus on monitoring and on-the-ground administration resulted in the program continuing to meet expectations for these activities again in FY 2014.

Completing NEPA analysis – and the resulting signed decision notices – gives the agency a NEPA-sufficient path forward to manage the rangelands in an allotment to maintain, restore, and rehabilitate the land as needed to meet the forest plan standards. Challenges to this work include increased complexity of analyses, increased workload associated with litigation, increased costs for comprehensive resource condition and trend data to support decisions, and the lack of completed assessments necessary to support the record for making management decisions. One tactic to improve efficiency in this work that was continued in FY 2014 focused on combining multiple allotments into one large decision where possible. Region 1 has used this tactic successfully on national grasslands where grazing sites are similar. While transferability of this approach to other regions may be limited, we continue to explore similar innovations to increase our efficiencies nationwide.

Program Description

Program Overview

Proper control and management of grazing use was one of the core reasons for the establishment of a Forest Reserve System that eventually became the NFS. The development and implementation of proper grazing practices has been a significant part of the overall management of the Forest Service from the very beginning of the agency. Restoration of unhealthy rangelands has been an ongoing key focal point of Grazing Management. The Grazing Management program manages the diverse rangeland resources on approximately 93 million acres of NFS lands and administers grazing use on approximately 10 million acres of private land serving 6,155 permit holders across 29 states. The program seeks to maintain healthy rangelands but also seeks to restore and/or rehabilitate historically depleted rangelands to maintain a sustainable supply of forage for livestock, to maintain open space and wildlife habitat connectivity by linking NFS grazing authorizations to privately owned lands managed for agricultural production, and by helping sustain the rural based ranching and farming lifestyle. On average livestock grazing on NFS lands contributes approximately 19,500 jobs and almost $900 million to the Nation's economy each year.

Properly managed rangelands support ecosystems that provide secure food sources, sustain water resources, and provide wildlife habitat and other natural resources benefits. This program's activities include environmental planning through compliance with NEPA for the use of grazing allotments and grazing permit administration. Thorough NEPA analysis and decisions ensure that livestock grazing strategies are designed to provide for the restoration and long-term sustainability of rangeland vegetation and dependent resources while continuing to provide

essential goods and ecosystem services. By incorporating adaptive management strategies into grazing NEPA decisions, the program provides flexibility for the grazing permittee while increasing accountability in meeting desired resource conditions. This also supports ecosystem improvement by properly adapting grazing timing and use to meet changing climate conditions.

This program is delivered through the following activities:

Manage Grazing Allotments - This activity provides for implementation of NEPA sufficient management plans along with the proper administration and monitoring of grazing permits and activities. This includes issuance of grazing permits, processing permit waivers, preparation and processing of bills for collection, and the development of annual operating instructions. Compliance monitoring determines if the terms and conditions of the grazing authorization are being implemented by the grazing permittee. Implementation monitoring determines whether the evaluated acres meet, do not meet, or are moving towards resource objectives identified in the land management plan or other appropriate decision document, and allows managers to determine whether additional monitoring or adjustments in management are required.

Prepare Grazing Allotment NEPA - Involves all elements of NEPA compliance pertaining to decisions authorizing grazing on an allotment, including the resolution of appeals and litigation associated with these decisions. This activity includes managing public involvement in the decision process; coordinating with Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments; development of alternatives; analysis of environmental effects; and the preparation of NEPA documents. The agency strives to incorporate adaptive management into grazing NEPA decisions. Adaptive management strategies are designed to maximize management flexibility for the grazing permittee with a concurrent increase in accountability for success in meeting desired resource condition on the allotments and across the larger landscape. Adaptive management also allows maximum flexibility for the agency to gain ecosystem improvement by properly changing timing and use to fit ever changing weather and climate conditions.

Allocation and Integration

Funds are allocated to the field based on the number of term grazing permits, the number of acres in active allotments, the amount of scheduled NEPA work, and the number of grazing allotments for which the agency made NEPA decisions during the previous three fiscal years. The agency may make additional adjustments to reflect regional capability.

The Grazing Management program has been closely integrated with the Integrated Resource Restoration pilot program in Regions 1, 3, and 4 and would continue to be integrated with the nationwide implementation proposed in the FY 2016 Budget. The Integrated Resource Restoration program provides the funding for the assessments for rangeland vegetation monitoring necessary to determine the health of rangeland ecosystems, as well as to determine whether implemented grazing management actions are achieving desired resource conditions. Data gathered through these monitoring efforts is the foundation for preparing grazing NEPA analyses and making subsequent decisions for allotment management, as well as determining where management adaptations are necessary. The program also provides the funding for construction of range improvements needed to implement allotment management plans if determined necessary in the NEPA decisions.

In both FY 2015 and FY 2016 the agency estimates that we will transfer $1,520,000 to the Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management in support of activities for the management of wild horse and burros.

Partnerships

The agency supplements our capability to accomplish grazing permit administration through a variety of partnerships. Grazing permittees may be certified to conduct utilization monitoring, and may provide documentation demonstrating compliance with livestock distribution and other management requirements. Special interest groups also enter into agreements with the agency to conduct implementation monitoring, often in coordination with the grazing permittee.

Minerals and Geology Management

Budget Line Item	Minerals and Geology Management (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Minerals and Geology Management					
Annual Appropriations	$76,423	$76,423	$70,689	-$5,734	-8%
Minerals and Geology Management Total	**76,423**	**76,423**	**70,689**	**-5,734**	**-8%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	505	505	492	-13	-3%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**505**	**505**	**492**	**-13**	**-3%**
Minerals and Geology Management					
Administer Minerals Operations	27,290	27,290	20,616	-6,674	-24%
Process Minerals Applications	19,880	19,880	19,048	-832	-4%
Manage Geologic Resources & Hazards	6,005	6,005	5,479	-526	-9%
AML Safety Risk Mitigated	7,199	7,199	6,120	-1,079	-15%
Manage Environmental Compliance	1,852	1,852	997	-855	-46%
Manage Environmental Restoration	14,197	14,197	18,429	4,232	30%

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Minerals and Geology Management						
Number of mineral operations administered	9,985	10,019	10,000	10,175	10,000	8,000
Number of mineral applications processed	6,953	5,865	7,000	5,722	7,000	7,000
Number of leasable energy minerals actions processed.	0	144	240	161	270	270
Number of AML safety risk features mitigated to "no further action"	374	604	430	503	486	468
Number of administrative units where audits were conducted	22	18	20	19	17	17
Number of contaminated sites mitigated	51	42	40	66	42	42
Number of geologic hazards managed	282	340	190	237	300	300
Number of geologic resources managed	642	662	565	677	600	600

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $70,689,000 for Minerals and Geology Management, a decrease of $5,734,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

Priority will be given to activities with statutory requirements, and to those that support local communities, provide jobs, and support restoration of our landscapes. The program will emphasize environmental review of nondiscretionary activities such as proposed operations for locatable minerals development, oil and gas drilling applications, related infrastructure needs, and proposals for exploration or production operations for other energy and non-energy minerals subject to mineral leases. Other priorities will include inspection and monitoring of new and

ongoing critical mineral operations, providing professional expertise to ensure watershed health and public safety, and managing geologic hazards and important geologic resources, especially those with statutory direction for management such as paleontological resources and caves.

Specific priorities within each activity will include:

Administer Mineral Operations - The FY 2016 President's Budget proposal funds the administration of an estimated 8,000 new and ongoing mineral operations to ensure compliance with operating plans and environmental standards for the protection of surface resources. The program will emphasize administering those activities in sensitive areas or those that otherwise have a higher risk of adverse impact to public health and safety, and surface resources.

Oil Well Drilling, Dakota Prairie National Grasslands, North Dakota

The Forest Service approves industry plans for use of National Forest System lands to explore and produce oil and natural gas.

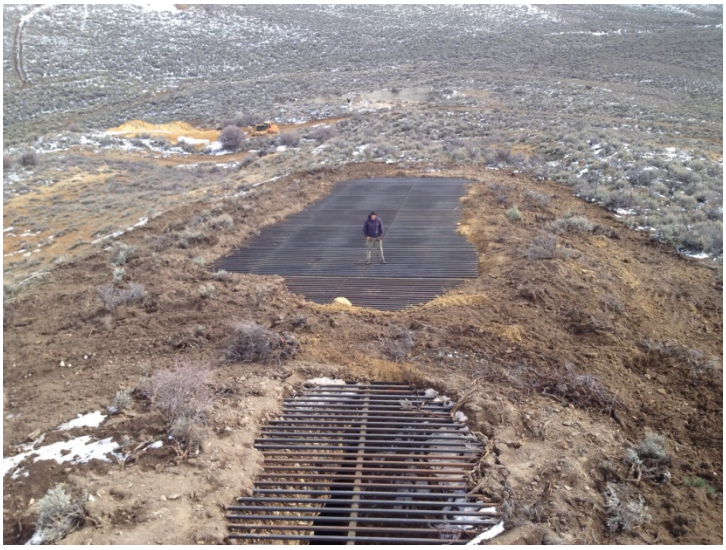
Process Mineral Applications - The FY 2016 President's Budget proposal funds the processing of an estimated 7,000 mineral applications and plans. The actual number of applications received may vary significantly due to market influences which directly affect demand for mineral resources from National Forest System (NFS) lands. We plan to maintain our capacity in this area and emphasize the energy component of this activity by processing industry applications on existing leases and completing priority analyses. This will help us to make decisions on the availability of NFS lands for leasing of oil and gas, coal, and geothermal resources from NFS lands, in support of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Manage Geologic Hazards and Resources - The FY 2016 President's Budget proposal funds the identification and management of an estimated 300 geologic hazards and 600 geologic resources. Identifying and managing geologic hazards is critical in protecting the safety and health of employees and the public, minimizing or mitigating costly damage to infrastructure, and sustaining soil and water resources. Managing geologic resources is necessary for conservation

and interpretation of special and unique features, including paleontological resources and caves, for purposes of ecological sustainability, education, scientific discovery, and public enjoyment.

Abandoned Mine Land - Safety Risk Features Mitigated - The FY 2016 President's Budget proposal funds the mitigation of an estimated 486 abandoned mine sites. The Abandoned Mine Land program specifically focuses on mitigating safety risk features and related activities associated with abandoned mines that are likely to cause serious injury or death in high use areas and high-priority watersheds.

Abandoned Mine Closures, Region 4, Nevada



A Minerals and Geology Management closure expert standing over two large open stope closures, ensuring public safety and providing bad habitat.

Manage Environmental Compliance - The FY 2016 President's Budget proposal funds 17 environmental compliance audits, ensuring that employee and public health and safety are protected through agency compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

Manage Environmental Restoration - The FY 2016 President's Budget proposal funds restoration activities on 42 hazardous material sites on NFS lands. Cleanup of contaminated sites is critical for the long-term protection of surface and groundwater quality, and contributes to overall public and ecological health.

Luttrell Regional Waste Repository, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National, MT

The Upper Tenmile site is being cleaned up using a collaborative, watershed approach. The U.S. Forest Service has the lead role in cleaning up wastes on federal property within the Superfund site boundary (Beatrice, Justice and Armstrong mines). Throughout the cleanup, the Forest Service continues to work closely with the EPA, the state and local community.

Past Performance

The Forest Service national forests and grasslands play an essential role in providing critical mineral and energy resources to the Nation. In the management of the Minerals and Geology program the agency not only supports energy development, but also provides direct support of the Nation's economy while providing for the protection of geological resources, and supporting environmental and public safety goals. Over 5.6 million acres of NFS lands are currently leased for oil, natural gas, coal, phosphates, other leasable mineral commodities, and for geothermal energy.

According to the Forest Service's "FY 13 Energy and Mineral Production Information for National Forest System Lands," published in July 2014, energy and mineral production from NFS lands contributed almost $8 billion to the Nation's economy and supported approximately 56,000 jobs in FY 2013. Mineral development from Federal leases on NFS lands alone provided over $570 million in revenue through royalties and other payments to the U.S. Treasury ($386 million from coal, $165 million from oil and gas, and $19 million from other leasable mineral commodities). Value of products produced from locatable operations on NFS land is not readily available, but adds substantially to the total value of the resources produced and jobs supported. In FY 2014 the agency continued to support these outcomes through administration of nearly 10,000 operational mineral activities, and the processing of more than 5,000 new mineral applications.

In FY 2014, the agency took management action on nearly 700 geologic resources, including paleontological sites, caves, and other specially managed geologic features. Managing geologic

resources is necessary for the conservation and interpretation of special and unique features, including groundwater and related resources, paleontological resources, and caves, for purposes of ecological sustainability, education, scientific discovery, and public enjoyment of public lands.

Administrative and operational safety has also been a continued focus area for the minerals program, and in FY 2014 16 external environmental compliance audits were completed. We have also made progress in working with the American Exploration and Mining Association to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that will address safety hazards at abandoned mines on NFS lands. We have also initiated a pilot program to inventory and prioritize remediation of problem idle and orphan wells.

In FY 2014, the agency took management action on 237 identified geologic hazards, and mitigated 502 hazardous mine features at abandoned mines resulting in a safer environment for visitors and employees on NFS lands. In many instances, closures include the installation of steel gates, allowing the abandoned mine to be used as bat habitat and also serves to reduce the spread of white-nose syndrome which has caused the mortality of millions of bats.

Additionally, in FY 2014 the agency mitigated 65 contaminated hazardous material sites, which was higher than expected due to the identification of previously unknown contaminated sites (such as oil spills, marijuana farms, and methamphetamine labs) located within ongoing cleanup project areas. Partnerships and responsible party settlements contributed to our ability to accomplish more work on the ground.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Minerals and Geology Management program provides significant contributions to meeting the Nation's energy and mineral needs while providing jobs and protecting NFS watersheds and resources. The program oversees management and protection of significant geologic resources in the interest of society, including those that are statutorily protected – groundwater, caves, and paleontological resources. The Minerals and Geology Management program also oversees management of geologic hazards to protect life, health, property, and other resources by mitigating the effects of abandoned mines and other contaminated sites on NFS lands. Environmental compliance audits ensure adherence to applicable environmental laws and requirements to protect human health and safety.

Minerals and Energy on NFS lands

Energy and mineral production from NFS lands contributes almost $8 billion annually to the Nation's economy. In addition to over $570 million in revenues returned to the Treasury, States, and counties in FY 2013, mineral and energy development on NFS lands supports on average approximately 56,000 jobs each year often in areas or communities where employment opportunities are limited. Of the total receipts received through energy and minerals production on NFS lands, 75 percent or 50 percent (depending on whether production is from Acquired or Public Domain lands) are returned to the Treasury. The other 25 percent or 50 percent (again, depending on land status) is returned to the States or counties where production occurred.

As the Nation's economy continues its recovery, we anticipate a commensurate increase in industry interest for mineral resources from Federal lands. In FY 2013 every appropriated dollar invested in the Forest Service minerals and geology budget returned $7.35 to the Treasury from leasable mineral revenues alone.

Energy and mineral production on NFS lands falls into the following four categories:

Energy production from federal leases on NFS lands - Over 5.5 million acres underlying NFS lands are currently leased for oil, gas, coal, and geothermal operations. In FY 2013, coal from NFS lands accounted for about 25 percent of the Nation's coal production, there were an estimated 4,200 Federal oil and gas wells on NFS lands, and production of geothermal energy on NFS lands contributed 16.5 million kilowatt-hours of electrical generation capacity. The returns to the Treasury from annual lease rentals, royalties on production, and bonus bids were $538 million, of which $378 million came from coal, and $160 million came from oil and gas.

Energy exploration and production from non-federal minerals underlying NFS lands - Non-Federal, mostly private, mineral interests are associated with close to 11 million acres of NFS lands. In addition to activities associated with Federal minerals described above, close to 15,500 oil and gas wells and a few other types of mineral development operations are associated with these private mineral interests on NFS lands. Small business interests conduct the majority of these operations. Each oil and gas well can directly contribute to up to 115 jobs through the life of the well, with about three additional indirect jobs associated with each direct job.

Solid leasable minerals (non-energy) - Production of solid non-energy leasable minerals on NFS lands include phosphate, lead, zinc, and copper and in 2012 generated royalties of $21 million. Ongoing exploration projects for other valuable mineral deposits are occurring across the country.

Mineral production from NFS Lands - At any given time, the agency administers operations on approximately 160,000 mining claims, and manages approximately 2,600 mineral material permits and/or sale contracts. In 2014, the eight largest hard rock mines on NFS lands produced resources with an estimated value of $1.6 billion. Mineral material sales (e.g., sand and gravel) vary from year to year but in FY 2014, 2.1 million short tons, at a value exceeding $2.0 million, were produced. A large portion of the material is provided as free use to other government agencies or for in-service use. The portion that was sold generates $1.7 million in revenue.

Geologic Resources and Geologic Hazards on NFS lands

Geologic resources, such as groundwater, cave systems, paleontological resources, geomorphic features, and outcrops, directly and indirectly support communities, recreation, watershed sustainability, and sensitive ecosystems. Management of some geologic resources – groundwater, caves, and paleontological resources – is nondiscretionary, with statutory and regulatory direction requiring special designation, management, and/or protection. Geologic resources directly and indirectly serve and support communities (e.g., groundwater contribution to water supplies, special features supporting tourism-based local economies), are critical to sustaining unique and valuable flora and fauna (e.g., groundwater-dependent ecosystems, caves), and are scientifically important to our understanding of earth processes and materials. Geologic

resources require specialized expertise and strategies for management, conservation, and protection.

Geologic hazards are natural conditions or processes, such as floods, landslides, avalanches, earthquakes, volcanoes, and naturally occurring hazardous minerals and gases (e.g., asbestos, radon) that present a risk or have the potential to threaten life, health, property, or other natural resources. Hundreds of sites, especially those in areas with high recreational value and use, require specialized technical assessment, continuous monitoring, and/or mitigation to minimize threats to life, health, and infrastructure from geologic hazards.

Abandoned Mine Lands, and Environmental Compliance and Protection

Analysis of available data indicates there may be 27,000 to 39,000 abandoned mines on NFS lands, of which approximately 18,000 to 26,000 are abandoned hardrock mines. Of these hardrock mines, an estimated 9,000 to 13,000 are past producers of valuable minerals and are therefore more likely to require environmental cleanup or safety mitigation work. Since 1998, the agency has mitigated more than 5,000 safety hazards at abandoned mines and cleaned up hazardous substances at more than 450 sites, with more than 100 cleanups in progress. Additionally, the agency conducts environmental compliance audits of approximately 20 percent of its administrative units annually. The agency emphasizes training and pollution prevention as a means to both achieve and maintain environmental compliance.

The Minerals and Geology Management program is delivered through six activities:

Administer Mineral Operations - Provides for the inspection, oversight, and monitoring of approved mineral operations on NFS lands. Administration ensures compliance with approved plans, and with State and Federal environmental laws and regulations, for the protection of public health and safety.

Process Mineral Applications - Provides for the review and approval of plans for proposed mineral activities, including exploration and development of hardrock minerals under the authority of the Mining Act of 1872; coal, oil, gas, and geothermal exploration and production under the various mineral and geothermal leasing acts; and contracts for the extraction of mineral materials such as sand and gravel, by the public and local, State, and Federal agencies under the Materials Act of 1947. Also, this activity provides for necessary work to make lands available for leasing by the Department of the Interior.

Manage Geologic Resources and Hazards – Identifies and assesses geologic resources under specific statutory and regulatory requirements for management and protection. Develops strategies and procedures for management consistent with statutory and regulatory direction. Provides assessments of geologic settings and processes for land management planning, provision of services, environmental protection and restoration, and cost-effective management of roads, recreation sites, and other infrastructure. Program delivery activities include inventory and management of geologic resources such as caves and karst areas, paleontological resources, groundwater, and groundwater-dependent ecosystems for protection, study, and appropriate use.

The program also includes the identification and assessment of geologic settings and processes for hazardous conditions and potential risks to public health and safety. Potentially hazardous

settings and processes include landslides, debris flows, karst collapse features, earthquake zones, volcanoes, tsunamis, flooding, and naturally occurring hazardous minerals and gases (e.g., asbestos and radon). The activity works collaboratively with other staffs, agencies, and professionals to develop mitigations for geologic hazards.

Mitigate Abandoned Mine Lands Safety Risk Features - Provides for the inventory, assessment, and mitigation of abandoned mine safety hazards and associated environmental damage. This work includes closing underground mine openings and vertical shafts; re-contouring open pits, trenches, and associated roads; and removing or stabilizing abandoned buildings, and equipment. Wherever feasible, work in this activity minimizes or mitigates adverse effects on dependent wildlife and abandoned mine lands-associated cultural and historic resources.

Manage Environmental Compliance - This activity funds audits and our compliance program that assesses Forest Service compliance with environmental statutes and trains field personnel on compliance and pollution prevention.

Manage Environmental Restoration - This activity provides for the inventory, assessment, cleanup, long-term operation and maintenance, and monitoring of sites where there is a release, or threat of release, of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant on NFS lands. Restoration occurs at both abandoned mine lands and non-abandoned mine lands sites and involves Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and non-CERCLA authorities. Cleanup projects are typically initiated under requirements of CERCLA, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or the Clean Water Act. This restoration helps minimize or eliminate threats to human health and the environment.

Allocation and Integration

Regional allocation criteria for the Minerals and Geology Management program includes projected workload in response to new and ongoing mineral planning, exploration, leasing, development, production and reclamation activities; number of abandoned mine lands safety features requiring mitigations, as well as severity of and probability of human contact to abandoned mine hazards; projected need for inventory, interpretation, and protection of geologic resources; projected need for assessment and mitigation of geologic hazards; number of required environmental audits; and number of nationally prioritized environmental cleanup projects. Adjustments may be made between regions based on regional capability data to respond to new issues or emerging mineral development trends and markets.

Integration with other resource programs is a priority that helps the agency facilitate environmentally sound mineral development while maintaining and restoring healthy watersheds. This integration is designed to ensure compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations and to minimize impacts on natural resources. Integration with other programs also maximizes the achievement of diverse resource objectives that are compatible with program activities, such as interpretation of culturally significant sites, restoration of water quality, and conservation of threatened and endangered species.

Partnerships

The Forest Service works in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management to manage the Federal minerals on NFS lands. The Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, has management responsibilities for the Federal mineral estate, including Federal minerals that underlie NFS lands. The Forest Service is responsible for the management of surface resources on mineral, oil, and gas projects proposed or operating on NFS lands.

The Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and industry form partnerships through the issuance of various mineral leases. Industry provides capital, and expertise, while the agencies provide lands on which to explore and develop mineral and energy resources in an environmentally sound manner for the Nation.

The Forest Service is also developing partnerships with geologic and hydrogeologic organizations to help raise awareness of the importance of applying geologic principles to ensure sound and sustainable management of geologic resources and safe management of geologic hazards on NFS lands. In addition, these partnerships will help improve awareness of the role of NFS lands in supplying groundwater and surface water to meet societal needs. Cooperative partnerships with other government agencies and non-profit organizations also supplement appropriated funds to inventory and assess geologic resources and restore streams and watersheds.

The Forest Service is entering a partnership with mining associations through a Memorandum of Understanding addressing the need to mitigate abandoned mine lands safety hazards by closing underground mine openings and vertical shafts; re-contouring open pits, trenches, and associated roads; and removing or stabilizing abandoned buildings, and equipment.

Agency emphasis within the environmental compliance and protection and abandoned mine lands activities includes cost recovery and efficient and effective use of partnerships including, but not limited to, Environmental Protection Agency, States, non-profit groups, and Tribes to restore and remediate abandoned mine lands and disturbed ecosystems. Costs of restoration work may be recovered when the potentially responsible party is identified.

Landownership Management

Budget Line Item	Landownership Management (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Landownership Management					
Annual Appropriations	$77,730	$77,730	$71,601	-$6,129	-8%
Landownership Management Total	**77,730**	**77,730**	**71,601**	**-6,129**	**-8%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	560	560	592	32	6%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**560**	**560**	**592**	**32**	**6%**
Landownership Management					
Adjust Land Ownership	14,769	14,769	13,605	-1,164	-8%
Protect Land Ownership Title	7,773	7,773	7,160	-613	-8%
Locate Land Boundaries	22,542	22,542	20,765	-1,777	-8%
Administer Energy, Communication and Land Use Authorizations	21,764	21,764	20,047	-1,717	-8%
Process Land Use Proposals	10,882	10,882	10,024	-858	-8%

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Landownership Management						
Acres of land adjustments to conserve the integrity of undeveloped lands and habitat quality	26,330	23,566	22,860	7,383	16,816	7,500
Number of land use authorizations administered to standard	17,735	28,887	12,500	19,236	19,000	17,600
Number of land use proposals and applications processed	4,339	4,047	3,500	4,310	4,310	4,000
Miles of landownership boundary line marked/maintained to standard	3,862	2,322	2,707	2,377	2,400	2,070

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The President's FY 2016 Budget includes $71,601,000 for Landownership Management, a decrease of $6,129,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. These funds will support the real estate aspects of the restoration of resilient ecosystems, maintenance and expansion of access to public lands, and support for economic and infrastructure development for communities. Special emphases include facilitating the development of energy transmission infrastructure and communications sites in an environmentally responsible manner.

The Landownership Management program will lay the foundation for all natural resource management activities by surveying and locating public lands; maintaining all records associated with public ownership; granting authorizations for the use and development of National Forest System (NFS) lands for communication sites, energy transmission corridors, community and agricultural water supplies, and roads and highways; and protecting the NFS from

encroachments and trespass. This program will also facilitate land exchanges and other ownership adjustments that are critical to protecting sensitive lands while enabling community development and protection.

Within the broad spectrum of Landownership Management, the following program activities are critical to meeting public needs and expectations: Administer Energy, Communication, and Land Use Authorizations; Adjust Land Ownership; Protect Land Ownership Title; Locate Land Boundaries; and Process Land Use Proposals. Agency priorities for FY 2016 within each activity areas are as follows:

Administer Energy, Communication and Other Land Use Authorizations and Process Land Use Proposals - The FY 2016 President's Budget provides funds for the administration of special use permits on NFS lands, which authorize 205 different categories of land use. This funding includes $8,000,000 for the evaluation of new proposals and the inspection, oversight, and monitoring of non-recreation infrastructure-related special use authorizations. In response to recommendations in an audit by the USDA Office of the Inspector General of the Special Uses program, we prioritize monitoring and inspections of situations where noncompliance can cause adverse impacts to natural resources or health and safety. We are also updating inspection requirements for all authorizations. By FY 2016, we expect to implement a revised inspection schedule that will improve our ability to monitor health and safety in the delivery of public services on the NFS.

Key services provided by lands special uses are the authorization of energy development, energy transmission, communications sites, domestic and agricultural water developments, and roads, all of which are essential to community infrastructure. In FY 2016, the Forest Service will administer permits for approximately 18,000 miles of power lines, 6,600 miles of pipelines, 1,500 communications sites, 14,000 recreation residences, and 2,000 domestic water impoundments (reservoirs). We will prioritize reduction of the expired authorization backlog, in

Supporting the Nation's goal for energy independence, constructing pipelines for oil and natural gas

North Dakota is setting records in oil production at over 1 million barrels per day while providing over 65,000 jobs. With existing infrastructure, several thousand trucks are needed to transport products – a heavy burden on state, county and local roads. The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are working with the State and industry to plan pipelines and other infrastructure that more safely and efficiently move products to market. The plan will also include a dramatic reduction in the flaring of excess natural gas as producers will not be limited to trucks for transport.

keeping with a commitment the agency made to the Office of the Inspector General.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensed hydropower facilities are one of the largest sources of renewable energy produced on the NFS and have an installed capacity of over 18,000 megawatts of power. In FY 2016, we anticipate participating in planned Commission-administered license proceedings and responding to new proposals sufficient to meet all Commission-instituted deadlines. The Forest Service develops and submits Federal Power Act Section 4(e) conditions that include appropriate mitigation of project effects. Mitigation activities include fish protection upstream and downstream, integrated management of campgrounds along project reservoirs, provision of recreational flow releases, and protection of cultural resources potentially affected by project operations**.**

Adjust Land Ownership - The FY 2016 President's Budget proposal includes funds to exchange ownership of NFS and private lands. Landownership adjustment helps improve public access, conserve open space where its loss threatens the sustainability of national forests and grasslands, and to protect healthy forested lands and watersheds. Adjustments encourage private development on lands better suited for that purpose, including construction of infrastructure on private lands. Land adjustment also supports more effective and efficient Forest Service management by preserving intact watersheds and reducing fragmentation. Consolidating ownership allows us to reduce future land management costs for both landowners and taxpayers, respond to community development needs, and retain lands on local tax rolls.

Fossil Ridge Land Exchange – Gunnison National Forest

This exchange of land for land eliminates Forest Service administration of a mining operation and structures that were located on the Federal parcels. In the first phase of the exchange, the Gunnison National Forest acquired a key inholding within the Congressionally-designated Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area, reducing management costs by eliminating landlines and allowing for landscape level management. The parcel acquired provides important recreational and hunter access and excellent big game habitat.

Protect Land Ownership Title - The FY 2016 President's Budget proposal includes funds for resolving critical land title claims, encroachments, trespass, and other unauthorized uses, specifically those that involve litigation, legislation, or are associated with Tribal land claims. Resolution of these claims secures and protects the interest, rights, title, and land and resources of the United States and bona fide claimants. The Forest Service also identifies and processes critical changes in land classifications such as wilderness, roadless, and research areas, and assists in processing mineral withdrawals to protect these designated areas. By FY 2016, we anticipate completing our inventory of an estimated 40,000 title claims and encroachments on the

NFS and, with that information, we will remove and resolve real and personal property claims to protect public interests on the land and support restoration.

Locate Land Boundaries - The FY 2016 President's Budget proposal includes funds to mark and maintain NFS property lines as part of priority restoration, watershed protection, and other resource management projects. Encroachments and trespass on NFS lands continue to grow due to increasing development in the rural landscape and the rapidly expanding wildland-urban interface. Marking and maintaining property lines is essential to all types of resource management. Clearly identifying NFS boundaries also provides landownership protection, security, and title defense. Leaving property lines unmarked and unmaintained can result in expensive and protracted litigation and loss of public lands and public trust. To maximize cost efficiencies, we prioritize cooperative and joint land surveys with other agencies through challenge cost-share and other agreements.

Past Performance

The Forest Service is responsible for managing the public estate of more than 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands to support mission critical objectives and public and economic benefits, and to carry out legal mandates. In FY 2014, we focused on maintaining and opening public access to the NFS, completing exchanges or conveyances required by law, implementing new policy regarding the inspection and administration of special uses, and implementing a new database to track more than 40,000 title claims and encroachments on the NFS.

Energy, Communication, and Land Use Authorizations

This past year we continued to implement changes to our inspection cycle for energy, communication, and other land uses authorizations. These changes are designed to ensure consistency in our monitoring and reporting and to enable our staff to plan their five-year program of work. These changes also help the Forest Service coordinate administration efforts with our customers. With these changes more simple authorizations, such as for a mailbox, are inspected on a five-year frequency while more complicated authorizations, such as communications sites, are inspected on an annual basis to ensure compliance with authorization and protection of natural resources. This change is expected to positively affect our performance beginning in FY 2015.

The Forest Service has also been developing electronic forms to track incoming requests for land use proposals which are now required to be submitted through a paper application process. Electronic application submission will improve customer service as well as inform our own staff about outstanding work loads. Electronic submissions will also help us achieve our goals for paperwork reduction, enable us to track the number of proposals going through our screening process, and will help us keep potential customers informed of progress of their proposal. In FY 2014, we processed 4,310 proposals and applications for new land use authorizations on the NFS. Once implemented the new system will allow the Forest Service to manage the application process in a more responsive manner.

Land Adjustment

Land adjustment, primarily conducted through land exchanges and conveyances, is one of many tools we have to support other resource objectives, and is often a multi-year process. In FY 2014, we exchanged or conveyed more than 7,000 acres which are allowing us to convey lands that have lost their national forest character or which may be necessary for vital community expansion. In exchange, the United States acquired valuable resource lands and improve recreational access to NFS lands for communities and the public. These exchanges allow for simplified and more effective management through consolidated land ownership patterns.

In FY 2014, the Gunnison National Forest completed the Fossil Ridge land exchange. The United States conveyed away NFS lands which had been heavily affected by a large uranium mine centered on private land. The lands had been significantly disturbed and were encumbered by a water treatment plant treating contaminated water from the mine. In exchange, the United States received undeveloped lands within the Congressionally-designated Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area. The parcel provides important recreational and hunter access and excellent big game habitat.

Management of Boundaries and the Public Estate

Properly marked boundaries and clear title ownership reduce trespass and encroachments, ensure public access to the national forests and grasslands, and enable land managers to carry out resource priorities on the ground. Without knowledge of boundary location, for example, fuels projects are either not implemented close to the wildland-urban interface or can inadvertently include private lands or roads.

Encroachments and trespass on NFS lands, often resulting from unclear and unmaintained boundaries, threatens the loss of open space, increases the risk of invasive species, causes loss or damages to public resources, and reduces access to public lands.

In FY 2014, we implemented a new database, the Title Claims and Encroachments Management System, providing a consistent and standard operating method to inventory, track, and monitor title claims and encroachments work/cases. This gives us, for the first time, the opportunity to see and analyze an estimated 40,000 trespass and encroachments (e.g. abandoned vehicles, buildings, roads) on the NFS lands, and will help inform decisions of where best to invest staff time and resources on title and encroachment resolution as well land adjustment, such as conveyances or exchanges, towards addressing significant threats to resource management. In FY 2014, we resolved significant encroachments from Federal land such as a gate blocking access to thousands of acres of public land and large abandoned vehicle dump sites. Removing these trespasses and encroachments restore the public's ability to use these lands and reverses sometimes significant resource degradation.

Removal of Private Vehicles and Equipment from National Forests in Texas

BEFORE **AFTER**

One and half acres of the National Forests in Texas was under trespass for well over 15 years, with trees cleared at some point, junk vehicles pulled in and left to rust. The equipment was removed in 2014, leaving the road accessible and the landscape restored for management purposes.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Landownership Management program lays the foundation for all land and natural resource management activities on NFS lands. The program provides for basic real estate activities that enable the agency to carry out restoration activities on cross-boundary landscapes, prevent and settle potential liabilities and lawsuits that cost taxpayers millions of dollars, and work with communities to implement optimal ownership patterns of Federal and private land. This program is also responsible for administering activities that directly support thousands of private sector jobs through special use activities on NFS lands.

Landownership Management enables essential public services such as emergency communications, broadband, radio, cellular service, as well as transportation and clean water, through special use authorizations; allows us to work with communities to exchange, convey, or acquire land to support agency goals as well as community growth and development; and ensures that we protect our natural resources while carrying out land and resource management priorities.

Landownership Management is critical to effectively carry out agency and national priorities. Examples include the identification and administration of renewable energy development and energy corridors (approximately 15,000 miles of powerlines), management of 1,500 mountain top communication sites, funding the acquisition of lands to provide recreational access and consolidate aquatic and terrestrial habitats and fire buffers, management of 14,000 cabin lots for private use and residence, legal protection of watersheds that serve as natural reservoirs for water supplies, and many other economically and environmentally valuable land uses. Landownership Management also provides the legally defensible boundaries and records that are essential to implement any type of land management activity, from timber sales to habitat management to exploration for energy or gas production. Without the certainty of legally defensible boundaries, Federal investments on NFS lands are often subject to expensive and time-consuming legal disputes.

Marking and maintaining our boundaries and protecting the legal title of the NFS also helps us to manage our costs and optimize the use of taxpayer funds. Not administering permits or identifying boundaries can result in trespass, encroachments, title claims, expensive and protracted litigation, and loss of public lands, as well as damage or destruction of special areas, plants, fish, and wildlife.

Some of the uses and activities we facilitate for the benefit of the American public include:

- acquiring priority land to protect critical resources and to increase public recreation opportunities;
- authorizing the use of NFS lands for power lines, fiber optic lines, and communication sites such as cell phone towers to provide electricity and communication infrastructure to cities and communities;
- authorizing the use of NFS mountain tops for many types of communications, including emergency services, which are critical to rural and urban America, particularly in the West;
- authorizing the use of NFS lands for pipelines to carry natural gas and oil;
- ensuring that Federal Energy Regulatory Commission administered hydropower projects are managed to provide significant public benefits of energy and are designed to protect and restore rivers and streams; provide suitable fish and wildlife habitat and support water-based recreation;
- exchanging and conveying lands to support community growth and development and to support forest land and resource goals and objectives;
- conveying administrative sites to allow us to realign and enhance our asset portfolio;
- surveying NFS boundaries to identify and protect private and public lands;
- determining the market value of lands purchased, exchanged, or conveyed;
- authorizing road access across NFS lands to a private subdivision within a national forest;
- accepting donations of land to protect important resources, including archaeological or historical sites;
- maintaining records of NFS land areas, transactions, status, permitted uses, and easements; and
- securing public road and trail access across private land to public NFS lands.

The program is delivered through the following activities:

Administer Energy, Communication and Other Land Use Authorizations, Process Land Use Proposals - This activity allows the program to administer approximately 47,200 land use authorizations for a wide variety of purposes, including rights-of-way for roads, pipelines, communication and navigation sites, and electric transmission and distribution facilities. Such permitted uses on NFS lands directly support jobs, and builds community resilience, particularly in rural communities where the agency is a major landowner. The program funds inspection, oversight, and monitoring of existing non-recreation special use authorizations to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the authorization while ensuring the health and safety of the public; protection of the environment; compliance with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations; and protection of the interests of the United States.

This activity provides for evaluation of new proposals to occupy and use NFS lands for non-recreational purposes. Included are proposals for roads, communications sites, hydropower

facilities, oil and gas pipelines, electric transmission lines, and other energy related uses to facilitate the delivery of reliable energy resources and communication links.

Adjust Land Ownership - The exchange of ownership of NFS and private lands improves: public access, conservation of open space where its loss threatens sustainability of national forests and grasslands, and protection of healthy forested lands and watersheds. Adjusting land ownership improves the efficiency of land management, allows the agency to better meet public access needs, reduces intermingled ownership and boundary maintenance, eases fire protection and law enforcement control, facilitates road maintenance, and minimizes trespass and encroachment cases. It allows the agency to convey to private ownership lands which have lost their national forest character, are isolated from other public ownership, and/or are heavily encumbered with private uses. In addition, adjusting land ownership secures access across private lands necessary to reach NFS lands for resource management and public recreational use. Land ownership adjustment is carried out principally through exchanges, conveyances, and rights-of-way acquisitions. Case processing involves site analysis, title review, legal description verification, and appraisal and deed execution.

Protect Land Ownership Title - This activity funds title defense and resolution of land title claims, Tribal claims, trespass, encroachments, other unauthorized uses, land sales, and grants and selections. It includes title claim identification, inventory, and investigation. This activity also includes managing the land status record system, which provides legally defensible boundaries and accurate, complete landownership records of NFS lands.

Locate Land Boundaries - This activity provides professional land surveying services, including property boundary surveys, locating and marking NFS property lines and administrative boundary lines, boundary and property corner maintenance and perpetuation, legal land description preparation and review, land title research, expert witness testimony, and geospatial and geodetic services, in order to protect the title, land ownership, and use of the public estate. The Forest Service has 276,000 miles of property line, of which approximately 33,700 miles (12 percent) are currently marked to Forest Service standards.

Allocation and Integration

Funds are allocated to the regions based on regional program capability, core operations support, and national priorities. The allocation process considers past performance and future needs regarding boundary management, landownership adjustments, land use authorization processing and administration, and title protection.

In both FY 2015 and FY 2016 we estimate that we will transfer up to $500,000 to the Bureau of Land Management for Federal authority cadastral surveys on NFS lands.

Partnerships

The agency cooperates with governments and landowners at every level, including many other Federal agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the Department of Defense; State agencies; interagency working groups; local and Tribal governments; non-Federal exchange parties; and private landowners. The program identifies and secures cost-share and partnership opportunities in order to enhance management of public lands,

eliminate or reduce redundant efforts, and leverage funds to secure high-priority resource lands for public access and resource protection.

Law Enforcement Operations

Budget Line Item	Law Enforcement Operations (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Law Enforcement Operations					
Annual Appropriations	$126,653	$126,653	$126,030	-$623	-0%
Law Enforcement Operations Total	**126,653**	**126,653**	**126,030**	**-623**	**-0%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	813	813	680	-133	-16%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**813**	**813**	**680**	**-133**	**-16%**
Law Enforcement Operations					
Enforce Laws & Regulations	83,591	83,591	83,178	-413	-0%
Investigate Crime	43,062	43,062	42,852	-210	-0%

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Law Enforcement Operations						
Percent of cases referred for adjudication	7.7%	8.1%	7.3%	7.1%	7.0%	7.0%
Number of documented law enforcement incidents per 10,000 forest visits	6.5	6.3	6.1	6.4	6.0	6.0

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's budget proposes $126,030,000 for Law Enforcement & Investigations (LEI), a decrease of $623,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. LEI will continue to prioritize responses to emergency and life-threatening situations. This includes an emphasis on combating the illegal activities of Drug Trafficking Organizations operating on National Forest System (NFS) lands, particularly in California and along the Southwest and Northern borders.

LEI will also continue crime prevention with the National Sheriff's Association through the use of cooperative law enforcement agreements at a reduced level. In support of the National Fire Plan, LEI will continue to prioritize arson investigations.

Specific priorities within each activity include:

Enforce Laws and Regulations - The FY 2016 President's Budget request of $83,178,000 funds uniform patrol presence to protect natural resources, Forest Service employees, and the public and respond to safety incidents and violations of laws and regulations.

Investigate Crime - The FY 2016 President's Budget request of $42,852,000 will fund criminal and civil investigations for arson, drug possession, theft, and assaults. Drug

Trafficking Organizations have been identified as the key producer of marijuana on NFS lands. Drug Trafficking Organization activity has been confirmed on 72 national forests in 21 States.

In FY 2016, LEI estimates that 7 percent of cases will be referred for adjudication and there will be approximately 6 documented law enforcement incidents per 10,000 forest visits.

Past Performance

In FY 2014, there were 6.4 documented law enforcement incidents per 10,000 forest visits, compared to a target (desired outcome) of 6 or fewer. Many of these incidents were critical emergency incidents involving threats to the safety of the public, our employees, or property and resources. Also in FY 2014, 7.1 percent of all criminal cases were referred for adjudication compared to a target of 7.0 percent. Many of the adjudicated cases included serious felony violations of law such as assault, controlled substance violations, theft and damage of government property, and significant civil cases.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Forest Service LEI program is charged with providing a safe environment for the public, our employees, and protecting the Nation's natural resources on approximately 193 million acres of NFS lands in 44 states. The program accomplishes this by enforcing laws and regulations and investigating crimes. Increasing population growth in the wildland-urban interface, increasing popularity of NFS lands for motorized recreational use, and illegal occupancy of NFS lands cause significant impacts to NFS lands and resources and increase risks to public and employee health and safety.

The LEI program provides a highly visible uniformed patrol presence and rapid emergency responses to incidents affecting the public and employees visiting or working on NFS lands. LEI conducts regular and recurring patrols. The LEI staff responds to crimes and conducts complex criminal and civil investigations ranging from minor infractions to serious felonies such as homicide, rape, assaults, and threats against the public and employees, domestic disputes, robbery, drug production and trafficking, domestic terrorism, destruction of government property, theft of archaeological resources, gang activity, and fire investigations.

The LEI staffs also frequently respond to catastrophic natural or manmade disasters at the local, regional, and national level, and commonly provide immediate emergency response in support of catastrophic wildland fire incidents on public lands. LEI is often the first law enforcement responder in these incidents and responsible for the safety of firefighting personnel and equipment, the evacuation of visitors and residents, and the protection of property. The LEI program is also a rapidly deployable national law enforcement asset under the Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Support Function #13- Public Safety and Security.

Approximately 80 percent of marijuana grown on Federal public lands is grown on NFS lands. The LEI program is the lead organization combating this threat to public lands. LEI's efforts to address illegal cannabis production, the associated severe environmental damage, and the

significant safety risk Drug Trafficking Organizations pose to public lands is a central tenet of the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy *National Drug Control Strategy's* goal to Disrupt Domestic Drug Trafficking and Production and to Eradicate Marijuana Cultivation.

This program performs the following two activities:

Enforce Laws & Regulations - Includes uniformed patrol presence resource protection patrols and response to public and employee safety incidents and violations of laws and regulations. Common incidents on national forests include theft, assault, alcohol and drug use, unauthorized motor vehicle use, illegal occupancy, and trespassing.

To protect NFS resources and visitors, Forest Service law enforcement officers carry firearms, defensive equipment, make arrests, execute search warrants, complete reports and testify in court. They establish a regular and recurring presence on a vast amount of public lands, roads, and recreation sites. The primary focus is the protection of natural resources, protection of Forest Service employees and the protection of visitors.

Investigate Crime - Covers criminal and civil investigations of both internal and external cases such as felony arson, drug possession, smuggling and manufacturing, thefts, and assaults.

DTOs have been identified as the key producers of marijuana on NFS lands with activities confirmed on 72 national forests and in all regions except Region 10. Illegal ground importation and trafficking on or near NFS lands of immigrants, drugs, weapons, and other contraband, and illegal exportation of weapons and illicit cash profits create ongoing and imminent threats to the personal safety of employees and the visiting public. Special Agents plan and conduct investigations concerning possible violations of criminal and administrative provisions of the Forest Service and other statutes under the United States Code. These normally plainclothes officers carry concealed firearms and other defensive equipment, make arrests, carry out complex criminal investigations, and prepare investigative reports and present cases for prosecution to U.S. Attorneys.

Allocation and Integration

Funding allocations support core operations and address priority needs, based on competitive regional criteria including number of visitors and acreage of NFS lands. In addition to public safety, priority is placed on responding to activity by Drug Trafficking Organizations.

Partnerships

The LEI program maintains a partnership with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and other programs by building strong relationships with State and local cooperators, and Federal agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Agency; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Office of the United States Attorney, the Federal Court System; and other Federal land management agencies. In addition, the LEI program uses approximately 500 Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreements, which utilize State and local cooperators to assist and augment patrols on NFS lands to enhance LEI patrol coverage

and to ensure public safety. However, in many remote areas or areas with diminished local law enforcement, LEI often provides the only law enforcement personnel available.

Valles Caldera National Preserve

Budget Line Item	Valles Caldera National Preserve (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**	**Percent of Program Changes**
Valles Caldera National Preserve					
Annual Appropriations	$3,364	$3,364	0	-$3,364	-100%
Valles Caldera National Preserve Total	**3,364**	**3,364**	**0**	**-3,364**	**-100%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	0	1	0	-1	-100%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**0**	**1**	**0**	**-1**	**-100%**
Valles Caldera National Preserve					
Valles Caldera National Preserve	3,364	3,364	0	-3,364	-100%

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act designates the Valles Caldera National Preserve (Preserve) as a unit of the National Park Service (NPS). Transfer of the Preserve to the National Park Service will occur in FY 2015 and any unobligated balances remaining in FY 2015 may be transferred to the Department of the Interior as well. As a result, the FY 2016 President's Budget for the Forest Service requests no funding for the Preserve.

Past Performance

The goals of the goals of the Preserve's board of trustees, called the Valles Caldera Trust, focused on public access and use, forest restoration, and enhancement of the Preserve's rich natural, cultural and historic resources. During FY 2014 further attention was aimed at increasing recreational opportunities for the public and making investments toward increasing the financial self-sustainability of the Trust. Visitation increased to approximately 120,000 people in FY 2014, representing a 10 percent increase from the previous fiscal year.

The Preserve continued to experience significant effects from the 2011 Las Conchas Fire and the 2013 Thompson Ridge Fire, which burned almost two-thirds of the Preserve. Flash floods, falling dead trees, fence damage, road washouts, and the destruction of the Preserve's entire surface drinking water system have constrained the Preserve's public access and financial self-sustainability goals. Appropriated dollars were used for rehabilitation and repair from post-fire flooding events.

The Preserve's Landscape Restoration and Stewardship Plan Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision were completed in FY 2014, allowing the implementation of proposed forest restoration projects. This followed successful consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service on the endangered Jemez Mountains Salamander. The plan received strong support from the public, receiving only a single comment in opposition. The thinning of 1,302 acres was

awarded in FY 2014 and will be completed in FY 2015. Additional outside grants awarded to groups in partnership with the Trust (e.g. Los Amigos de Valles Caldera) supported numerous riparian restoration projects across the Preserve.

FY 2014 resource monitoring results indicated that forest stands subjected to high-severity burns in Las Conchas and Thompson Ridge had greater than 80 percent grass/forb cover re-established and erosion/flooding intensities, while still occurring, were substantially lower in FY 2014 than in previous years. Trout fisheries continue to recover from the fire, and the elk population has responded favorably to the new grassland prescribed burn program, along with riparian restoration programs. The Preserve continues to modify its livestock grazing program to protect habitat for the endangered New Mexico meadow jumping mouse. Two additional introductions of the northern leopard frog populations were completed on the Preserve during the summer of 2014. These activities will continue on the Preserve in FY 2015 activities as well as on the adjacent Jemez Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Valles Caldera Preservation Act of July 25, 2000 (Public Law 106-248) provided for the acquisition of the Baca Ranch, located in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico. The Act designated the Baca Ranch as a Preserve and provided for the management of the 88,900-acre tract as a unit of the National Forest System. The Preserve was established to protect various natural resources within its boundaries, and to provide multiple-use and sustained-yield of renewable resources. In addition, the Act required the tract to continue to be managed as an operating ranch with management to be by the Preserve's board of trustees, a government corporation subject to the Government Corporation Control Act.

In December 2014, the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act designated the Preserve as a unit of the National Park Service and transferred administration of the Preserve to the Secretary of the Interior. The transfer must occur within 180 days of the passage of the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act.

While under the administration of the Trust, the Preserve's program has been delivered through the following activities:

Inventory, Monitoring, and Research - This activity includes the inventory, monitoring, and research of natural and cultural resources, such as vegetation, animals, soils, geologic formations, water resources, archaeological resources, and historic resources. These activities provide information for adaptive management of Preserve's resources and for preparation of environmental documents.

Ecosystem Management - The program emphasis is to restore the resilience and adaptive capacity of the Preserve's forest and grassland systems by thinning forests, managing wildland fires, and eradicating or controlling the spread of noxious weeds. The program also promotes increased soil, riparian, and wetland resilience and reduced erosion by closing, decommissioning, and maintaining roads; rehabilitating the Preserve's wetlands, geothermal exploration areas, log landing sites, aggregate pit source sites, and other historic infrastructure

created in support of logging, grazing and geothermal development. This includes re-vegetating and otherwise stabilizing stream banks, and restoring historic wetland flows. This also includes the management of domestic livestock grazing on the Preserve.

Recreation and Special Use Management - This activity provides for the management of recreation and education programs, special use authorizations, and management of volunteers. This includes providing interpretive activities; reservation services for activities and special events; establishment and management of day-use programs, such as, fishing, elk hunting, guided and unguided hiking, horseback riding, and winter sports; authorizing special uses for commercial filming and photography; special events such as mountain bike rides, marathons, celestial and solar viewing, and group tours; and uses by Native Americans for religious and cultural purposes.

Infrastructure Management - This activity includes the inventory, evaluation, planning, programming, and management actions related to occupancy, maintenance and improvement of buildings, water and wastewater systems, communication facilities, roads, trails, signing, and ranch infrastructure, such as corrals, fences, and earthen tanks. Evaluation includes determining the condition and effectiveness of the facility. Planning includes forecasting the development, disposal, and major alterations and renovations necessary to preserve or restore the functionality of the facility. This includes the use and daily maintenance of the Valle Grande Staging area, which is a self-sustainable contact station, used for visitor contact and information.

Partnerships

The Preserve benefits from monetary as well as non-monetary contributions. Non-monetary contributions include time and expertise contributed by many volunteers. These volunteers assisted with many of the recreation programs, along with wetland restoration projects throughout the year.

Extramural funding refers to money invested in projects (mostly research, inventory, and monitoring) conducted on the Preserve by outside agencies and organizations. A continued objective for the Trust has been to encourage scientific activities on the Preserve. Indicators for science community interest in studying the Preserve can be gleaned from the number of projects conducted, the amount of funding generated to support these projects, and the number of publications and presentations resulting from the research. While these outside grant funds were not part of the Valles Caldera Trust budget, they nonetheless contributed to the regional economy through personnel salaries, purchasing of equipment and supplies, travel, contracts, and educational stipends – and all of these transactions generate tax revenues for the local, State and Federal governments. More importantly, the information gleaned from these studies is being used to advise managers on how best to apply manipulative actions on the ground including: forest thinning prescriptions, use of fire, distributions of livestock, predator impacts on elk populations, fisheries management, and other land management tools.

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Capital Improvement and Maintenance

Appropriation	Capital Improvement and Maintenance (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**	**Percent of Program Changes**
Capital Improvement and Maintenance					
Annual Appropriations	$350,000	$360,374	$341,924	-$18,450	-5%
Capital Improvement and Maintenance Total	**350,000**	**360,374**	**341,924**	**-18,450**	**-5%**
Annual Appropriation FTEs	2,121	2,345	2,120	-225	-10%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**2,121**	**2,345**	**2,120**	**-225**	**-10%**
Capital Improvement and Maintenance					
Facilities	71,000	71,600	71,695	95	0%
Roads	166,000	168,094	154,262	-13,832	-8%
Trails	75,000	77,530	82,516	4,986	6%
Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement	3,000	3,150	33,451	30,301	962%
Legacy Roads and Trails	35,000	40,000	0	-40,000	-100%
Supplemental, Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (P.L.113-2)	0	0	0	0	0%

Capital Improvement and Maintenance Overview

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $341,924,000 for Capital Improvement and Maintenance, a decrease of $18,450,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. The Forest Service will use up to $8,000,000 of Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure and Trails funds to improve recreational access and infrastructure on the eight national monuments managed by the Forest Service. This funding will leverage private and partnership funding and opportunities.

The President's Budget proposes to shifts activities previously conducted under the Roads program and the Legacy Roads and Trails program to the Integrated Resource Restoration program under the National Forest System (NFS) appropriation. Managing our primary capital investments that directly support local governments (Roads and Facilities) will allow continued economic interface between counties and cities, will connect villages with cities, will ensure safe public access to public lands, and will allow for safe and efficient infrastructure connectivity (e.g. fiber optic cables, utility lines, etc.). The Forest Service transportation system provides mission critical access for recreational, administrative, resource management, and commercial purposes. The transportation system also provides access to and between rural and gateway communities, contributing to community vitality and economic development. Infrastructure maintenance and improvement enables the Forest Service to supply goods and services to the American public, while helping meet critical natural resource needs.

This proposal also includes significant investments in Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement as we prioritize the reduction of our maintenance backlog and associated future

costs. The focus will be on facilities that pose serious threats to public health or safety, a natural resource, or to the ability of the Forest Service to implement its mission. Future costs savings include estimated costs reductions for utility payments, maintenance and repair, and other operational savings. These investments will also greatly reduce the risk of catastrophic failure for a number of our high hazard dams, bridges, and highly utilized facilities; mitigating threats to public life/health/safety and the environment.

The agency will place a high priority on providing mission enabling infrastructure that is right-sized, environmentally sustainable, and safe for all users. A key objective of the program will be to reduce the agency footprint through the strategic consolidation and elimination of underutilized facilities as well as to promote and practice sustainability in our building operations, making our buildings more energy efficient and environmentally sound.

We will continue to focus our roads program on the key outcomes of access, restoration, and safety. The National Forest Road System is an integral part of the rural transportation network. It provides escape routes in the event of wildland fire or other emergency situations, and emergency access for first responders. This system also supports recreation visitors who bolster local economies through expenditures in and around NFS lands. Maintaining this system is necessary to continue to provide this access, to meet Highway Safety Act requirements, and to protect the quality of critical water supplies provided by NFS lands to communities.

Our agency priority is to provide safe and healthful environments for all users that are in compliance with all applicable regulations and codes. Funds will be prioritized to provide infrastructure that supports safe public, administrative, and recreation uses. Priority for Facilities funding will be placed on repairing and improving those facilities, including buildings, water and wastewater systems, dams, and recreation sites, that are used by the public and are critical to supporting agency mission and operations.

Facilities

Budget Line Item	Facilities (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Facilities					
Annual Appropriations	$71,000	$71,600	$71,695	$95	0%
Facilities Total	**71,000**	**71,600**	**71,695**	**95**	**0%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	338	382	382	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**338**	**382**	**382**	**0**	**0%**
Facilities					
Maintain Facilities	59,000	55,369	55,674	305	1%
Improve Facilities	12,000	16,231	16,021	-210	-1%

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Facilities						
Facilities condition index	84.0%	88.0%	82.0%	84.3%	82.0%	82.0%
Percent of administrative facilities with "Good" or "Fair" condition rating	58.0%	57.0%	58.0%	60.8%	57.0%	58.0%
Percentage of recreation facilities with a "Good" or "Fair" condition rating	73.0%	73.0%	69.0%	77.2%	76.0%	72.0%

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $71,695,000 for the Facilities program, an increase of $95,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

The 21st century is changing the way we work, the locations we work from, and how the public uses our national forests and grasslands. This past year, the agency completed a significant analysis of our facility portfolio and its long-term financial sustainability. The analysis not only provided a snapshot of the overall health of the facilities program, but it also provided a number of strategies for improvement by better aligning the portfolio and agency business practices with available resources. The recent renovation project competed by the agency at the Sidney Yates Headquarters building serves as a great example for modernizing our offices by consolidating multiple locations into one facility, increasing utilization, providing a new 21st century office layout, and enabling a more inclusive and collaborative work environment.

In FY 2016, our Facilities program will focus on providing mission enabling facility infrastructure that is "right-sized" (i.e., maintaining the appropriate amount of infrastructure to support program needs), environmentally sustainable, and safe for all users. We will achieve these objectives through the following activities:

- Reduction of the agency footprint through consolidation and elimination of underutilized facilities. Opportunities for footprint reduction will be realized through updating Forest Facility Master Plans, performing required financial and value analysis, and prioritizing the disposal of under and un-utilized assets.

- Funding critical deferred maintenance and repair work on high priority agency assets, focusing on our high hazard dams, high use bridges, airtanker bases, and other assets that play a critical role in agency mission accomplishment or that effect public safety.

- Promote and practice sustainability in multiple aspects of our building operations: making our buildings and equipment more energy and water efficient; buying green and recycled materials; reducing waste whenever possible; and using design techniques that mitigate and protect facilities against a changing climate.

- Encourage construction projects to be designed and constructed with domestically harvested wood products, ideally locally sourced and from National Forest System (NFS) lands, whenever practicable.

- We will continue to make safety a priority. When safety hazards are identified, we will mitigate, as much as possible, hazards at developed sites to ensure we are providing the safest possible facilities for the our employees and the recreating public.

In FY 2016, we are updating and clarifying the number of outdoor recreation facilities maintained to standard measure to percent of outdoor recreation facilities with "Good" or "Fair" condition rating. This will parallel the percent of administrative facilities with "Good" or "Fair" condition rating. Likewise, we stopped reporting on the number of administrative buildings maintained to standard measure.

The table at the end of this section provides a list of major projects costing more than $500,000. Investments in facilities infrastructure are essential to create sustainable public access and support a wide range of economic opportunities provided by NFS lands. These investments also ensure safe and efficient public access for the use and enjoyment of the national forests and grasslands. The Forest Service receives an estimated 160 million visits annually and these additional facilities investments will help to sustain the economic return to the Nation. Forest Service infrastructure supports recreation visitation that contributes almost $13.6 billion annually to the U.S. economy and sustains more than 205,000 full-and part-time jobs.[19]

Past Performance

The primary objectives of the Facility program are to provide mission enabling facility infrastructure that is right-sized, environmentally conscious and resilient, and safe for all users. In FY 2014, over 40,000 facility assets were effectively operated in support of the agency's diverse mission requirements. Of these facilities, 61 percent of the administrative facilities, and

[19] *USDA Forest Service, March 2013. Chief Tidwell comments before the House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy and Forestry March 13, 2013; and National Visitor Use Monitoring Results USDA Forest Service National Summary Report (Data collected FY 2007 through FY 2011) Last updated May 22, 2012.*

77 percent of the recreation facilities were maintained to standard, meaning that these assets met national standards for health and cleanliness, safety and security, were in usable condition, and met landscape setting and other resource objectives.

In our continued effort to provide a right-sized facilities portfolio, 2,375 facility assets were disposed of in FY 2014, resulting in a reduction of 148,920 Gross Square Feet and a reduction of over $1,120,000 in deferred maintenance. We have also endeavored to ensure that our facility portfolio is safe for all users. This is done through the mitigation of health threats, reducing the risk of catastrophic infrastructure failure, and ensuring compliance with all necessary physical security regulations and policies. In FY 2014, there were no safety incidents reported involving Forest Service owned facilities.

With over 26,750 recreation sites on the NFS lands, we support a broad spectrum of outdoor recreation opportunities and access to America's great outdoors. In FY 2014, we provided natural resource recreation experiences for over 160 million visitors to national forests and grasslands. We have increased the accessibility of Forest Service administered recreation facilities and now provide the largest number, and widest range, of accessible recreation facilities in the country.

Lava River Cave, Deschutes National Forest, Oregon

Before After

A repair project recently completed in FY 2014 greatly improved visitor visibility, access, and safety within the Lava River Cave located in central Oregon on the Deschutes National Forest.

In FY 2014, the Northern Region piloted a mobile inventory application that improves dispersed site monitoring. Since 2010, the Region has been using the inventory to prioritize facility maintenance and investments, as well as inform other management actions, including restoration. Knowing where the public is recreating allows us to work with fire, wildlife, and timber staff to reduce impacts to cultural and natural resources and ensure safe and resource-friendly recreation opportunities.

Employing technological innovation, we have also improved the quantity and quality of information desired by the public for accessible recreation opportunities on the national forests and grasslands, while providing employment opportunities to local young people participating in the Youth Conservation Corps. The Corps members are now able, with minimal training, to input accessibility information and data onto digital tablet platforms, which will eventually be made available to the public to help them plan their visits to our public lands.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Forest Service Facilities program is integral to the agency themes of restoration, communities, wildland fire management and emergency response efforts, in addition, to support for recreation and research infrastructure. Facilities program funding supports the maintenance, improvement, and construction of facilities and sites used for fire, administrative, and other (FA&O) purposes. The program stems from a diverse set of over 40,000 assets across the agency, including administrative offices, warehouses, service buildings, research laboratories, airtanker bases, lookout towers, developed recreation sites, visitor centers, historical cabins, water and wastewater systems, nurseries, communications sites, and dams; all integral to the operation and success of the agency in executing its mission. These facilities include the iconic buildings that define our history; they are the offices in which we work, where we greet our public, and the backbone of our critical public safety and emergency response capabilities.

The agency's facility portfolio includes over 16,000 administrative buildings, 9,575 water/wastewater systems, 23,000 recreation facilities, and 500 dams located on recreation and administrative sites scattered throughout almost every State in the country. The average Forest Service facility is 39 years old, with over 33 percent of the portfolio over 50 years old. Our agency policy is to provide safe and healthful environments that are in compliance with all applicable regulations and codes. The facility program emphasizes improving mission support and customer service, while managing the environmental footprint and the resilience of the agency's operations and assets.

A major part of the facilities program is to provide the recreation infrastructure for the over 160 million visits that occur annually on NFS lands. Our recreation facilities support a variety of recreational opportunities for visitors as well as economic opportunities for neighboring communities such as lodging, fuel, food, and other supplies desired by outdoor recreation visitors. Our infrastructure includes 25 major visitor centers and more than 26,750 recreation sites, comprised of campgrounds, trailheads, and day-use sites. Healthy landscapes and healthy communities are inextricably linked. Jobs and economic benefits stem not only from our administration of the uses of the Nation's forests and grasslands but also from investments in activities, access and infrastructure that ensure that Americans can enjoy outdoor recreational experiences.

Managing the natural role of fire while protecting values from adverse impact of fire is a significant challenge in the changing landscape and environment in which we work. As part of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, maintaining and improving fire related facilities is critical to executing a safe, effective, and efficient response to wildfire.

The Facilities program consists of two primary activities, the maintenance and improvement of facilities:

Maintain Facilities - Maintenance is defined as the act of keeping fixed assets in usable condition, and it includes repairs, preventive maintenance, and replacement of parts and structural components. Maintenance projects for developed recreation sites, such as campgrounds and day-use sites, and more expensive FA&O facilities projects are funded within this activity. Maintenance excludes operation costs. The maintenance of facilities is essential to prevent a potential risk to public or employee safety or health, maintain compliance with codes, standards and regulations, reduce energy and water consumption across the agency, and creates a sustainable network of facilities that meet Forest Service needs while reducing their environmental impact. This activity also funds disposal of excess assets, including demolition.

Improve Facilities – This activity includes capital improvement projects for FA&O and recreation sites. Capital improvements include alteration of existing facilities to change function and expansion of facilities to enhance our capacity to meet needs that are different from the original intent. Improvements are often required to expand public service capability or recreational opportunities. In many cases, capital improvements eliminate deferred maintenance.

The facilities program also supports the Forest Service's sustainable operations effort, which is at the heart of the Forest Service mission, "to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." The Forest Service strives to promote and practice sustainability in all aspects of its facility operations and capital improvements, including making our buildings and equipment more energy and water efficient, striving for net-zero energy sites, and reducing waste whenever possible.

Allocation and Integration

Allocations to the field are based upon the agency's FA&O master plans and high priority recreation facilities that address the agency's long-term strategic asset management objectives and the visitor safety action plan. These objectives include reducing long-term operation and maintenance costs, reducing deferred maintenance, disposing of unnecessary assets, and identifying and mitigating significant potential threats to employee and public safety.

FA&O facilities are also funded through the Facilities Maintenance Assessment funds (see Special Exhibit - Facilities Maintenance Assessment) and the Operation and Maintenance of Quarters Fund (see Permanent Appropriations Chapter). In addition to appropriated funds, annual maintenance and repairs to recreation facilities are also funded through other special authorities, including the Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration Fund and the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Through the use of these funds the Forest Service is able to operate and maintain many of its recreation facilities that might otherwise have been closed due to increasing costs.

Partnerships

The agency accomplishes valuable facility work by leveraging funds for completing these activities through partnerships. Volunteers, concessionaires, and other partners are engaged to enhance recreation experiences and help maintain nearly 70 percent of recreation sites. The

agency currently has over 30,000 recreation special use authorizations which offer a great opportunity for partnership to support the more than 160 million visits that occur annually across NFS lands.

The Forest Service also emphasizes the need to co-locate with other Federal agencies through the Service First initiative, resulting in shared facilities that lower operation costs and increase collaboration between organizations. Service First is a partnership authority among four agencies, including the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service.

FY 2016 Facilities Major Projects List

(dollars in thousands)

Agency-wide Critical Infrastructure Support	Total Cost
Recreation Maintenance (Projects Under $500,000)	$38,475
FA&O Maintenance (Projects $250,000 - $499,000)	2,310
Capital Improvement (Projects Under $500,000)	1,059
Critical Infrastructure Support Projects	14,390
Planning and Design for Future Projects	*2,809*
Washington Office (Maintenance and Improvement)	*2,772*
Albuquerque Service Center Business Management (Maintenance and Improvement)	*7,458*
Project Management and Implementation Support	*1,351*
Total for Agency-wide Critical Infrastructure Support	**$56,234**

Region/ Station/ Area	State	Project Name and Type	Unit	Deferred Maintenance Eliminated	Project Cost
National Priority Projects					
Research	OR	Corvallis FSL HVAC Repairs and Energy Upgrades Phase I	PNW	$1,090	$1,090
R10	AK	Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Elevator Replacement Accessibility and Sustainability	Tongass	374	799
R05	CA	Kern River RD Consolidated District Office	Sequoia NF	88	1,500
National Priority Subtotal					***$3,389***
National Demolition & Disposal Projects					
R08	FL	Camp Ocala Decommissioning	Ocala NF	$252	$325
R06	OR	Dale Ranger Station Facility Disposal	Umatilla NF	300	125
R04	UT	Mill Creek Dam Decommissioning	Uinta-Wasatch-Cache NF	368	370
National Demolition & Disposal Subtotal					***$820***
Regional Priority Projects					
R01	MT	Regional Office Building 26 Phase 3 (Basement)	RO-Fort Missoula	$0	$1,850
R02	CO	Grand Mesa Trailhead Improvements (Phase 1)	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison NF	60	650
R02	SD	North Cove Campground Water System Rehabilitation	Black Hills NF	397	567
R04	ID	Salmon-Challis NF Seasonal Housing (Phase 2)	Salmon-Challis	314	920
R05	CA	Groveland Hotshot Office and Engine Garage	Stanislaus	44	1,394
R08	NC	Croatan Ranger Station Renovation	Croatan NF/NFs in NC	155	1,440
R09	NH	Dolly Copp Campground Reconstruction, Phase 1	White Mountain	639	1,320
Research	MT	Fire Lab Burn Chamber/Wind tunnel Upgrades - Phase I	RMRS	890	1,600

Region/ Station/ Area	State	Project Name and Type	Unit	Deferred Maintenance Eliminated	Project Cost
Research	MT	Fire Lab Burn Chamber/Wind Tunnel Upgrades - Phase II	RMRS	325	541
Research	OR	CFSL HVAC Repairs and Energy Upgrades Phase II	PNW	970	970
Regional Priority Subtotal					***$11,25***
Total – National, Demolition & Disposal, and Regional Facilities Projects Funding					**$15,461**
TOTAL FY 2016 FACILITIES MAJOR PROJECTS					**$71,695**

Roads

Budget Line Item	Roads (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**	**Percent of Program Changes**
Roads					
Annual Appropriations	$166,000	$168,094	$154,262	-$13,832	-8%
Roads Total	**166,000**	**168,094**	**154,262**	**-13,832**	**-8%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	1,006	1,147	1,051	-96	-8%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**1,006**	**1,147**	**1,051**	**-96**	**-8%**
Roads					
New Road Construction	22,546	8,405	7,713	-692	-8%
Operations & Maintenance	126,926	141,199	129,580	-11,619	-8%
Reconstruction of Existing Roads	16,528	18,490	16,969	-1,521	-8%

Performance Measure	**Accomplishment and Targets (1)**					
	FY 2012 Actual	**FY 2013 Actual**	**FY 2014 Target**	**FY 2014 Actual**	**FY 2015 Target**	**FY 2016 Target**
Roads						
Miles of passenger car roads receiving maintenance	37,437	34,281	36,000	36,824	34,000	32,000
Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance	17,679	14,111	11,300	14,550	11,000	10,000
Miles of road reconstruction and capital improvement	2,512	2,037	1,900	2,539	2,000	2,000
Percent of road and trail rights-of-way acquired that provide public access through easement acquisitions or land adjustments	20.0%	90.0%	85.0%	90.0%	85.0%	85.0%

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $154,262,000 for the Roads program, a decrease of $13,832,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted level. This funding is essential to deliver and accelerate watershed and resource restoration efforts.

In FY 2016, we will focus on managing and protecting investments made in the existing transportation system; maintaining a safe passenger car road system; and providing required access in support of accelerated restoration projects, timber sales, and stewardship contracts. Most of the work on high clearance roads will focus on ecological restoration and protection that will be completed through integrated work under the Integrated Resource Restoration program, Timber Sale Purchasers, Stewardship Contracting, and other program and partnership funds.

In FY 2016, we plan to focus our roads program on three key outcomes: access, restoration, and safety. We will achieve these outcomes by implementing recently developed plans and standards in the following areas:

- Travel Management - The Minimum Roads System analysis (Sub Part A of the Travel Management Rule) in the national forests and grasslands will be completed in 2015 and implementation will continue in 2016 to move us toward a sustainable road system that is safe, environmentally sound, and more resilient to climate change.

- Road Management Objectives will be updated to reflect the results of the Minimum Road System analysis and implementing decisions.

- Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Water Quality – We are complying with Forest Service's recently adopted BMPs to improve water quality, of which 11 are specific to road management. A monitoring program to determine effectiveness will be in place by 2016, allowing us to ensure water quality is protected or to revise BMPs when necessary.

- Watershed Condition Assessments and Watershed Restoration Action Plans - Properly maintained road surfaces and drainage systems are critical components of watershed protection and restoration, not only reducing adverse effects to water resources, but also restoring hydrological functions and improving fish and wildlife habitat connectivity at road-stream crossings. This restoration work also addresses infrastructure preparedness and resiliency to the impacts of climate change.

- Highway Safety Standards - We will comply with legal requirements including the use of a Safety Management System for Passenger Car Roads, and inspect our bridges in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards.

Our priority work will focus on achieving these outcomes and our performance measures are aligned with and support these outcomes. We will continue to use existing performance measures such as miles of road maintained; and we will begin to track outcome-based measures for roads in 2016, specifically:

- percentage of existing road systems in alignment with minimum road system,
- number of watershed restoration action plans where all identified road work has been completed,
- percentage of passenger car roads with a Safety Condition rating of good or fair, and
- percentage of bridges identified as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

Past Performance

The primary objectives of the Roads program are to operate and maintain a transportation network that meets the priority access needs of the public and the agency, while minimizing adverse impacts on the environment, and at all times striving to be safe for all users. In FY 2014, we accomplished maintenance activities on 36,800 miles of passenger car roads, and 13,915 miles of high clearance roads.

Layout Creek Crossing, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Washington

Before

After

This recently completed bridge project, one of the first Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil/ Integrated Bridge System designs in the Forest Service, has resulted in an improved watershed and has restored an important run of native Lower Columbia River Steelhead, an Endangered Species Act listed species. This new type of bridge design allowed for reduced construction time, lower life-cycle costs, and minimized impact on the local aquatic ecosystem during construction.

To help ensure that our transportation system meets all applicable safety laws and standards, while providing desired access for the public and the agency, the Forest Service reconstructed over 1,330 miles of passenger car roads and 1,206 miles of high clearance roads. We also constructed eight miles of new roads that were critical to achieving agency resource management objectives, and 168 stream crossings were improved to provide better access and passage for aquatic organisms, contributing to the improvement of local ecosystems and their associated watersheds.

The Forest Service recognizes the need to decommission both owned and unauthorized roads that are no longer needed, or that are not part of the authorized transportation network. Utilizing the results from a recently completed travel analysis, we have been able to better identify and prioritize our road decommissioning work. In FY 2014, we were able to decommission 1,415 miles of road, 64 percent of which were non-Forest Service roads. As more Forests complete and implement their Travel Management Plans, we expect to see additional and accelerated improvements in road decommissioning.

The Forest Service acquired 90 rights-of-way enabling access to the National Forest System where we did not have legal access. These 90 rights-of-way represent 33.5 miles of road and trail easements.

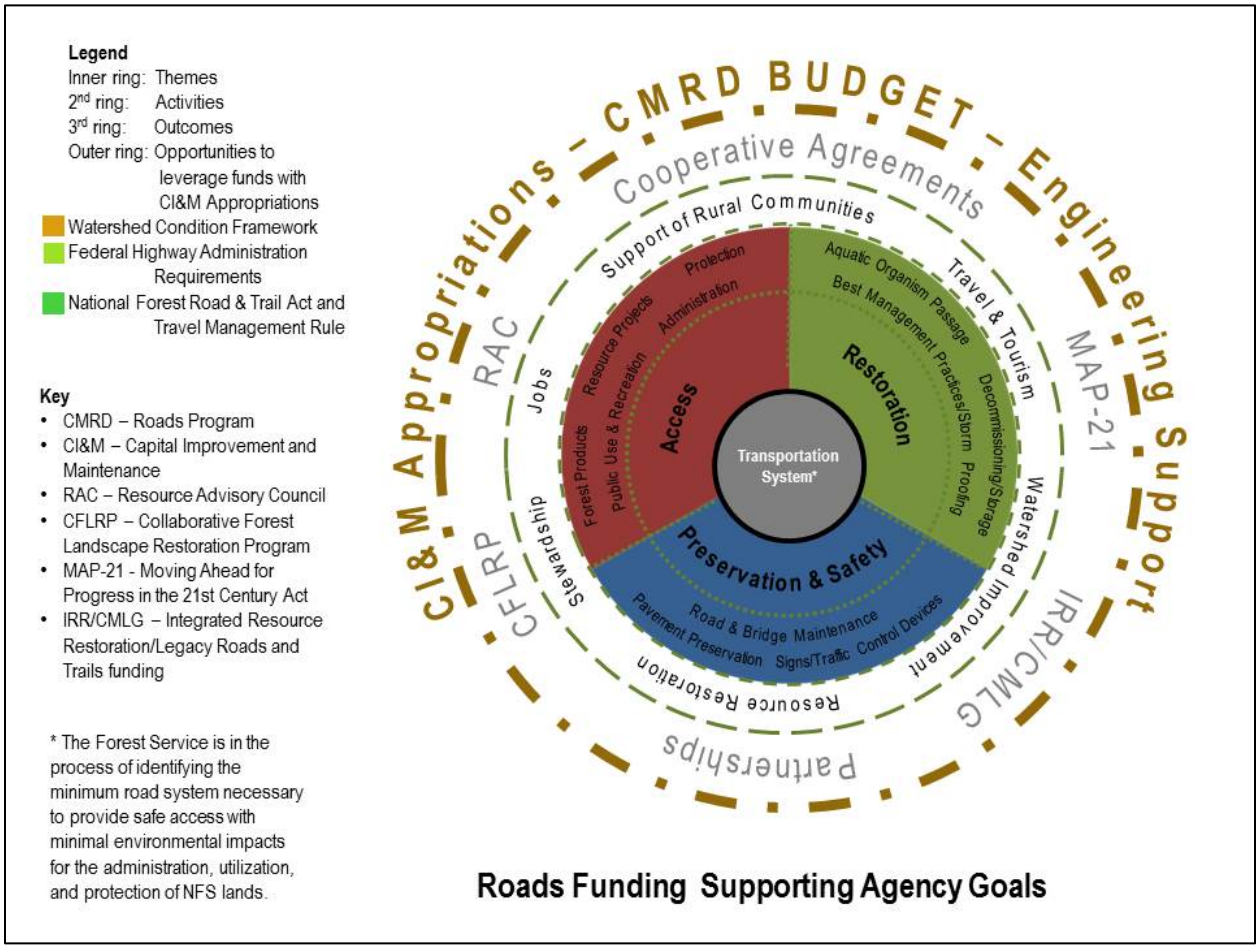
Program Description

Program Overview

The National Forest System Roads System (NFRS) is essential for the management, protection, and public use and enjoyment of 193 million acres of National Forest System (NFS) lands.

Virtually all agency and public activities on the national forests and grasslands require travel over the NFRS.

The below diagram shows the interdependency of the roads program and agency goals



Preserving our investment in the transportation system and maintaining the system to meet safety standards are important areas of program emphasis. All units of the agency are currently completing a travel analysis of their road system to identify those roads needed for the protection, administration and enjoyment of the NFS lands, as well as those roads that can be decommissioned or placed in long term storage for future use. The travel analysis will allow the agency to focus our resources on preserving and maintaining roads that are determined to be necessary, while decommissioning roads that the agency no longer needs. Roads that are not currently needed but may be used in the future will be treated and placed in a storage status; meaning that they will be closed to all traffic, including administrative traffic, for a period of at least one year. Many stored roads receive treatment to reduce ecological damage, which are customized by location, topography, and the expected duration of storage. This analysis will be completed across the country by the end of FY 2015. Significant resources have been expended to complete this analysis, and more will be necessary in the future to complete the required environmental analysis and ground work to implement the results. This work will allow the

agency to focus its resources on maintaining and improving the safety and sustainability of our remaining roads and bridges.

The Roads program supports the staff required to implement restoration, preservation, access, and safety activities across the transportation system. These include road decommissioning, storm proofing, implementing best management practices, and making recommendations where road/stream crossings need to be improved to support aquatic organism passage.

The transportation system on each national forest and grassland provides for the protection, utilization, and administration of very diverse natural landscapes. The operation and maintenance of these transportation systems is complex. Work that supports public safety and resource protection are priorities for these program funds. Emphasis will be placed on the safety of our passenger car road system and minimizing erosion habitat and fragmentation.

The NFRS currently has:

- 65,000 miles of roads open for use by and maintained for passenger cars and other State highway legal vehicles (Maintenance Levels 3 – 5), making them subject to Highway Safety Act requirements. These roads provide public access for camping, recreation, administrative uses, and resource management and development activities.
- 205,000 miles of roads managed for high clearance vehicles (Maintenance Level 2), which provide access primarily for recreational, administrative, and resource management and development activities, and
- 102,000 miles of road that have been placed in long-term storage for future use (Maintenance Level 1) and are not maintained for traffic.

Over the past 11 years, the Forest Service has reduced the total number of road miles by approximately 8,400 miles. During that same period, the number of miles of road maintained for passenger cars has gone from approximately 79,800 to 64,622; a reduction of 19 percent. The Forest Service is continuing work to identify the minimum transportation system required to meet the needs of the various users while balancing our ability to properly maintain that system.

Following are several of the key uses and associated benefits to the American public of a well-maintained NFRS:

Recreation visitors contributed an estimated $13.6 billion annually to the U.S. economy. The NFRS is the critical component in maintaining access to national forests and grasslands, and supporting rural recreation-dependent communities adjacent to NFS lands. A designated system of roads, trails, and areas for motor vehicle use provides for sustained recreation opportunities for motor vehicle enthusiasts and provides a foundation for provision of support facilities such as trailhead parking and information. The NFRS supports Goal A of the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative to "Increase and improve recreational access and opportunities." As the agency completes travel analysis, we will be able to focus our limited resources on the roads that are identified as needed for the enjoyment of NFS lands.

- To maintain, reconstruct, and construct the NFRS, the Forest Service hires contractors that frequently supply jobs in rural areas. The NFRS also provides access to a variety of important

energy and forest product resources supporting additional rural jobs. In FY 2013, receipts from annual lease rentals, royalties on production, and bonus bids for competitive leases were $570 million, with $386 million from coal and $184 million from oil, gas and other leasable minerals.

- The NFRS provides critically important access for recreational, administrative, and commercial purposes, and it provides access to and between rural and gateway communities, contributing to community vitality and economic development. In some cases, these roads provide the only escape or access routes for forest users and local residents in the event of wildfire or other emergency situations, including access for emergency responders. The NFRS also provides access needed for watershed restoration and fuels reduction projects, including those supporting biomass utilization.

- Effective road maintenance is essential to protect the quality of waters originating from NFS lands, which provide the drinking water supply for approximately one-fifth of U.S. communities, and habitat for over 470 fish and 346 crayfish species, as well as more than 124 Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive aquatic species. The condition of our roads has a direct effect on our ability to provide clean water. Deferring maintenance or not repairing roads after storm events allows sediment to enter streams and rivers thereby degrading water quality and jeopardizing the safety of users. The Forest Service is committed to preventing watershed and habitat degradation associated with roads. We are working to reduce the size of our road system, while still providing sufficient access to NFS lands, and to ensure that our remaining roads do not add sediment to streams or block the movement of aquatic organisms through stream crossings. These improvements make the road system more resilient, as these crossings not only provide for aquatic organism passage, but the improved crossings are also better able to survive extreme storm events.

The terms “Construction” and “Maintenance” are used as defined by 23 U.S.C. 101. The Roads program is delivered through the following activities:

Operations and Maintenance - This activity includes the operation and maintenance of existing system roads, bridges, and other vehicle access areas such as parking lots. Operations include the inventory, classification, and mapping of the transportation system, traffic monitoring, road management, travel management, helps the agency identify opportunities to reduce the number of open roads and determine the appropriate service level for the roads remaining to obtain a sustainable transportation system. Maintenance includes actions necessary to preserve or restore a road to its original service level and condition, in order to provide acceptable service and achieve its expected life. This includes maintenance of the travel ways; roadside vegetation; drainage facilities; structures, including bridges; traffic control devices, including signs and gates; and engineering support for timber sale contracts that include required road maintenance by the timber purchaser. Engineering services includes the design, cost estimates, contract preparation, and contract administration necessary to assure applicable safety and environmental standards are met.

Reconstruction of Existing System Roads - Reconstruction includes the renovation and restoration of existing roads, bridges, or other vehicle access areas such as parking lots that have deteriorated due to the accumulation of deferred maintenance. Reconstruction also includes rights-of-way acquisition, changing the function of existing roads to accommodate different uses,

such as changing a logging road to a recreation road, increasing capacity of an existing road such as changing a single-lane road or bridge to a two-lane road or bridge, and safety improvements that correct or improve high hazard locations such as replacement of deficient bridges or culverts. Reconstruction also includes relocation of existing roads to prevent resource degradation, such as moving a road away from a stream, and other improvements to meet public and resource management needs. Engineering services are included in this activity for the design, cost estimates, contract preparation, and contract administration necessary to assure applicable safety and environmental standards are met.

New Road Construction - New road construction includes the construction of roads, bridges, and vehicle access areas to meet public and resource management needs; reclassifying unauthorized roads; and rights-of-way acquisitions. This activity results in a minor addition of miles to the transportation system where none previously existed to improve safety and access to natural areas. Engineering services are included in this activity for the design, cost estimates, contract preparation, and contract administration necessary to assure applicable safety and environmental standards are met.

Allocation and Integration

In several of the past years, Congress has provided annual direction on the proportionate amounts of the Roads appropriation to be spent for construction and maintenance. When funding is allocated to the field, the agency uses a formula that implements this direction. The formula considers land area, visitor use, timber volume offered on timber sale and stewardship contracts, and acres treated for hazardous fuels. Adjustments may be made among regions based on capability information submitted by the regions or to mitigate situations where proposed allocations would create undesirable transition effects.

The NFRS is an integral part of the rural transportation network and is operated and maintained to provide safe access for all resource program activities including terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem management programs such as Integrated Resource Restoration, Hazardous Fuels, Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness, and Trails. The NFRS supports public enjoyment of NFS lands by providing access to recreation sites, trailheads, and special areas. We focus allocations on the implementation of completed travel analyses. Coordination across multiple program areas is integral to successfully managing the NFRS to ensure the transportation system is adequate to meet those needs.

Partnerships

The Roads program supports partnership opportunities such as Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program projects, cooperative agreements, work with States and counties through the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, with local counties through Resource Advisory Committee agreements, and with Tribal governments. These partnerships leverage Roads program funds to complete decommissioning and resource restoration work and to help communities reduce hazardous fuels by providing access to remove the material for biomass use opportunities.

The National Forest Roads and Trails Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-657, 16 U.S.C. 535) authorizes the cooperative construction and maintenance of our road system. Under this authority, the Forest Service enters into Cooperative Road Construction and Use Agreements with the owners of large tracts of lands intermingled with NFS lands. The Forest Service also enters into Cooperative Forest Road Agreements with public road authorities, such as States and counties, where NFS access, local residential access, and local commerce needs coincide.

Trails

Budget Line Item	Trails (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Trails					
Annual Appropriations	$75,000	$77,530	$82,516	$4,986	6%
Trails Total	**75,000**	**77,530**	**82,516**	**4,986**	**6%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	585	591	607	16	3%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**585**	**591**	**607**	**16**	**3%**
Trails					
Maintain Trails	58,000	69,777	74,264	4,487	6%
Improve Trails	17,000	7,753	8,252	499	6%

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Trails						
Miles of system trails maintained	59,274	50,915	48,000	53,128	54,500	58,000
Miles of system trail improved	1,886	1,018	1,000	1,368	1,100	1,400
Percentage of system trails that meet national quality standards	26.0%	22.0%	24.0%	23.3%	25.0%	28.0%

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $82,516,000 for Trails, an increase of $4,986,000 above the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

The National Forest System (NFS) inventory of approximately 157,000 miles of trails offers a vast range of recreation opportunities to the American public, directly supporting the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. By FY 2016, the agency expects to have completed designation of trails for motor-vehicle use and will be designating trails for over the snow vehicle use consistent with Forest Service policy. The 21st Century Conservation Service Corps has been enhanced and continues to provide opportunities to work with partners to address ongoing trails maintenance needs. Through the Trails program, we continue to focus on management and protection of the National Scenic and Historic Trails, and work on the comprehensive plans for the Arizona National Scenic Trail, the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

We will continue to implement the USDA Statement of Action in response to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report: "Forest Service Trails: Long- Short Term Improvements Could Reduce Maintenance Backlog and Enhance System Sustainability." Emphasis items

include developing and implementing a national strategy for a sustainable trail program, reducing the trail deferred maintenance backlog, increasing opportunities to more efficiently leverage additional partner/volunteer assistance, and developing and providing an expanded and integrated system of training for agency personal and volunteers. These efforts are coordinated with the Forest Service Partners and Volunteers in Service program, as we strive to provide a more efficient and robust program for conducting trails maintenance with partner and volunteer assistance. We continue our collaborative work with other public land agencies in implementing the trails training program and in looking for ways to increase and share efficiencies in associated volunteer training efforts.

In FY 2016, we will emphasize increasing the "Percent of System Trails Meeting Standard". This performance measure, included in the 2007-2012 Forest Service Strategic Plan, provides an overall indicator of the condition of trails. This measure reflects the percentage of NFS trails that meet National Quality Standards, consistent with the maintenance cycle identified for each trail. These standards address health and cleanliness, resource setting, safety and security, responsiveness to trail users, and condition of facilities. A trail that "meets standard" complies with all of the critical national standards, and the majority of the remaining standards, and has little or no deferred maintenance. We will work to bring 28 percent of NFS trails to the national standard.

Maintain Trails - The FY 2016 President's Budget includes funding to maintain and repair trails, including repair and reconstruction of trails and trail bridges damaged by flooding and major storm events, wildfire, tree mortality from insects and disease, and other natural disasters. At least 25 percent of this work will be accomplished through the use of volunteers and partners. We will continue to validate and improve the NFS trail inventory, as well as collect trail assessment and condition survey data, to ensure that we have sound, accurate information on trails. We will also continue to increase and deliver training for consistent reporting of trail accomplishments. Trail maintenance reduces resource damage and improves safety conditions to provide a safe and quality experience for trail users.

Improve Trails - The FY 2016 President's Budget includes funding to improve trails in the NFS, investing funds to provide increased connectivity and enhanced trail-related access and recreation opportunities. Funds will also be used to improve access to recreational rivers, directly addressing an AGO goal. Trail improvement helps ensure safe and quality experiences for trail users; protects valuable wildlife, fish, and plant habitat; and protects water quality by preventing sedimentation of streams.

Investments in NFS trails improve public safety and backcountry access for wildland fire and natural resource management, support physical fitness, and support a range of recreational opportunities, including those in wilderness areas. Communities adjacent to public lands and individuals whose livelihoods are tied to public lands also benefit from investments in trails. With 50 million visitor days of non-motorized and motorized use each year, NFS trails contribute substantially to the nearly $13.6 billion that recreational visits to national forests contribute annually to the U.S. economy. The vast majority of outfitters and guides (approximately 5,000) who work on the NFS lands depend on trails that are safe, well-maintained and available to the public. Trail investments will also create opportunities to employ youth, to develop skills among temporary and seasonal employees, and to expand

contract work. With increasing demand for low-cost recreation opportunities, additional investments are needed to sustain and expand the economic return to the Nation from NFS trails.

Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Trail Maintenance

In 2014, the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation collaborated with the Forest Service to complete priority annual and deferred maintenance work on trails in the Bitterroot and Frank Church Wilderness areas. Contributions by 113 volunteers, 10 college interns, and additional financial assistance resulted in 6,498 trees cleared from trails,424 miles of trail maintained, 457 pounds of trash removed, and 11,726 volunteer hours contributed.

Past Performance

The Forest Service works with partners, volunteer groups and communities in the maintenance of NFS trails. In FY 2014, volunteers and partners contributed nearly 1.3 million hours for trail maintenance to NFS trails. Trail maintenance provides opportunities for agency employees and communities to work together protect and maintain our network of trails. We work collaboratively with trail partner organizations to identify specific trail projects for which the partner will provide volunteers, and the Forest Service provides oversight and force account crews.

In FY 2014, we began to develop the Chief's Strategy for Trails as a follow-up to the 2013 Government Accountability Office report on trails maintenance. We have developed a baseline assessment and tool to track how we are narrowing the gap for trails maintenance and to help us identify trail maintenance accomplishments. We are also beginning to incorporate trails information into the new Interactive Visitor Use Map. This new map will provide visitors with information on the wide variety of recreational opportunities available on the national forests and grasslands.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Forest Service's system of trails is vital for connecting people with each other, their community, their heritage, and their public lands. Investment in trails creates safe sustainable public access and supports a range of economic activities on NFS lands.

Through the trails program we manage an inventory of over 157,000 miles of trails, a portion of which are National Scenic and Historic Trails. Around 32,000 miles of trails are located within designated wilderness areas. Visitors recreating on our trail system contribute millions dollars of direct and indirect revenue to local economies, and trails maintenance volunteers leverage substantial amounts of direct and in-kind contributions to trail management.

We strive to ensure public safety and backcountry access through the operation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and improvement of NFS trails, serving a wide constituency of visitors at a relatively low cost per visitor. Trail use by the public both directly and indirectly supports local economies from funds spent by the Forest Service to maintain and improve trails to expenditures

made by visitors. Trails infrastructure is fundamental to the important economic impacts recreation provides to gateway communities across the country.

The NFS trails accommodate roughly 50 million visits of non-motorized and motorized travel and activities including hiking, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and off-highway vehicle use each year. The Trails program offers a vast range of recreation opportunities to the American public, directly supporting the America's Great Outdoors and the First Lady's "Let's Move" Initiatives.

The Forest Service administers National Scenic and Historic Trails, including the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, Florida National Scenic Trail, Nez Perce (Nee Mee Poo) National Historic Trail, Arizona National Scenic Trails, Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, and portions of an additional 15 other National Scenic and Historic Trails, such as the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. This administration is accomplished in coordination with other Federal public land agencies (see the Special Exhibit on National Scenic and Historic Trails for further details.)

Trails programs are delivered through the two following activities. The terms "Improvement" and "Maintenance" are used as defined by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (GPO # 041-001-00462-9). The maintenance and improvement of system trails ensures trails are accessible, adequately designed, safe, and environmentally responsible as described below:

Maintain Trails (both annual and deferred maintenance) - This activity includes the maintenance and operation of system trails and trail bridges. Maintenance activities include the actions necessary to preserve or restore a trail to its originally intended condition in order to provide acceptable service and achieve the expected trail lifespan. Work includes clearing encroaching vegetation and fallen trees and the repair, preventive maintenance, and replacement of trail signs, tread and surfacing, water drainage, trail bridges, and other trail structures. Trail maintenance also provides trail accessibility and promotes ecosystem health by protecting soil, vegetation, and water quality.

Improve Trails - Provides for the planning and design, new construction, alteration and expansion of system trails, trail bridges, and trail structures, such as barriers, culverts, fencing, and wildlife viewing platforms.

Allocation and Integration

Funding is allocated based on the existing miles of NFS trails, regional capability, and management of National Scenic and Historic Trails. In addition to maintaining a base-level ability to maintain trails in all of the national forests and grasslands, a portion of the trails funding creates jobs for youth and others in rural areas by leveraging resources. Projects that leverage the most non-Federal dollars and create the most jobs are high priorities. Trail maintenance and improvement is also funded by Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement, Integrated Resource Restoration, and some permanent appropriations.

Partnerships

We rely on healthy and effective partner organizations to help carry out a sustainable recreation and trails program. Nearly 40 percent of the Trails program's accomplishments result directly from work completed with public-private partnerships, the highest level of any program in the Forest Service. Sharing best practices of fundraising and management among Federal agencies, established partner groups and smaller, newer non-profit organizations will enable us all to expand recreation opportunities in support of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

The Trails programs leverage thousands of hours of trail work from partner organizations, volunteers and youth organizations to operate, maintain, and improve thousands of miles of trail each year. Trail crews are one of the primary means for the Forest Service to employ young adults and to partner with local communities and interest groups. Across the NFS trails overall, in FY 2014, partners and volunteers contributed nearly 1.3 million hours of trail maintenance work valued at approximately $29 million.

Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement

Budget Line Item	Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**	**Percent of Program Changes**
Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement Annual Appropriations	$3,000	$3,150	$33,451	$30,301	962%
Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement Total	**3,000**	**3,150**	**33,451**	**30,301**	**962%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	1	7	80	73	1,043%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**1**	**7**	**80**	**73**	**1,043%**

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $33,451,000 for Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement, an increase of $30,301,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted level.

Priorities for addressing our maintenance backlog, and making smart strategic investments in our infrastructure, will be on facilities that pose serious threats to public health or safety, a natural resource, or to the ability of the Forest Service to implement its mission. Critical investments have been identified for funding in the following areas: dams, bridges, significant facilities, and the disposal of underutilized facilities. By funding investments in these focus areas, it is estimated that over $33 million in deferred maintenance items will be addressed, over 225,000 square feet of space will be disposed, and that over $900,000 will be realized in annual savings due to avoided future costs. Future costs savings include estimated costs reductions for utility payments, maintenance and repair, and other operational savings. These investments will also greatly reduce the risk of catastrophic failure for a number of our high hazard dams, bridges, and highly utilized facilities, mitigating threats to public life/health/safety and the environment.

Past Performance

In FY 2014, the agency funded five major projects, with $2.9 million, that eliminate $1.3 million in deferred maintenance.

FY 2014 Deferred Major Projects
(dollars in thousands)

Region	State	Forest	Project name	Allocation	Deferred Maintenace Eliminated
1	ID	Nez Perce NF	Sewer Systems Repairs	$594	$310
1	ID	Idaho Panhandle National Fforest	Coeur d' Alene Air Tanker Base Environmental Repairs	415	304
2	CO	Rio Grande NF	Jumper Lake Dam Repairs and Hazard Analysis	280	20
3	NM	Carson NF	Canjilon RS & El Rito RS Water System Improvements	511	94
8	NC	Croatan NF	Cedar Point Campground Wastewater System Rehabilitation & Energy Conservation	700	293
9	MI	Huron-Manistee NF	Huron Shores Ranger Station Renovations	437	269
TOTAL				**$2,937**	**$1,290**

Program Description

Program Overview

The focus of this program is to address the critical deferred maintenance on priority infrastructure which compliments agency goals and objectives.

The Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement program provides for maintenance, repair, and improvement of the agency's infrastructure. These assets currently have a backlog of over $5.1 billion dollars in maintenance needs, as of the end of FY 2014. The cost of addressing deferred maintenance varies each year (e.g. fluctuating building material costs). Please see the Special Exhibit on Deferred Maintenance for additional information.

North Lake Creek Bridge Replacement, Pike-San Isabel NF, CO

This project replaced a structurally deficient road bridge, that accesses three wilderness trailheads, numerous private inholdings, and an abandoned mine slated for hazardous waste cleanup for the next 15 years.

This program provides for maintenance of recreation developed sites, water-wastewater systems, roads, trails, road and trail bridges, fire, administrative, and other facility maintenance projects as well as infrastructure capital improvements as described below:

Maintenance - This activity includes repairs, preventive maintenance, and replacement of parts and structural components. Maintenance that is not performed as needed or scheduled is referred to as deferred maintenance. Deferred maintenance leads to deterioration of performance, increased costs to repair, and a decrease in the value of the infrastructure. Deferred maintenance complements the Facilities, Roads, Trails, and the Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR) programs by directing funds specifically toward reducing the backlog of deferred maintenance in large part to ensure the safety of the recreating public, agency employees, volunteers, and contractors.

Infrastructure Improvement - This activity includes the construction of new infrastructure, alteration of existing infrastructure to change its function, and the expansion of existing infrastructure to increase capacity. Improvements are often required to maintain public service capability or recreational opportunities. Capital improvement projects eliminate deferred maintenance and provide mission-critical infrastructure.

Allocation and Integration

Projects that achieve the greatest reduction in the agency's total deferred maintenance backlog are given priority for funding. Starting in FY 2011, funds have been allocated to nationally selected projects that address the most critical health and safety infrastructure needs particularly in areas heavily used by the public and agency employees. Condition assessment surveys drive management decisions and national allocations regarding construction, use, maintenance or decommissioning, and disposal of assets.

In addition to Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement, other programs and authorities are available to reduce deferred maintenance, including Integrated Resource Restoration; Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Facilities, Roads, and Trails programs; and Permanent Appropriations including the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Fund, Roads and Trails for States Fund, and Operations and Maintenance of Quarters Fund. Through the use of these funds, the agency is able to direct additional resources that address the significant backlog of deferred maintenance on the agency's infrastructure.

Partnerships

The program has leveraged funds through partnerships with non-profit organizations and volunteers. Additional leveraging has been accomplished through concessionaire programs, user maintenance fees, and other partner-based work. These partnerships will continue to be maintained through the Facilities, Roads and Trails programs.

Land Acquisition

Appropriation	Land Acquisition (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**	**Percent of Program Changes**
Land Acquisition					
Annual Appropriations	$43,525	$47,500	$63,000	$15,500	33%
Land Acquisition Total	**43,525**	**47,500**	**63,000**	**15,500**	**33%**
Annual Appropriation FTEs	51	49	53	4	8%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**51**	**49**	**53**	**4**	**8%**
Land Acquisition					
Land Acquisition	43,525	47,500	63,000	15,500	33%

Appropriation	Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**	**Percent of Program Changes**
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts					
Annual Appropriations	$912	$950	$1,950	$1,000	105%
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts Total	**912**	**950**	**1,950**	**1,000**	**105%**
Annual Appropriation FTEs	0	0	0	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0%**

Appropriation	Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**	**Percent of Program Changes**
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges					
Annual Appropriations	$217	$216	$216	0	0%
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges Total	**217**	**216**	**216**	**0**	**0%**
Annual Appropriation FTEs	0	0	0	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Land Acquisition (Appropriation)						
Number of acres acquired or donated (Discretionary funds)	26,330	62,133	43,378	54,230	35,548	27,823
Number of acres acquired or donated (Mandatory funds)	0	0	0	0	0	33,343
Priority acres acquired or donated that reduce the conversion of forests, grasslands, and aquatic and riparian ecosystems to incompatible uses in order to improve and maintain ecological conditions for federally listed and candidate species, species of concern and species of interest (Discretionary funds)	20,624	20,954	34,463	51,644	26,661	20,868
Priority acres acquired or donated that reduce the conversion of forests, grasslands, and aquatic and riparian ecosystems to incompatible uses in order to improve and maintain ecological conditions for federally listed and candidate species, species of concern and species of interest (Mandatory funds)	0	0	0	0	0	25,008

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $63,000,000 in discretionary funding for Land Acquisition, an increase of $15,500,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted level. An additional $64,673,000 of mandatory funding is proposed to be transferred from the Department of the Interior for a combined total of $127,673,000. Acquisitions address public support for the conservation of public lands for enjoyment and use by the public, as outlined in the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

The President's Budget proposes to permanently authorize annual mandatory funding, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation for the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) programs beginning in FY 2016. The Budget proposes $900 million in total LWCF funding, comprised of $500 million in mandatory and $400 million discretionary funds. The amounts requested include the authorized levels for the Department of the Interior and Agriculture.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Initiative

The request includes $21,020,000 in discretionary and $27,428,000 in mandatory funds to support the projects described in this section under the heading "Collaborative Landscape Planning" (CLP), which addresses American Great Outdoors Action Item 5.2a: Implement an interagency process to invest part of the Federal LWCF funds in high-yield conservation projects that address shared ecological goals. These landscapes where the agencies can collaboratively respond to locally supported planning efforts to protect critical ecosystems before fragmentation occurs.

Conserving large-scale landscapes provides multiple resource and economic benefits to the public, including clean drinking water, improved recreational opportunities and access, reduced wildfire risk, protection of habitat for at-risk and game species, more effective land management

and jobs creation on and off forests and grasslands. All proposed land acquisition projects will reduce expenditures associated with a wide variety of land management activities, including boundary management. Further, protecting contiguous landscapes also improves access for fire suppression for the Forest Service while also increasing public access to diverse recreational resources on public land not previously available to the public.

There are CLP projects among the discretionary and mandatory requests. The Upper Rio Grande project focuses on the importance of water, history, and working lands anchored by the Rio Grande River in Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico. The High Divide Project seeks to protect animal and fish migration corridors thatlink Yellowstone National Park from its border in Idaho to the Frank Church Wilderness in Montana, and provide public access to Federal lands in those States,. The National Trails System project receives a second round of investment for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (NST) in Washington and California, and the Continental Divide NST in Montana. This discretionary request includes an initial investment in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests for a tract in Virginia that will help protect water quality upstream of the Chesapeake Bay. The mandatory section of the FY 2016 Budget contains requests that would finish the Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine project, which protects and restores Red-cockaded Woodpecker habitat in the Osceola National Forest, while protecting drinking water supplies of North Florida. Lastly, the Budget includes initial investments in the Pathways to the Pacific Project for strategic protection in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, to support recreational access, and it includes funding for important forested parcels necessary for climate change resilience and watershed protection on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in California. Each CLP project complements investments by the Department of the Interior and reinforces the Administration's commitment to these important landscapes.

Core Forest Service Acquisitions

The request includes $56,475,000 for core Forest Service acquisitions ($26,230,000 discretionary and $30,245,000 mandatory) focused on acquiring the highest priority lands, which advance agency goals for restoring resilient ecosystems, watershed management under the Watershed Condition Framework, and increased hunter/angler access. Often, acquisition of a single parcel can provide significant large-scale benefits by ensuring that entire watersheds and ecosystems remain intact. Preventing incompatible development can greatly enhance the effectiveness of management on surrounding public lands. These tracts can also be the key to significantly increasing the availability of existing Federal lands to the public.

Hunter/Angler Access/Critical Inholdings

The Forest Service will use $7,000,000 ($5,000,000 hunter/angler access and $2,000,000 critical inholding/wilderness) of FY 2016 LWCF funds to acquire strategically-located parcels that: 1) secure or improve access, both motorized and non-motorized; and 2) prevent incompatible development in areas with special or congressional designations or within landscapes of predominantly Federal ownership. These funds will also be used to acquire parcels that provide direct use of important recreation resources such as hunting and fishing opportunities, hiking and climbing routes, and motorized uses.

Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts; and Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges

The request includes $1,950,000 for acquisitions authorized under National Forests Special Acts. These funds will be used to acquire lands necessary to protect watersheds, minimize soil erosion, and rehabilitate specified National Forests in Nevada, Utah, California, and Arkansas. The request includes $216,000 for Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges.

Legislative Proposal

We propose an amendment to the Small Tracts Act (P.L. 97-465) adding additional categories of eligibility, including isolated, inaccessible parcels, title claims not resolvable under existing authorities, and sites previously committed to uses such as cemeteries. Proceeds from the sale of National Forest System lands under this proposed authority would be deposited in an account under the Sisk Act and used for future acquisitions and/or enhancement of existing public lands and facilities.

Past Performance

Through Land Acquisition we consolidate fragmented lands in order to connect important landscapes and habitats, and provide recreational access for the public. We evaluate potential acquisitions on their ability to further key agency goals around access to support outdoor recreation and protect threatened and endangered species. Connecting fragmented landscapes also greatly enhances restoration and protects watersheds, especially in the wildland-urban interface (WUI), areas where residential developments are intermingled with undeveloped forests.

In FY 2014, we completed an historic investment on the Lolo and Flathead National Forests in Montana aimed at reconnecting “checkerboard” lands on those forests. Undoing checkerboard ownership often makes public lands accessible at a ratio of 3-to-1. For every square mile of checkerboard land acquired, three square miles are connected. It is estimated that the 144,000 acres acquired in these Forests reconnected over 400,000 acres, bringing dramatic efficiencies of scale for wildfire protection, wildlife and game management, and public access. This area of Montana contains one of the last intact ecosystems on earth for large carnivores such as the Grizzly Bear, and is immensely popular for outdoor recreation and hunting and fishing.

The benefits that this enhanced connectivity gives to the Flathead and Lolo are numerous but another immediate benefit is that no additional private homes will be built on those acres in the WUI, meaning no structures the Forest Service needs to protect from wildfire. In the West 16 percent of the WUI is developed with homes. If 50 percent of the WUI were to be developed, the cost of protecting the homes from catastrophic wildfires could be as much as $4 to 5 billion. This example illuminates how connecting fragmented lands, especially in the WUI is a win-win-win: reduced costs for fire-fighting, reduced risk to firefighters, residents, and property, and a connected landscape to better support wildlife and recreation. [1]
http://headwaterseconomics.org/wphw/wp-content/uploads/wildfire_homes_solutions_presentation.pdf

Program Description

Program Overview

The Land Acquisition program funds the acquisition and donation of lands, waters, and other interests within the National Forest System to further agency goals for resilient landscapes and communities. Acquired lands support Forest Service goals for restoration, recreation and access, habitat for wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, and water quality and quantity protection. Land acquisition best supports these goals through consolidating and connecting fragmented lands. Acquisitions are prioritized based on their ecological and social benefits such as recreational access, tourism, and economic support of gateway communities.

Land acquisition reduces land management costs by consolidating and connecting large landscapes. Fragmented development within forest boundaries can exacerbate fire, insect, and disease management challenges, which brings high costs to both the agency and neighboring communities. Forest Service land acquisitions generally have broad support by stakeholders at the local level due to their potential effect to decrease management costs across the board and attract more visitors who want to recreate in a safe, accessible environment.

Land acquisition is just one land adjustment tool we have to promote the long-term health and sustainability of the national forests and grasslands. The program is delivered through the following activities:

- Land Acquisition Management - This activity covers expenses to complete land acquisitions and donations, including costs associated with employing technical expertise, and due diligence work such as title search, appraisals, land acquisition surveys, and legal document preparation. Acquisition management funds also cover administrative costs associated with high-priority land exchanges when the land to be acquired meets LWCF criteria.

- Land Purchase - Funds pay for the costs of purchasing lands.

- Cash Equalization - This activity provides for a cash payment needed to equalize values in a land exchange when the value of the non-Federal land exceeds the value of the Federal land (up to 25 percent of the Federal land value).

- Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts – These funds are used to acquire lands necessary to protect watersheds, minimize soil erosion, and rehabilitate specified national forests in Nevada, Utah, California, and Arkansas.

- Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges - This program provides for the acquisition of lands with funds collected from the exchange or sale of National Forest System lands with State, county, or municipal governments, public school authorities, or other non-Federal parties, allowed under various authorities.

Allocation and Integration

Core land acquisition projects funded through LWCF are selected using a two-stage process. First, Forest Service regions review and rank projects according to the Strategic Land Acquisition Rating System (SLARS). Top regional projects are submitted to agency headquarters, where they compete nationally against other projects proposed by other Forest Service regions. Criteria tie the selection process to the LWCF Act and the agency's Strategic Plan goals and objectives, and are used to identify and prioritize acquisitions to maximize public benefit. Congressionally approved project funds are allocated to the benefiting regions as soon as all parties are ready to close on the sale of the property. Acquisitions may be funded through other means such as Sisk Act funds or revenue raised through sales or exchanges. Information about the SLARS and the national criteria are available on the Forest Service web site at http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/LWCF/index.shtml. The processes used to identify and recommend funding for the CLP are described elsewhere in this section.

Acquisition management funding is allocated to the regions using criteria based on workload, including prior year accomplishments and new current fiscal year funded projects. Cash equalization funds are accessed at the time an individual land exchange is ready to close.

Partnerships

Forest Service land acquisition has been a partnership based program for over 30 years. Our work with partners on important conservation acquisitions funded by the LWCF is the foundation of several longstanding relationships that have protected key strategic lands that allow the Forest Service to provide a diversity of benefits to the public. The agency priorities articulated in our land acquisition project list are in many respects a compendium of years of collaboration and on-going dialogue with partners. Partnerships provide more than funding and logistical support for acquisitions. They are essential for communication, learning and innovation, helping us be responsive and deliver results. The land acquisition program relies on partnerships and relationships with local, State, Federal, Tribal, corporate and non-governmental organizations, and individuals. These partners often work with us on multiple programs such as the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, watershed protection and restoration, and the Forest Legacy Program.

Key partnerships supporting CLP projects include Trout Unlimited on the Upper Rio Grande; the Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts for the High Divide; and The Friends of the (Columbia River) Gorge for the National Trails and Pathways to the Pacific CLP projects. Core acquisition projects such as Wasatch Watersheds-Bonneville Shoreline Trail are supported by the Trust for Public Land. The Conservation Fund is partnering with the agency on the Current River acquisitions on the Mark Twain and the Tennessee Mountain tracts on the Cherokee National Forests and several others. Other supporters and partners include the Nature Conservancy, the Wilderness Land Trust, the Teton Regional Land Trust and the Western Rivers Conservancy. This list does not capture the totality of partners' national and local that help make strategic land protection possible in the National Forests and Grasslands, but it does provide a window into the diversity of relationships the Forest Service has built over time.

Working with numerous partners, the land acquisition program leverages a significant amount of funding each year. Funding and other project support from partners for due diligence such as landowner outreach, title, appraisal, and environmental analysis, can provide 20 to 40 percent of administrative funding each year for projects. In FY 2014, partners and landowners donated more than $21 million in lands and due diligence nationwide, at least $17 million of which was the value of donated lands. This support equals nearly 40 percent of the appropriated funds the Forest Service was able to dedicate to land acquisition. Including donated lands, the Forest Service acquired 54,258 acres, nearly $70 million worth of land, and spent $4.5 million in direct costs associated with acquisitions and donations, which comes to approximately $83 dollars per acre spent by the Forest Service in Acquisition Management administrative dollars.

Collaborative Landscape Planning

Land Acquisition in FY 2016 builds on efforts started in FY 2013 to strategically invest in interagency landscape-scale conservation projects while continuing to meet agency-specific programmatic needs. The Department of the Interior and the USDA Forest Service collaborated extensively to develop a process to more effectively coordinate land acquisitions with government and local community partners to achieve the highest priority shared conservation goals.

The FY 2016 Collaborative Landscape Planning projects have been evaluated by a Technical Advisory Committee according to merit-based criteria in the following categories:

- Process - Ensure proposals are built through Federal agency and local stakeholder collaboration and make efficient use of Federal funding.
- Outcomes - Ensure Federal resources are targeted to achieve important biological, recreational, cultural, and socio-economic outcomes.
- Urgency - Ensure funding is focused on outcomes that may be lost today if no action is taken or that are particularly achievable today.
- Contribution to National Priorities - Ensure local proposals are important contributors to the highest priority national conservation goals.

Investing now in these ecologically important and threatened landscapes will ensure that they remain resilient in the face of development pressures and global climate change, and are made available to the public in the near term.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Proposed Acquisition List Fiscal Year 2016				
Administration				**Funding Request**
Acquisition Management				$8,500,000
Cash Equalization				$250,000
Small Parcel Acquisitions				**Funding Request**
Sportsman/Recreational Access				$5,000,000
Critical Inholdings/Wilderness				$2,000,000
Priority	**Project Name**	**State**	**Forest/Unit**	**Funding Request**
1	CLP: Upper Rio Grande	CO	Rio Grande	$5,000,000
2	Hurdygurdy	CA	Six Rivers	$700,000
3	Wasatch Watersheds-Bonneville Shoreline Trail	UT	Uinta-Wasatch-Cache	$2,320,000
4	North Carolina Threatened Treasures	NC	Pisgah	$1,250,000
5	North Carolina Threatened Treasures	NC	Uwharrie	$450,000
6	CLP: High Divide	MT	Beaverhead-Deerlodge	$1,525,000
7	CLP: High Divide	ID	Caribou-Targhee	$1,625,000
8	CLP: High Divide	MT	Gallatin	$2,000,000
9	CLP: High Divide	ID	Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness	$425,000
10	CLP: High Divide	ID	Sawtooth	$2,500,000
11	Sierra Nevada Checkerboard	CA	Tahoe	$1,400,000
12	Toll Properties	CO	Roosevelt	$800,000
13	Tennessee Mountains	TN	Cherokee	$1,635,000
14	Current River	MO	Mark Twain	$2,070,000
15	CLP: Rivers of the Chesapeake	VA	George Washington and Jefferson	$1,990,000
16	Fossil Creek	AZ	Coconino	$1,000,000
17	Minnesota Northwoods	MN	Chippewa	$2,175,000
18	Minnesota Northwoods	MN	Superior	$515,000
19	Florida Longleaf Initiative	FL	Osceola	$3,900,000
20	CLP: National Trails	WA	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	$3,000,000
21	CLP: National Trails	CA	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	$200,000
22	CLP: National Trails	MT	Continental Divide National Scenic Trail	$255,000
23	Upper Gros Ventre	WY	Bridger-Teton	$1,000,000
24	Pacific Northwest Streams	OR	Umatilla	$840,000
25	Pacific Northwest Streams	OR	Rogue River-Siskiyou	$550,000
26	Greater Yellowstone Area	WY	Bridger-Teton	$1,025,000
27	Castle Crags	CA	Shasta-Trinity	$2,800,000
28	CLP: High Divide	ID	Sawtooth	$2,300,000
29	CLP: High Divide	MT	Beaverhead-Deerlodge	$200,000

Priority	Project Name	State	Forest/Unit	Funding Request
30	Great Lakes- Northwoods	MI	Ottawa	$1,800,000
Subtotal Discretionary Funding				**$63,000,000**
31	Wedge Properties	CO	Arapaho	$1,275,000
32	CLP: Upper Rio Grande	NM	Carson	$3,000,000
33	CLP: Upper Rio Grande	CO	Rio Grande	$6,000,000
34	North Carolina Threatened Treasures	NC	Pisgah	$1,100,000
35	North Carolina Threatened Treasures	NC	Uwharrie	$500,000
36	Tennessee Mountains	TN	Cherokee	$4,200,000
37	Washington Cascades Yakima Basin	WA	Okanogan-Wenatchee	$3,000,000
38	CLP: Rivers of the Chesapeake	VA	George Washington- Jefferson	$2,700,000
39	CLP: Rivers of the Chesapeake	WV	George Washington -Jefferson	$3,000,000
40	Cube Cove	AK	Tongass	$4,000,000
41	Disappearing Wildlands of Georgia	GA	Chattahoochee-Oconee	$3,035,000
42	Heart Bar Ranch	NM	Gila	$2,500,000
43	CLP: National Trails	CA	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	$1,000,000
44	CLP: National Trails	WA	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	$1,000,000
45	Jenkins Gulch	MT	Helena	$560,000
46	Montana Legacy Completion	MT	Flathead	$2,000,000
47	Salmon Selway	ID	Sawtooth	$3,500,000
48	CLP: Pathways to the Pacific	WA	Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area	$660,000
49	CLP: Pathways to the Pacific	OR	Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area	$465,000
50	CLP: Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine	FL	Osceola	$6,775,000
51	RMNA McMahon Owens	CO	Arapaho	$250,000
52	Wassen Creek	OR	Siuslaw	$3,000,000
53	Hoosier Uplands	IN	Hoosier	$1,325,000
54	CLP: Northern Coastal California	CA	Shasta-Trinity	$2,828,000
Acquisition Management				**$7,000,000**
Subtotal Mandatory Funding				**$64,673,000**
Total Funding				**$127,673,000**

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Other Appropriations

Range Betterment Fund

Appropriation	Range Betterment Fund (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Range Betterment Fund					
Annual Appropriations	$3,000	$2,320	$2,320	0	0%
Range Betterment Fund Total	**3,000**	**2,320**	**2,320**	**0**	**0%**
Annual Appropriation FTEs	5	5	5	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**5**	**5**	**5**	**0**	**0%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Range Betterment Fund						
Number of range structural improvements	350	339	250	222	300	300

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $2,320,000 for Range Betterment, the same level as the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. This funding will allow us to place more emphasis on addressing the backlog of structural and non-structural improvements prescribed in grazing allotment National Environmental Policy Act decision documents. These improvements will protect and/or improve water quality, soil conditions, and vegetative health while conserving threatened or endangered plant and animal species. Restoration of ecologically beneficial plant diversity through the treatment of invasive plants will continue to be a priority for non-structural rangeland improvement work.

Past Performance

The structures constructed or improved through this program help manage the movement of animals to provide for proper range management and maintain or improve plant health. Examples include fences and livestock watering facilities. The non-structural rangeland improvement activities, such as noxious weeds and invasive plants treatments and brush control, reduce fire risk on rangelands by limiting plant densities and/or by changing species composition. These activities also are important to maintain water quality and soil health. The mix of activities conducted in FY 2014 included slightly fewer structural improvements than anticipated, but a substantial increase in the acres of rangeland vegetation improvement—rising from 90,690 acres in FY 2013 to 131,707 acres in FY 2014.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Range Betterment Fund program supports the agency's goal of sustaining the Nation's forests and grasslands by fostering healthy ecosystems, mitigating wildfire risk, and conserving open space. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, (43 U.S.C. 1751) P.L. 94-579, as amended by the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1751(b) (1) P.L. 95-514, authorizes the Range Betterment program and it authorizes the allocation of one-half of grazing receipts from National Forest System (NFS) lands in the 16 Western States for rangeland rehabilitation, protection, and improvements on the NFS lands from which the receipts were collected. Allocations have historically been at one-half of the receipts level. This program supports all of the same economic activities associated with the Grazing Management program, but at a more limited scale.

Allocation and Integration

Funds are allocated proportionately to the regions where receipts are collected. Activities performed to improve forage, change vegetative composition, control patterns of use, provide water, stabilize soil and water conditions, and provide habitat for livestock and wildlife include, but are not limited to: construction of water developments to aid in livestock distribution, building fences to protect sensitive resources, and treatment projects to alter soil and vegetation conditions on NFS lands. These activities enhance or stabilize vegetative conditions, improve water quality, maintain riparian areas and stream banks while conserving threatened or endangered plant and animal species. Funds may also be used to treat noxious weeds that are present as a result of permitted livestock grazing.

Partnerships

Grazing permittees are significant and important partners in the implementation of rangeland betterment projects. Program funds are leveraged with permittees' fees or in-kind contributions to enhance livestock management. These partnerships also provides a foundation for involving a variety of special interest organizations such as cattlemen's associations, resource conservation organizations, and land trusts further enhancing opportunities for rangeland betterment.

Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Forest and Rangeland Research

Appropriation	Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Forest and Rangeland Research (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Forest and Rangeland Research					
Annual Appropriations	$40	$45	$45	0	0%
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Forest and Rangeland Research Total	**40**	**45**	**45**	**0**	**0%**
Annual Appropriation FTEs	0	0	0	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0%**

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $45,000 for Gifts, Donations, and Bequest for Research, the same level as the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

Past Performance

In FY 2014, the Forest Service received donations from individuals and businesses for research work units and other organizational sub-units to further their research and development programs. The funds were used to purchase supplies and equipment and to offset travel to training and seminars.

Program Description

Program Overview

This special account serves for acceptance of gifts, donations, and bequests for deposit that are used to establish or operate any forest and rangeland research facility. These gifts or donations can be received from outside sources, such as individuals and businesses.

Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses

Appropriation	Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**	**Percent of Program Changes**
Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses					
Annual Appropriations	$2,500	$2,500	$2,441	-$59	-2%
Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses Total	**2,500**	**2,500**	**2,441**	**-59**	**-2%**
Annual Appropriation FTEs	12	12	13	1	8%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**12**	**12**	**13**	**1**	**8%**

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $2,441,000 for Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence, a decrease of $59,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. With this proposed funding, the Forest Service will continue to meet its responsibilities under the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and provide vital employment in isolated rural communities where opportunities are severely limited. The proposed funding level will also enable the Forest Service to continue to fund approximately 40 seasonal employees that collect fish and wildlife population data. The data is used to inform the establishment of annual harvest levels and is essential for keeping fish and wildlife populations strong.

Past Performance

The Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses Program plays a vital role in sustaining the health of rural Alaskan communities by ensuring healthy fish and wildlife populations are available to provide a reliable food supply for residents, and maintaining vital employment in remote reaches where opportunities are limited.

To ensure that the program is achieving its goals in supporting rural communities, the Forest Service has implemented a number of critical monitoring and management actions. Activities associated with this work were accomplished using both Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses funds and other NFS funds that complement the objectives of this program. In FY 2014, the Forest Service completed 29 regular-cycle management analyses to determine current population, and appropriate harvest, levels for fish and wildlife species, and to determine appropriate management actions to provide for subsistence uses on the national forests in Alaska. The Forest Service also analyzed and implemented eight special actions to address immediate conservation and subsistence use issues.

Together with the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service also continued to expand consultation on all facets of the Federal subsistence program, including annual rulemaking, with

all Alaska Tribes and Native Corporations in order to comply with presidential and secretarial policy direction and to be respectful of the current and historical role of native Alaskans in managing for their customary and traditional subsistence uses.

In FY 2014, the agency oversaw 11 salmon stock assessments, one comprehensive assessment for the eulachon (a small anadromous fish), and four population surveys for subsistence-harvested wildlife species. Most monitoring was implemented through contracts and agreements, which supported about 45 local jobs in rural communities with tribal organizations. These assessments continue to be vital to effective management of subsistence uses, while providing for conservation of harvested species.

In FY 2014, Forest Service law enforcement issued 14 citations and 15 warnings specific to subsistence uses. An emphasis for the upcoming year will be to reduce these numbers primarily through user education.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) (16 U.S.C. 3101) provides rural Alaskan residents a subsistence priority to harvest fish and wildlife on Federal lands over sport and commercial uses. ANILCA authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to issue regulations relevant to the taking of fish and wildlife on public lands in the State of Alaska. ANILCA envisioned that the State of Alaska would manage for this rural priority, as was the case for 10 years. However, the statute was found to conflict with the Alaska State Constitution, which prohibits granting subsistence priority to only rural residents. As a result, the Federal government assumed responsibility for subsistence management on Federal public lands in 1990 and expanded its responsibility to Federally-reserved navigable waters in Alaska in 1999.

The Subsistence program is delivered through the following activities:

Regulatory - This activity includes an annual cycle of rule promulgation for harvesting fish and wildlife, in-season actions to address immediate conservation issues, and administration of harvest permits to manage use. The Alaska Regional Forester serves on the inter-agency Federal Subsistence Board, and is delegated to act for the Secretary of Agriculture for all aspects of the Federal interagency program. Federal subsistence hunting and fishing regulations must be reviewed annually to ensure a sustained supply of wild food resources and that a harvest priority is provided for rural residents on Federal lands. Annually, the Forest Service, through the Board, addresses up to 60 proposed changes to existing regulations and responds to more than 1,500 requests for harvest permits.

Information Gathering - This activity includes fish and wildlife monitoring necessary for regulatory purposes and to ensure the conservation of fish and wildlife. Most monitoring is implemented through contracts and agreements, providing local jobs in rural communities with tribal and other local organizations. Collection and analysis of critical information is used to substantiate which regulatory changes should be implemented, and justification for those which cannot be supported. Monitoring information can also lead to emergency actions to curtail harvest in-season, to assure conservation of viable populations.

Law Enforcement and Education - This activity includes enforcement of Federal regulations for the taking of fish and wildlife on 22 million acres, approximately 75 waterways and navigable lakes, and areas of Prince William Sound. It also includes education of subsistence users and others to reduce the need for enforcement action. Enforcement of Federal subsistence hunting and fishing regulations requires protecting the subsistence priority and conserving healthy fish and wildlife populations.

The subsistence program provides vital employment in isolated rural communities where opportunities are severely limited. Local residents are hired to monitor fish and wildlife populations which are essential for adjusting harvest regulations and sustaining fish and wildlife populations.

Wildland Fire Management

Appropriation	Wildland Fire Management (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Wildland Fire Management					
Annual Appropriations	$2,162,302	$2,333,298	$2,354,029	$20,731	1%
Wildland Fire Management Total	**2,162,302**	**2,333,298**	**2,354,029**	**20,731**	**1%**
Annual Appropriation FTEs	12,115	12,266	12,310	44	0%
Recovery Act FTEs	0	0	0	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**12,115**	**12,266**	**12,310**	**44**	**0%**
Wildland Fire Management					
Preparedness	1,057,580	1,145,840	1,082,620	-63,220	-6%
Suppression	680,488	708,000	794,534	86,534	12%
Hazardous Fuels	306,500	361,749	359,126	-2,623	-1%
Research and Development	19,795	19,795	19,820	25	0%
Joint Fire Science Program	6,914	6,914	6,917	3	0%
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	0	0	0	0	0%
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	0	0	0	0	0%
State Fire Assistance	78,000	78,000	78,012	12	0%
Volunteer Fire Assistance	13,025	13,000	13,000	0	0%

Wildland Fire Management Overview

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $2,354,029,000 for Wildland Fire Management (WFM), an increase of $20,731,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Through WFM programs, the Forest Service protects life, property and natural resources on the 193 million acre National Forest System and an additional 20 million acres of adjacent State and private lands through fee or reciprocal protection agreements.

The FY 2016 President's Budget continues to call for a fundamental change in how wildfire suppression is funded to reduce fire risk, manage landscapes more holistically, and increase resiliency of the Nation's forests and rangelands and the communities that border them. The cost of fire management has grown from 13 percent of the agency's budget in the 1990s to over 50 percent in 2014. It is subsuming the agency's budget and jeopardizing our ability to successfully implement our full mission. The number and severity of fires has grown in recent years as has the frequency of catastrophic fires that risk life and property. At the same time, the wildland-urban interface (WUI) has continued to expand. These factors have contributed to the growing cost of suppression. Since 2000 suppression costs have exceeded amounts provided in annual appropriations every year with only two exceptions, requiring the Forest Service to transfer funds from other programs to cover those costs. The lost momentum of critical restoration programs as

fire transfers deplete the budget by up to $500 million annually is felt across critical programs nationwide and exacerbates the frequency and intensity of fires in subsequent years.

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes a fiscally responsible funding strategy that considers catastrophic wildland fires as disasters, to be funded in part by budget authority provided through a wildfire suppression cap adjustment which is outside the discretionary appropriation of the agency. In FY 2016, the President's Budget continues to propose discretionary funding for wildland fire suppression at a level that provides for suppression of 99 percent of fires within the Forest Service discretionary program, represented by 70 percent of the 10-year average of fire suppression spending. In addition, up to $855 million would be available under a disaster funding cap adjustment to meet suppression needs above the base appropriation. This strategy provides increased certainty in addressing growing fire suppression funding needs, better safeguards non-suppression programs from transfers that have diminished their effectiveness, and allows us to stabilize and invest in programs that will more effectively restore forested landscapes, treat forests for the increasing effects of climate change, and prepare communities in the WUI for future wildfires. However, while the cap adjustment proposal helps to stabilize the rapidly increasing portion of the Forest Service's budget that is going towards fire suppression, the amount of funding requested for suppression is still tied to the 10-year average, which has been steadily increasing over the last decade and increased again in FY 2016, resulting in the $86 million increase in the Suppression request.

The agency has made great progress in its continued focus on risk based decision making when responding to wildfires, and in FY 2016 will continue this important work to better inform decision makers on the risks and tradeoffs associated with wildfire management decisions. Prior to the FY 2015 fire season the Forest Service will host a Risk Management Summit along with risk practitioners from other Federal agencies to forge the path forward of continuous improvement and learning on how risk management is practiced in wildland fire management. The outcomes of the summit will solidify the concept of shared risk, a central tenant of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, which establishes a shared vision between Federal and non-Federal entities for managing wildland fires.

The WFM program also recognizes the importance of integrating fire as a critical natural process in land and resource management plans and activities, managing wildfire across landownership boundaries, and applying the best available science.

The FY 2016 President's Budget also furthers efforts to focus hazardous fuels treatments in the WUI on the highest priority acres in areas that are identified in community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs) or equivalent plans, with hazardous fuels treatments targeted on reducing the risk of catastrophic fire on over 1.4 million WUI acres.

Preparedness

Budget Line Item	Preparedness (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Preparedness					
Annual Appropriations	$1,057,580	$1,145,840	$1,082,620	-$63,220	-6%
Preparedness Total	**1,057,580**	**1,145,840**	**1,082,620**	**-63,220**	**-6%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	7,371	6,781	7,134	353	5%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**7,371**	**6,781**	**7,134**	**353**	**5%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Preparedness						
Percent change from the 10-year average for the number of wildfires controlled during initial attack.	-1.2%	-0.1%	0.2%	1.3%	0.2%	0.2%

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $1,080,620,000 for Preparedness, a decrease of $63,220,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. This funding reflects the full costs of readiness resources and program management. As directed by Congress in the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act, a detailed table of actual and proposed estimated spending on fire operations, including aviation resources, is included as a Special Exhibit.

The Preparedness program ensures agency capability to protect life, property, and natural resources while responding to wildfires in an appropriate, risk informed, and effective manner that is consistent with land and resource management objectives. Firefighter and public safety are the primary considerations for all operations. In FY 2016, the agency will continue emphasizing strategies to increase operational efficiency, including:

- predictive services analysis of the potential for strategic deployment of firefighting resources during fire seasons;
- risk-informed, performance-based fire suppression;
- web-based wildfire decision support tools;
- development, enhancement, and integration of technology applications;
- centralized management of aviation assets; and
- modernizing the firefighting airtanker fleet.

Resource Summary FY 2014 to FY 2016

Resource	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget
Firefighters (FFTR) – Total is inclusive of categories below	10,000	10,000	10,000
Type I Interagency Hot Shot Crews (20-person)	67 crews 1,340 FFTR	67 crews 1,340 FFTR	67 crews 1,340 FFTR
Other Firefighters	7,940	7,940	7,940
Smoke Jumpers	320	320	320
Prevention Technicians	400	400	400
Engines	900	900	900
Heavy Equipment – Dozers, Tractor Plow Units, Tenders	210	210	210
Helicopters			
Type 1[1]	34	Up to 34	Up to 34
Type 2	33	33	33
Type 3[2]	43	46	46
Airtankers			
Legacy Airtankers[3]	6	Up to 6	Up to 6
Next Generation Airtankers[3]	Up to 12	Up to 15	Up to15
Excess US Coast Guard aircraft converted airtankers C-130 H	0	Up to 1	Up to 1
Single Engine Airtankers	1	Up to 1	Up to 1
Scoopers	1	Up to 1	Up to 1

[1] *Includes only agency owned/leased or exclusive use contracted assets.*
[2] *Includes only helicopters whose primary purpose is wildland fire response.*
[3] *Numbers reflect maximum number of aircraft allowed under the contracts*

The FY 2016 President's Budget will fund up to 21 airtankers under exclusive use contracts. This includes legacy airtankers, next generation large airtankers, and an agency-owned C-130H aircraft. The Forest Service will exercise a Call When Needed contract or leverage cooperators/partners for additional airtankers, if necessary. The agency will also phase out the legacy airtankers as the next generation large airtankers become available, thereby maintaining 18 to 28 contracted and agency-owned next generation large airtankers as identified in the Large Airtanker Modernization Strategy. The 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) transferred seven C-130H aircraft from the U.S. Coast Guard to the Forest Service. These aircraft will initially be transferred to the U.S. Air Force for retrofitting and installation of a retardant delivery system. One C-130H airtanker may be available for airtanker missions in FY 2015.

The NDAA provided the U.S. Air Force with $130,000,000 to retrofit all seven aircraft and $5,000,000 per plane for the installation of retardant delivery systems. The Forest Service will pay for operation and maintenance of the C-130Hs within our requested budget by implementing programmatic efficiencies that will decrease our costs and maintain or increase our operational capability. Programmatic efficiencies include implementation of optimized dispatching analysis; streamlining of our information technology (IT) investments through the Wildland Fire IT initiative; and decreasing programmatic administrative costs by managing aviation assets under national contracts, streamlining hiring processes, centralizing training opportunities, and sharing fire leadership positions between administrative units.

Past Performance

The 2014 fire season was concentrated primarily on the West Coast. We experienced above-average wildfire activity in Northern California and the Pacific Northwest, while the remainder of the country experienced average or below-average activity. At several points in August 2014, nearly 20,000 firefighters, including State, local, private, and Federal personnel, were deployed to support wildland firefighting efforts. Although the highest preparedness level (PL), PL 5, was never reached nationwide, the Pacific Northwest was at PL 5 for 30 days and Northern California was at this highest preparedness level for more than 10 days. Maintaining this high level of activity required significant financial resources and affected the health and well-being of our firefighters. Regardless of the intensity or severity of the fire season, the Forest Service utilizes a risk-based approach to ensure an appropriate, risk informed, and effective response to all wildfires. We are continuing to improve and enhance our predictive capabilities and decision support tools to enable us make the best possible decisions on every wildfire event.

The success of initial attack efforts is dependent on several factors including weather, location of the wildfire, values at risk, and management objectives. The agency's initial attack success rate – the percent of fires that were suppressed before they reached 300 acres in size – was 98.9 percent in FY 2014, which is 1.31 percentage points higher than the 10-year average. Wildfire is an essential and natural element of many of the ecosystems within National Forest System lands. The Forest Service strives to make decisions that minimize the negative impacts of wildfire to life and property and ensure the highest level of safety for our firefighters, while restoring wildfire as a natural and beneficial change agent when practical. The Forest Service is continuing to analyze better ways to articulate and measure this balance. For example, in FY 2014 we began to use a new data decision support tool, the Incident Risk Console (RisC), a data analytics dashboard and business intelligence tool for wildland fire decision makers. RisC contains eight specific attributes of individual fires that summarize a range of conditions and activities on a fire-by-fire basis. RisC provides a readily-accessible overview of the national fire situation, a quick glimpse of individual fires, and an early alert to potential problem areas. The Forest Service will expand our use of RisC in FY 2015 and FY 2016.

In FY 2014, we also began to implement the 2012 Large Airtanker Modernization Strategy by flying up to 12 next generation airtankers in wildfire response operations. These next generation airtankers flew a considerable number of missions, which complemented the efforts of our ground-based firefighters. The expanded capability and increased retardant delivery capacity of these aircraft enabled more effective responses to wildfires. We also continued the Aerial Firefighting Use and Effectiveness study in FY 2014 to determine how next generation airtankers can best work with our other firefighting resources and improve our overall response capabilities. We will continue to implement the Large Airtanker Modernization Strategy in FY 2015 and FY 2016.

Program Description

Program Overview

Wildland fire is a natural and necessary element that serves to restore and maintain the majority of ecosystems the Forest Service manages. Due to climatic shifts and above normal fuel loads,

fire seasons are becoming longer and fires are becoming more severe, in some cases causing extraordinary damage to the landscape. In the West, climate change and other factors have contributed to hotter, drier, and longer fire seasons, on average 60 to 70 days longer than in the prior decade. For example, the six worst fire seasons since 1960 have all occurred since 2000.

The wildland-urban interface (WUI), where there are higher densities of both people and infrastructure, is of particular concern as nearly 65 million acres of WUI are adjacent to or near National Forest System lands. In order to protect the WUI and sustain the natural landscape in the face of climate change, the need for emergency response – and qualified personnel to provide that response – has increased rapidly over the past few decades. The Forest Service utilizes the Preparedness program to maintain a fire organization that is capable of ensuring timely, appropriate, risk informed, and effective response operations to all wildland fires. The Preparedness program provides fire management assets that protect National Forest System, other Federal, state, and private lands from damaging wildfires, reducing threats to life and values at risk commensurate with land management objectives laid out in the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy). Preparedness also supports other vital elements of a comprehensive wildland fire management program, like planning, prevention, education, development of information technology and decision support systems, training and education, development and advancement of firefighting technology, and organizational learning through program analysis and review. A robust Preparedness program is also essential to reducing the costs of wildland fire to the American public. Forest Service analysis has demonstrated that for every $1.00 of reduction in Preparedness funding we can expect an increase of $1.70 in Suppression costs. Therefore, it is important that we maintain adequate resources through the Preparedness program or risk substantial increases in firefighting costs and more devastating losses to life, property, and natural resources.

The Preparedness program is a core component of the Cohesive Strategy, which is a national collaborative effort between wildland fire organizations, land managers, and policy-making officials representing Federal, State, and local governments; Tribal interests; and nongovernmental organizations. The Cohesive Strategy builds on the successes of the National Fire Plan and other foundational documents and aims to address the Nation's wildland fire challenges holistically across all lands and jurisdictions.

The Cohesive Strategy identifies three key areas that present the greatest challenges and the greatest opportunities for making a positive difference in addressing our national wildfire issues:

- restoring and maintaining fire resilient landscapes,
- creating fire-adapted communities, and
- responding effectively to wildfire.

On April 9, 2014, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack released the final phase of the Cohesive Strategy. This report was developed with significant effort and input from Federal, State, Tribal, and local partners and private property owners to address our Nation's wildland fire management challenges. The Forest Service, along with many partners, has embraced a holistic approach to achieving the Cohesive Strategy's goals of creating resilient landscapes, promoting fired-adapted communities, and ensuring efficient and effective responses to wildfires. Recognizing that the type of fire we see on the landscape today

is an outcome of past land management actions (and inactions) and community decisions, the Cohesive Strategy provides a framework to address multiple objectives simultaneously within and among the goals.

The Cohesive Strategy is more than a report – it is a commitment to the doctrine that as stakeholders we all share in the responsibility for managing our lands; protecting our Nation's natural, Tribal, and cultural resources; and making our communities safe and resilient for future generations. The Cohesive Strategy provides a framework for addressing some of our most challenging issues – including fire, invasive species, water supply, threatened and endangered species, community planning, and other land management issues – and recognizes that all stakeholders must do their part to engage and work collaboratively to address these challenges.

Allocation and Integration

Preparedness funds are allocated to regions based on predicted fire activity and anticipated wildfire workloads. The placement and associated funding allocations of specific resources considers logistical and mobilization efficiencies. The agency's overall readiness capability and geographical resource placements have been established through various fire planning and budgeting analyses. However, as the fire season develops and ongoing risk is assessed, national and local resources are repositioned to ensure timely and effective responses. Predictive services and other relevant data sources are used to analyze potential seasonal fire activity to guide the strategic placement of resources.

The Forest Service continues to deploy, assess, and improve our decision support systems to develop our Preparedness budget requirements. Prior to FY 2015, the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) system was used to support and inform our budget formulation and to assess trade-offs between different potential preparedness and suppression scenarios. Recently, we have begun to develop a new decision support tool to replace FPA. This new tool will facilitate long-term strategic planning and budget formulation exercises to determine how to best deliver a cost-effective fire management program. The FPA system incorporated highly complex science principles associated with the modeling of natural resource variables over an immense and highly variable geographic area. The new system, the Wildland Fire Investment Portfolio System (WFIPS), will use many of the foundational elements of its predecessor but enhances its overall capability by inserting new principles and inputs that have been determined to affect the outcomes of our wildfire management responses. Since FY 2012, the FPA has provided both the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior (DOI) with key outputs for budget formulation, and the new system will continue this legacy. WFIPS will help Forest Service wildland fire managers to better understand the complex relationships that exist in managing wildland fire. Enhancements include an improved capability to simulate fire occurrence at the national scale, the ability to assess the effects of different levels of fuels treatments on fire behavior, and enhanced firefighting dispatching algorithms to better understand how increased or decreased asset levels can influence fire outcomes in terms of both cost and size. These changes will facilitate more well-informed budget development processes as well as an increased understanding of the influences of critical fire management components on fire outcomes and investment levels.

Partnerships

The Preparedness program has partnerships with numerous other Federal agencies and States, which include protection agreements, collaborative research efforts, and development of an interagency fire planning and budgeting analysis system. The agency also collaborates with cooperators, including the National Association of State Foresters and DOI, for training, planning, equipment use contracts, and interagency fire coordination centers. In addition, the agency has an agreement with the Department of Defense (DOD) to provide support in fire suppression through the Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) program. The DOD provides C-130 aircraft equipped with MAFFS units as surge capacity for aerial firefighting when requested by the Forest Service. The MAFFS are portable fire retardant delivery systems that are inserted into military C-130 aircraft to convert them into large airtankers when needed. The MAFFS program is a 40-year long joint effort between the Forest Service and the DOD. The Forest Service owns the MAFFS equipment and supplies the retardant, while the DOD provides the C-130 aircraft, pilots, and maintenance and support personnel to fly the missions.

The Forest Service both sponsors and participates in interagency training exercises. Municipal, State, and other fire, emergency, and medical professionals are actively recruited for incident training drills. The experience and education provided to these participants strengthens job performance and communication throughout the U.S. emergency response community.

Suppression

Budget Line Item	Suppression (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Suppression					
Annual Appropriations	$680,488	$708,000	$794,534	$86,534	12%
Suppression Total	**680,488**	**708,000**	**794,534**	**86,534**	**12%**
Suppression Cap Adjustment	0	0	854,578	854,578	0%
Annual Appropriations FTEs	2,652	3,069	2,760	-309	-10%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**2,652**	**3,069**	**2,760**	**-309**	**-10%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Suppression						
Percent of fires not contained in initial attack that exceed a Stratified Cost Index (SCI)	24.0%	36.4%	24.0%	26.7%	24.0%	24.0%
Three-year average percent of fires not contained in initial attack that exceed a Stratified Cost Index (SCI)	28.2%	27.1%	26.0%	29.1%	26.0%	26.0%

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $794,534,000 for Suppression within discretionary limits, an increase of $86,534,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget, and $854,578,000 as a budget cap adjustment.

The President's Budget again proposes a cap adjustment as a new approach to budgeting for wildland fire suppression. This will minimize the risk of fire transfers and provide greater stability and certainty of funding to other programs that support critical forest and rangeland management needs. A joint analysis between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior (DOI) found that one percent of fires are responsible for 30 percent of suppression costs. The remaining 70 percent of costs are generated by the other 99 percent of fires. Therefore, this request proposes funding 70 percent of the 10-year average for suppression, currently calculated at $1.126 billion (see Table 1), within the discretionary spending limits ($788,442,000). The Suppression request also includes increases for pay and health benefits for seasonal hires ($6,092,000). The proposed cap adjustment would fund the remaining 30 percent of the 10-year average as well as any costs accrued above the 10-year average (which are currently funded through fire transfers) equal to the high end of the 90 percent confidence

interval predicted by the outyear forecast[20]. For FY 2016, the total proposed cap adjustment is $855 million (see Table 2).

As directed by Congress in the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act, a detailed table of actual and proposed spending on fire operations, including aviation resources, is included as the Special Exhibit, Fire, Preparedness, and Suppression Costs.

Table 1 – Forest Service Suppression Obligations FY 2005-FY 2014*
(dollars in thousands)

Fiscal Year	Net Nominal Suppression Obligations	GDP Inflator [2005=1.00]	GDP Deflator [2013=1.00]	Adjusted Obligations [2013=1.00]	Rolling 10-year Average
2005	$524,900	0.9109	0.8362	$627,702	$879,461
2006	1,280,419	0.9405	0.8634	1,482,999	945,988
2007	1,149,654	0.9642	0.8852	1,298,815	1,050,871
2008	1,193,073	0.9970	0.9153	1,303,525	1,138,639
2009	702,111	1.0000	0.9180	764,809	1,165,530
2010	578,284	1.0140	0.9309	621,228	1,083,361
2011	1,055,736	1.0349	0.9501	1,111,231	1,105,078
2012	1,436,614	1.0566	0.9700	1,481,075	1,088,074
2013	1,356,535	1.0738	0.9858	1,376,116	1,096,302
2014	1,195,955	1.0893	1.00	1,195,955	1,126,345

**Suppression obligations from FY 2005-FY 2011 have now been adjusted to remove cost pool and exclusive use aviation contract costs that should have been charged to Preparedness. This provides the ability to compare analogous numbers after rebaselining occurred for the obligations for FY 2012 and beyond.*

In Table 1 above, the net nominal suppression obligations are inflated to constant 2014 dollars to calculate the rolling 10-year average. This is accomplished by using the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) inflator and the GDP deflator together to calculate a factor that is then applied to the nominal suppression obligations to adjust them to constant 2014 dollars. The nominal suppression obligations are then divided by the GDP deflator to get the adjusted obligations (i.e., obligations converted to constant 2014 dollars), which are used to calculate the rolling 10-year average. The rolling 10-year average for a particular fiscal year is calculated by adding the adjusted obligations from that fiscal year to the previous nine years and dividing by 10.

[20] Abt, K.L., J.P. Prestemon, and K. Gebert. 2009. "Wildfire suppression cost forecasts for the US Forest Service". Journal of Forestry 107(4):173-178. Note: models have been and are continuously being updated since publication of this article, and only changes that result in improved fit statistics are used for the forecasts.

Table 2 – FY 2016 Forest Service Suppression Expenditure Forecast and Confidence Interval (CI)
(dollars in thousands)

	Median total Forest Service expenditure	Lower 90 Percent CI	Upper 90 Percent CI	70% of the 10-year Average	FY 2016 Proposed Cap Adjustment
FY 2016	$1,196,000	750,000$	$1,643,000	$788,442	$854,578

Funds within the budget cap adjustment will only be accessible for wildland fire suppression operations if a declaration has been issued by the Secretary of Agriculture that one or more of the following conditions are met:

- a fire has required an emergency Federal response based on significant complexity, severity, or threat posed to human life, property, or resource;
- the fire covers 1,000 acres or more;
- a fire is within 10 miles of a major urban area (defined as 50,000 inhabitants or more); or
- the cumulative costs of wildland fire suppression operations will exceed all of the amounts previously appropriated within 30 days.

Suppression is an "all-lands" program that funds activities to suppress wildland fires on or threatening National Forest System (NFS) lands, other Federal lands, and 20 million acres of non-Federal lands under fire protection agreements. Funding for Suppression enables the agency to respond to unplanned wildland fire incidents which threaten lives, property, and resources. Wildfires continue to become larger and more difficult to suppress due to the effects of a changing climate, persistent drought and hazardous fuels conditions, and the increased size and complexity of housing developments adjacent to the wildland-urban interface (WUI). Recognizing the costs associated with WUI suppression activities, the Forest Service will continue to aggressively pursue risk management measures including:

- focusing hazardous fuels funding for treatments in the WUI,
- using risk-informed, performance-based suppression strategies,
- clarifying roles and responsibilities in the WUI,
- using appropriate cost-share agreements, and
- deploying decision support tools.

The Forest Service and DOI are committed to restoring the resilience and diversity of fire-adapted ecosystems on the landscape, consistent with public safety needs. The agencies will identify, establish, and maintain necessary governance and risk management protocols that will guide program management and incident response by applying resources to reduce unnecessary risk to firefighter safety in the short-term and contribute to the long-term resiliency of fire-adapted ecosystems.

The Forest Service will expand efforts to manage wildfires to meet land management objectives. We will make a concerted effort to allow fire to return to the landscape when these fires will improve the health of the forest and when risks to safety and communities make doing so appropriate. Phase III of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy (Cohesive Strategy) involved the development of models that will better inform decision-makers and allow them to

understand the risks and trade-offs associated with wildland fire management decisions more fully.

Past Performance

The FY 2014 fire season was particularly challenging in California and the Pacific Northwest, both of which experienced above-normal fire activity. Location is the most important variable contributing to significance, severity, and cost of any wildfire. We believe it is important to look beyond national statistics and focus on regional and local data to understand the FY 2014 fire season. Wildfires that occur in California present unique challenges, given the population and infrastructure density in that State. Generally, fires that occur in or near communities or other values at risk are more costly than those in more remote areas. This is particularly the case in California because every fire that occurs there inevitably affects large population centers and requires extensive firefighting resources to manage, which results in disproportionately high costs as compared to fires in other areas of the country. For example, in FY 2014 we had five wildfires in California that cost in excess of $25 million and two fires that cost nearly $100 million each. In comparison, there were no fires in this cost range in other parts of the country in FY 2014. The continued severe drought in California magnified the challenges presented by high fuel loads and dry conditions, so any wildfire that occurred there had the potential to become a catastrophic event. Managing wildfires under these extreme conditions required substantial firefighting resources and full coordination of the entire wildland fire community, including State, local, and private partners.

The Pacific Northwest also experienced record levels of wildfire activity in FY 2014. There was a record-setting wildfire in the State of Washington, as well several lightning-induced high-frequency wildfire days. In FY 2014, the Pacific Northwest exceeded its 10-year average of number of fires and acreage burned by nearly 21 percent and 200 percent respectively.

To help analyze suppression costs on wildfires, the agency uses an efficiency measure that compares actual to expected suppression costs via a stratified cost index (SCI). The SCI is a set of predictive models based on historical large fire data from 1995 to 2004. This data set provides a baseline for comparison. The SCI estimates suppression costs for each fire utilizing several factors associated with suppression costs. In real time, the SCI compares expenditures for an individual incident to those of historical fires with similar characteristics (including fuel type, slope, elevation, and total housing value), thus increasing cost awareness and providing a basis for fire incident budgeting. Nationally, the SCI provides data we can evaluate for the entire fire season and trends to compare year-to-year. The percentage of incidents not contained in initial attack that exceeded the SCI in FY 2014 was 27 percent—a decrease from 34 percent in FY 2013.

We are continuing to refine the methodology used to calculate the SCI as we obtain more data and improve computational ability. Two of the main factors that may influence wildfire management cost outcomes are long-term ecological conditions and changing climatic conditions, neither of which are currently modelled within SCI. These factors can cause our management strategies to change for fires of similar characteristics that occur in different years since the potential outcomes can be drastically different. The SCI is a good indicator of cost alignment with previous similar incidents, but it is not an absolute measure of efficiency,

effectiveness, or overall performance. We will continue to develop new performance elements and improve the SCI calculation to enable us to more thoroughly analyze how our wildland fire management response decisions affect response outcomes.

In FY 2014, we also continued to implement risk management and fiscal accountability initiatives to help ensure that we have appropriate, risk informed, and effective responses to all wildland fires. We also continued to refine how large and complex wildfires are managed, focusing on improving risk management protocols and striving to increase incident management efficiency. In FY 2014, the National Incident Management Organization teams once again actively engaged national forests and local communities in risk assessment and the development of risk-informed decision making. Fire managers used the latest decision support tools, emerging technology, and localized knowledge to make decisions and measure the probability of success of those decisions to reduce risk while more effectively managing cost. The Forest Service will continue these efforts in FY 2016.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Suppression program provides the primary source of funding for wildfire response operations. The Forest Service is known for its excellence in emergency response and works in coordination with other Federal agencies, State, Tribal and local government partners to protect life and property against wildfire and other natural disasters. This program also protects the health of our forests and watersheds from the impacts of fires so that forests maintain their capacity to sequester and store carbon, mitigate climate change, and deliver benefits such as clean water, wildlife and fish habitat, and recreation opportunities. The Suppression program also helps to restore and maintain resilient landscapes through management of naturally ignited, unplanned wildfires on NFS lands and to accomplish resource management, ecological restoration, and fuels reduction goals where appropriate.

This program provides resources to efficiently respond to wildland fires on or threatening NFS lands and other Federal and non-Federal lands under fire protection agreements through a risk management decision-making framework in the context of the Cohesive Strategy. The program funds firefighter salaries and equipment in direct support of a fire incident, aviation asset operations, incident support functions, and fire management administration.

We also provide suppression resources to DOI incidents on a reciprocal non-reimbursement basis. In addition, the Suppression program funds personnel and resources for the following activities:

Attainment of Resource Benefits - Management of naturally ignited, unplanned wildland fires on NFS lands to accomplish resource management, ecological restoration, and fuels reduction goals consistent with the revised guidance for the implementation of the Federal wildland fire policy and land management plan direction.

Burned Area Emergency Response - Post-fire actions on NFS lands to prevent or minimize unacceptable erosion and loss of soil productivity, deterioration of water quality and downstream

damage, changes to ecosystem function, establishment of non-native invasive species, and degradation of cultural and natural resources.

Severity - Increasing readiness and response capability when predicted or actual burning conditions are extraordinary or are deemed imminent. This capability is also used during early or extended fire seasons.

Non-Fire Incident Response - Supports the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency through Forest Service participation in the National Response Framework and other activities authorized by the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5121, as amended).

The quality of decision-making on a fire incident determines outcomes of safety, cost, relationships, and environmental effects. All fires are managed in accordance with risk management protocols that emphasize firefighter and public safety and determine the most effective response to protect values at risk and achieve management objectives on NFS lands. The Forest Service utilizes the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) in managing wildfires. This system is structured to provide access to a suite of data and decision support tools and to document fire-management decisions and long-term operational plans when needed. Managers use the system to assess management options with regard to risk and tactical implementation strategies on wildland fires.

Allocation and Integration

The Forest Service allocates funds from the Suppression account only for active incident response. Wildland fire management is extremely complex and each fire is unique. Each incident is immediately evaluated and an incident risk analysis is completed. Costs for managing the fires will depend on the complexity and duration of the incident.

Partnerships

The Suppression program is a key component of implementing the Cohesive Strategy. The Cohesive Strategy, developed in FY 2010 with the final phase completed in April of 2014, is a national collaborative effort among wildland fire organizations, land managers, and policy-making officials representing Federal, State and local governments, Tribal interests, and nongovernmental organizations that builds on the successes of the National Fire Plan and other foundational documents.

The Cohesive Strategy is broad and national in scope meant to address wildland fire issues across the Nation. Together with our partners, we identified three key areas that present the greatest challenges and the greatest opportunities for making a positive difference in addressing our national wildfire issues:

- restoring and maintaining fire resilient landscapes,
- creating fire-adapted communities, and
- effectively responding to wildfire.

The wildland firefighting community is an interagency, inter-jurisdictional partnership because wildland fire crosses all boundaries. We maintain strong partnerships with other Federal

agencies, States, local government entities, and contractors. Mutual-aid response agreements are often at the State level, but may be created at the local level. We encourage our wildland firefighters to cross train with State and local forces to be familiar with their communications, equipment, and capabilities if and when a complex multi-party response incident occurs. These local partnerships are essential to ensure protection of life, property, and resources through appropriate, risk informed, and effective operations.

Hazardous Fuels

Budget Line Item	Hazardous Fuels (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Hazardous Fuels					
Annual Appropriations	$306,500	$361,749	$359,126	-$2,623	-1%
Hazardous Fuels Total	**306,500**	**361,749**	**359,126**	**-2,623**	**-1%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	1,910	2,254	2,254	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**1,910**	**2,254**	**2,254**	**0**	**0%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Hazardous Fuels						
Number of acres restored and maintained per million dollars gross investment.	3,649	4,490	3,800	4,234	4,000	4,000
Acres moved to a better condition class per million dollars gross investment.	944	1,018	1,005	1,106	1,000	1,000
Percent of treated acres identified in Community Wildfire Protection Plans or equivalent plans.	93.0%	85.4%	90.0%	77.3%	90.0%	80.0%
Acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) high-priority hazardous fuels treated	1,867,202	1,736,927	1,250,000	1,725,077	1,725,000	1,725,000

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $359,126,000 for Hazardous Fuels, a decrease of $2,623,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Funding of this program is a critical part of the Forest Service's toolbox to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, improve water quantity and quality, and increase carbon sequestration.

The Forest Service will expand its partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) by selecting additional projects under the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership to mitigate fire risk on Federal and non-Federal land in FY 2016. The Forest Service will also continue to focus on the most strategic acres for treatment, which are often the most expensive because they require mechanical treatment or a combination of mechanical treatment and prescribed fire. Funding will be used to treat approximately 1,725,000 acres of the highest priority areas in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). Fuels treatment cost per acre can be up to four times more expensive in the WUI than in non-WUI areas because most work is done mechanically, by hand crews, or with machinery.

Projects completed using Hazardous Fuels funds will support the goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy) by focusing on:

- strategically protecting communities (and associated lives, property, and public infrastructure) which are at the highest risk from damaging wildfire;
- providing a safer environment for wildland fire management operations; and
- supporting communities that are working to achieve Firewise standards, have identified acres to be treated in community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs) or equivalent plans, and have made an investment in implementing local solutions to protect against wildland fire.

As in FY 2015, this request includes $38,000,000 to fund nationally competitive projects that reduce the risk to communities and firefighters and increase the resilience of the forests. These funds will be targeted to areas of high risk near communities that are actively working on reducing their local fire risk.

In FY 2016, this program will continue to support the USDA Wood to Energy Initiative. Under the Wood Innovations Grant Program, the Forest Service will provide technical and financial assistance to projects so their proponents can leverage external funding, secure financing, and successfully compete for Rural Development's loans and grants. Funding will also support other facets of the Wood to Energy Initiative, including technical and financial assistance to facilitate conversion to wood energy in communities, air quality improvement through development of better combustion technology, and expanding the use of wood into new markets. Please refer to the Special Exhibit on Biomass and Bioenergy for further details.

Past Performance

In FY 2014, the Forest Service focused on evaluating the risk to communities and monitoring the effectiveness of fuels treatments to ensure we addressed the highest priority acres where risk could be reduced the most. The Hazardous Fuels program began developing and testing new performance measures designed to assess outcome-based results. One measure would assess the relative potential for a wildfire to become large and be difficult to contain, which may be represented as an index of wildfire potential. The other measure would assess the risk that wildfire presents to highly valued resources such as communities and watersheds. This second measure may be able to represent that a fire could have beneficial effects in some circumstances. With both measures, we endeavor to demonstrate landscape change over time. In FY 2015 we will continue to test the index of wildfire potential using the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program landscapes as a proving ground and seek opportunities to test and further develop the risk assessment measure. If successful, these measures could be implemented agency-wide in FY 2016.

In FY 2014, the Hazardous Fuels program treated more than 2.5 million acres on National Forest System (NFS) and adjacent lands both inside and outside the WUI. We targeted the highest priority areas for treatment, focusing on those areas where there are highly valued resources (like communities), where fire potential is high, and where risk can be most effectively mitigated. Assessments of fuel treatment effectiveness show that 84 percent of treatments were effective in changing fire behavior and/or helping to control wildfire in FY 2014. The Hazardous Fuels program helps to protect communities, lives, property, and public infrastructure, and important assets that are at the highest risk for damage from wildfire. The program strives to provide an environment where wildland fire can be managed more safely and effectively, and to create

healthy landscapes that help maintain our Nation's natural resource wealth and provide places for the public to visit.

Of the total acreage treated for hazardous fuels, the Forest Service field-verified that more than 188,000 acres burned by naturally ignited wildfires moved ecosystems toward specific desired conditions for forests and grasslands based on land management objectives identified in Land and Resource Management Plans or other planning documents. We reported these acres as part of the total Hazardous Fuels program accomplishment. We used tools such as satellite imagery and burn severity mapping, as well as site-specific data to assess the effects of each fire. Naturally-ignited fires that benefit ecosystems continue to be an important part of the total Hazardous Fuels program, and the acres treated each year vary with fire season activity.

In FY 2014, we also expanded partnerships with our Federal, state and private partners to reach across boundaries and address risk on a landscape scale. For example, the Forest Service and the NRCS initiated the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership. In FY 2014, 13 new partnership efforts across the country collaboratively implemented mitigation activities on Federal and non-Federal land to reduce wildfire threats to communities and landowners, protect water quality and supply for communities and industry, and improve habitat quality for at-risk or ecosystem surrogate species. We also worked closely with communities to identify their priority areas for treating hazardous fuels. Over 77 percent of the acres that we treated in the WUI were identified in areas covered by a CWPP or equivalent plan. The Forest Service continues to focus on targeting fuels treatments in those communities that are working to prepare for wildland fire, including by having a CWPP in place. We also work in cooperation with communities at risk to provide assistance and expertise in preparing such plans.

Wood Energy

In FY 2014, State and Private Forestry awarded $1.25 million in grants for wood energy projects and $2.5 million in cooperative agreements to establish 11 Statewide Wood Energy teams. This funding stimulates the use of low-value wood in areas of the country with significant forest restoration needs, especially areas of high wildfire risk. The funding promotes use of commercially proven technologies to produce heating, cooling, or electricity. Communities and businesses use the funding to complete the feasibility analyses, cost assessments, or engineering designs needed to obtain and leverage construction funding. The Forest Service also invested $3 million in strategic alliances that have successfully leveraged substantial non-Federal funding for wood energy initiatives.

Our continued focus on bioenergy and biobased products will result in secure, sustainable, renewable energy sources; strong rural economies; and more acres of hazardous fuels treated with less air pollution. Since 2005, this program has awarded over $45 million to over 170 grant recipients across the country, including small businesses, non-profits, Tribes, and State agencies. Forest Service employees and partners provide technical assistance to grant applicants and assist in the administration of the awarded grants.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Hazardous Fuels program restores forest health and reduces wildfire risks. Our Nation's ability to protect its forest and grassland resources is now at risk due to drought, the impacts of climate change, increasingly severe wildfires, and uncharacteristically large outbreaks of insects and disease. Such stresses and disturbances are impacting forests, grasslands, and watersheds on an unprecedented scale, causing millions of dollars in damage and limiting the ability to obtain economically viable products from our forests. There is an urgent need to increase the pace and scale of our restoration efforts and the Hazardous Fuels program is a linchpin in that effort. Healthy, resilient landscapes have greater capacity to adapt to and withstand natural disturbances and large scale threats to sustainability, especially under changing and uncertain future environmental conditions such as those created by climate change and increasing human use.

The Hazardous Fuels program reduces the quantity or changes the arrangement of living and dead vegetation in forests, woodlands, shrublands, and grasslands through prescribed burning, mechanical treatments, and other methods, to protect communities (and associated lives, property, and public infrastructure) and important assets which are at the highest risk from damaging wildfire; provides an environment where wildland fire can be managed more safely and effectively; and creates healthy landscapes that help maintain our Nation's wealth and provide places for the American public to visit and enjoy nature.

Hazardous fuels are treated using a wide range of tools with the goals of:

- reducing the spread, intensity, and severity of wildfire to protect lives and values at risk;
- restoring and maintaining the resilience of natural systems by reducing high fuel loads so that when wildfires do occur their ecological impacts are positive or neutral;
- increasing our capability to manage wildfire for resource benefits; and
- increasing options for safe and efficient wildfire management tactics that reduce the spread and impact of damaging wildfire.

While hazardous fuels projects can emit greenhouse gases, they also mitigate potentially greater quantities of emissions from uncharacteristic wildfire. Whether through prescribed fire or mechanical means, hazardous fuels treatment requires skilled workers, and this serves as an important source of jobs, especially in rural communities.

To measure success and allow for program evaluation, fuels treatment effectiveness assessments are completed for every wildfire that starts in or intersects with a fuels treatment area. These assessments increase our understanding of the effects of hazardous fuels treatments on fire behavior, severity, and suppression effectiveness and help direct program improvements that increase success. These assessments have also shown that fuel treatments sufficiently modify fire behavior to prevent loss of private property and to provide a safer working environment for fire management personnel. The agency is improving data availability by incorporating spatial data for fuel treatments into the Wildland Fire Management Decision Support System to help support wildfire incidents and inform risk management decisions.

The Hazardous Fuels program is a key component of implementing the Cohesive Strategy and will contribute to successful outcomes in restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes, creating fire adapted communities, and responding to wildfires by funding projects that restore forest landscape health and reduce wildfire risks to communities. Hazardous fuels reduction is often the most effective way to protect community values, restore forest and grassland health, improve firefighter and public safety, and potentially reduce large fire suppression costs.

Oak Creek Canyon Fuels Reduction
Coconino National Forest

Photo: Ted Grussing.

The spring 2014 human-caused Slide Fire in Oak Creek Canyon, Arizona covered 21,227 acres; however, only 3,115 acres burned at high intensity while more than 11,000 acres burned at low intensity or were unburned, mimicking the expected ecological effects in a healthy ponderosa pine forest. The Slide Fire could have been much more damaging, but pre-planning by communities and cooperating agencies, landscape-level treatment of fuels, and an effective wildfire response minimized the losses. Communities were actively pursuing the goals of their Community Wildfire Protection Plan, including hazardous fuels reduction. The Coconino NF treated thousands of acres of ponderosa pine to reduce fuel loadings and maintain these fire-adapted landscapes in a condition that more closely resembled their natural condition as maintained by frequent fires. Local resources responded effectively to this very aggressive fire, steering the fire away from communities toward areas that had previously been thinned and prescribed burned. Not only were they able to contain the fire, but the ecosystem will be healthier and the community more resilient in the long run.

Wood Energy

The Hazardous Fuels program currently funds biomass grants through the Wood Innovations Grant Program (formerly known as the "Woody Biomass Utilization Grant" program). Since FY 2005, the Hazardous Fuels program has provided funding to help build capacity for biomass utilization in support of fuels reduction and landscape restoration. These funds are implemented in coordination with Rural Development programs resulting in greater overall investment beyond the Forest Service budget. Using biomass residues from hazardous fuels treatments for renewable energy, instead of burning it in open piles, improves rural economic vitality, increases national energy security, reduces energy costs, and improves air quality. Expanding markets and demand for wood products, such as wood construction materials, can increase the market value for traditionally low-value wood, which in turn can offset hazardous fuels treatment costs.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program

The Hazardous Fuels program will provide approximately $3 million to fund the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) in New Mexico in FY 2015. CFRP provides grants to diverse stakeholder groups for projects that develop, demonstrate, and evaluate ecologically sound forest restoration techniques and small diameter utilization projects on Federal, Tribal, State, county, and municipal lands. Projects promote healthy watersheds, reduce the threat of high intensity wildfires, and improve forest ecosystem functions. A Federal Advisory Committee evaluates grant proposals and provides funding recommendations.

Allocation and Integration

The Forest Service will continue to use the Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System to allocate funds to the field, emphasizing areas where probability of fire is high, expected fire severity is high, and important values - particularly communities - are at risk. The FY 2015 national model will incorporate results from the most recent Large Fire Simulation Model to estimate probability of fire occurrence and expected fire severity for all National Forest System lands. These data, in combination with proximity of residential development and municipal watersheds, will help to identify areas where fire risk to communities and municipal water supplies is greatest. The Forest Service will prioritize investments in hazardous fuels treatment in high risk areas with CWPPs or equivalent plans and where communities have made an investment in mitigating risk.

Partnerships

In addition to the integrated efforts within the Forest Service, we use our authorities and the Hazardous Fuels program to work with outside partners to address wildland fire threats on other Federal, State, and private lands to:

- conduct fuel treatments on adjacent non-Federal lands,
- partner with local communities in the development of CWPPs,
- coordinate fuels treatment programs with NRCS and the Department of the Interior, and
- conduct treatments on National Forest System lands in cooperation with nongovernmental organizations.

Expanded partnerships and collaborative efforts increase treatment efficiencies and allow the agency to reduce costs, treat additional areas, and reduce the risk to communities. For example, national application of the Good Neighbor Authority will allow States to conduct hazardous fuels treatments on the national forests and grasslands when performing similar activities on adjacent sSate or private land.

Under the USDA Wood to Energy Initiative, Rural Development, State agencies (e.g. forestry, energy, and economic development), nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector have created partnerships through cooperative agreements funded by the Forest Service and other USDA agencies to expand wood energy opportunities in participating States. In 2013, USDA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Biomass Power Association, the Biomass Thermal Energy Council, the Pellet Fuels Institute, and the Alliance for Green Heat to expand wood energy use in the United States.

The budget also funds institutes established in the Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-317) to enhance our capacity to execute practical science-based forest restoration treatments that will reduce the risk of severe wildfires and improve the health of dry forest and woodland ecosystems in the Interior West.

Research and Development

Budget Line Item	Research and Development (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Research and Development					
Annual Appropriations	$19,795	$19,795	$19,820	$25	0%
Research and Development Total	**19,795**	**19,795**	**19,820**	**25**	**0%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	102	99	99	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**102**	**99**	**99**	**0**	**0%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Research and Development						
Customer satisfaction index score for R&D	79	79	79	79	79	79

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $19,820,000 for the National Fire Plan Research and Development (R&D), an increase of $25,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted level. The proposed budget will support fire research that informs management to reduce the negative impacts of wildland fire on human communities and protect and enhance the ecological benefits forests supply including clean water, recreational opportunities, fish and wildlife habitats, biological carbon sequestration, and forest products. Investments will continue to focus on partnerships that leverage Forest Service funding.

Past Performance

In FY 2014, National Fire Plan R&D program provided new tools in areas such as firefighter safety, national-level risk assessment, climate change and changing fire regimes, and fire effects on landscapes and human communities. A few key products delivered since implementation of these tools are summarized below.

Forest Service researchers collaborated with university partners to assess how projected regional climate change in the U.S. may affect the frequency of occurrence of weather conducive to extreme fire behavior. Using atmospheric moisture and temperature data obtained from regional climate model simulations of the current (1971–2000) and future (2041-2070) climates, scientists identified areas in the U.S. where future climate conditions may lead to more extreme wildfire behavior. Project results will help natural resource managers develop long-term plans that account for changing baseline conditions and the effects of regional climate change on extreme wildfire occurrence.

Forest Service scientists, in collaboration with university partners, explored the effects of vegetation, wind, slope, and crew characteristics on the location and size of safety zones and escape routes for wildland firefighters. The work has resulted in new understanding about how energy released from wildfires affects fire behavior and implications for firefighter and public safety.

Program Description

Program Overview

The program conducts research to support management of fire-affected landscapes to sustain forest health, to reduce the risk of damaging wildland fires in the context of changing social and physical environments, and to ensure public and firefighter safety. It supports vital wildland fire management and research activities for the benefit of land managers, policy makers, and the citizens of the United States. As a result of this research we develop and deliver information, products, and tools to help communities and homeowners mitigate fire risk, to restore fire-adapted ecosystems, and to support integrated, risk-based management.

The National Fire Plan R&D program is managed under a strategic plan that outlines five portfolio areas: 1) core fire science, 2) ecological and environmental fire science, 3) social fire science, 4) integrated fire and fuels management research, and 5) science application. This plan states that the goal of National Fire Plan R&D program is to provide the knowledge and tools that managers use to reduce the negative impacts and to enhance the beneficial effects of fire and fire management for society and the environment. These investments help fire managers, policy makers, and citizens to make scientifically sound wildfire and fuels management decisions; wisely invest fuel and fire expenditures to minimize the negative social, economic, and ecological impacts of fire; avoid environmental damage when dealing with fuel and fire risk problems; and develop effective community programs to speed the adoption of fire-safe construction and landscaping practices.

Overall, the National Fire Plan R&D program has implications for many highly important issues related to forested landscapes, including protection of timber and other natural resources; recreation; protection of communities, people, and wildlife in the wildland-urban interface; creation of resilient landscapes; and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The results of this research influence suppression spending, demonstrate and account for the effectiveness of hazardous fuels treatments, inform allocation of funding for fuels management and restoration, and reveal opportunities to utilize biomass from thinning treatments.

National Risk Assessment for the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

Forest Service Research and Development led an interdisciplinary team commissioned to provide analytical support and risk assessment for the development of the Cohesive Strategy. Using a structured risk assessment and decision, the science team worked with interagency partners (both Federal and non-Federal) to identify and explore alternative courses of wildland fire management activities and response, and to identify and implement options for leveraging resources to improve landscape resiliency, protect human communities, and enhance response to wildfire.

Allocation and Integration

Wildland Fire Strategic Program Area and Portfolio teams made up of Washington Office staff and research station representatives evaluate and recommend allocations of National Fire Plan R&D funds annually. The teams enhance integration and collaboration across stations on research focused in four major areas, including firefighting, rehabilitation and restoration, hazardous fuels reduction, and community assistance.

Partnerships

Partnerships with users and other research organizations are a fundamental component of Forest Service fire research. These partnerships include Federal agencies, a number of national forests, 90 U.S. colleges and universities, 30 nongovernmental organizations, more than 50 State and local governments, industry partners, and international organizations.

Joint Fire Science Program

Budget Line Item	Joint Fire Science Program (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Joint Fire Science Program					
Annual Appropriations	$6,914	$6,914	$6,917	$3	0%
Joint Fire Science Program Total	**6,914**	**6,914**	**6,917**	**3**	**0%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	11	13	13	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**11**	**13**	**13**	**0**	**0%**

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget, includes $6,917,000 for the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP), an increase of $3,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. This funding supports the development of important science and technology required to support the national research and development efforts focused on accounting for the effects of vegetation management to reduce hazardous fuels; establishing and maintaining resilient landscapes and human communities; and reducing harmful effects of wildfires on wildlife, atmospheric emissions, and other natural resources and ecosystem services. Forest Service Research and Development (Forest Service R&D) will continue to work jointly with the Department of the Interior in managing the JFSP and setting priorities. This funding will allow completion of an existing line of work related to smoke and emissions and the development of smaller lines of work potentially focused on the effectiveness of hazardous fuels programs and organizational effectiveness relative to social and behavioral economics. Additionally, the program will continue to invest heavily in fire science application and delivery and responsive research focused on addressing emerging needs of wildland fire managers.

Science Exchange Through Regional Consortia of Scientists and Land Managers

Forest Service scientists and partners continue to develop and enhance the JFSP Fire Science Exchange Network focused on partner involvement, translation of scientific and technical information into tools and products for field managers, and continuous adaptive feedback between the producers and consumers of fire science. Customer growth in the exchanges continues and currently reaches nearly 8,000 members across the United States. In 2014, the 15th science exchange consortia comprised 10 States in the North Atlantic region of the United States.

Past Performance

Forest Service R&D, along with partners, developed The Interagency Fuels Treatment Decision Support System, as a way for users to learn one interface, access a variety of data and models all in one place, and prepare the information and reports necessary for implementing fuel reduction and

restoration treatments. The system provides planners with the structure to reuse and share their work products and provide a consistent basic analysis framework for all users.

Forest Service R&D scientists from four research stations led a group of more than 90 interdisciplinary scientists to conduct the broad scale Prescribed Fire Combustion and Atmospheric Dynamics Research Experiment on Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. This field campaign targeted critical data requirements for developing and evaluating next-generation fire and smoke chemistry and transport models targeted for use by the wildland fire management and response communities.

Program Description

Program Overview

The JFSP is an interagency fire research and development partnership between the Departments of the Interior (DOI) and Agriculture. The JFSP contributes to sound decision-making and project implementation through credible research tailored to the needs of fire and fuel managers. Research projects compliment and build on other Federal research programs, such as those carried out by the Forest Service, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Department of Defense, and other research partners. Synthesis of research findings and targeted delivery to managers are essential components of the program. The JFSP supports research, tool development, and science application related to specific emphasis areas defined by Congress. These areas include: 1) fuel inventory and mapping; 2) fuel treatment scheduling and risk assessment; 3) fire effects and fire behavior; monitoring and evaluation; 4) restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems; 5) post-fire stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration; 6) remote sensing; and 7) developing and integrating research information for local land managers. Land managers use results from JFSP projects to plan and implement fuels treatments, support fire management decisions, restore lands affected by fire, and meet regulatory requirements. More information can be found at http://www.firescience.gov.

Allocation and Integration

Funding priorities and policies are set by the JFSP governing board with representatives from the DOI and the Forest Service. Proposals are accepted for topics determined annually by the governing board. Allocations are determined by the board following a competitive peer review of submitted proposals. The reviews are conducted by land managers, technical specialists, and scientists, resulting in approximately 20 percent of research proposals receiving funding.

Partnerships

The JFSP is a partnership-based program. The governing board has representatives from the Forest Service and five DOI agencies. The program office is staffed with personnel from both the DOI and the Forest Service. The JFSP collaborates with other governmental and nongovernmental entities including more than 90 colleges and universities. In all, the JFSP has engaged nearly 200 organizations in its research.

State Fire Assistance

Budget Line Item	State Fire Assistance (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
State Fire Assistance					
Annual Appropriations	$78,000	$78,000	$78,012	$12	0%
State Fire Assistance Total	**78,000**	**78,000**	**78,012**	**12**	**0%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	69	50	50	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**69**	**50**	**50**	**0**	**0%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
State Fire Assistance						
Communities at risk from wildfire assisted - NFP (number)	9,946	7,576	12,180	10,141	12,500	12,800

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $78,012,000 for the State Fire Assistance (SFA) program, an increase of $12,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Funding of this program is a critical part of the Forest Service's toolbox to reduce the risk of wildland fire to communities, residents, property, and firefighters. The efforts of State, local, and private landowners are key to reducing these risks and help to leverage the parallel efforts of Federal wildland fire agencies.

The agency will focus funds on assisting communities to become fire adapted by conducting hazardous fuel mitigation projects, planning and preparing for wildland fire, creating defensible space in and around communities, and obtaining equipment to respond to and mitigate fire. States will report data on an annual basis to document accomplishments in these focus areas. Additionally, program reviews will be conducted on an annual, rotating basis among Forest Service regions to determine program effectiveness.

To help ensure funds are focused on the highest priority projects, we will continue to issue program direction encouraging states to focus program funds on areas and communities that are working to become fire adapted, as contemplated in the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. A portion of funding will continue to be allocated for competitive projects that help create more Fire Adapted Communities through the completion of community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs) and hazardous fuel reduction projects. Competitive projects are selected through a rigorous application process that is managed by the State Foresters in

consultation with the Forest Service. Proposed projects are then screened by an expert panel and ranked prior to final project selections.

Past Performance

In FY 2014, the State Fire Assistance (SFA) program focused on mitigating the risk of wildland fire in communities, particularly those communities taking an active role in preparing and planning for wildland fire. In the West, 84 percent of the wildland-urban interface (WUI) is yet undeveloped; however, since 1990, 60 percent of new homes nationwide in the United States were built in the WUI.[21] We work proactively with these communities to help them become "fire adapted", or well-prepared for wildland fire. This proactive approach is integral to reducing suppression costs and to ultimately restoring wildlands to functionality and fire-resiliency. The SFA program provided $6,673,668 of funding to support 3,117 risk assessments and fire management planning projects in 2,222 communities in FY 2014.

Fire Adapted Communities

Photo: Frank Riley, Chestatee/Chattahoochie RC&D

SFA funds are supporting the Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) approach as outlined in the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, emphasizing mitigation as a shared responsibility by federal, State, local, and private stakeholders, and thereby helping individual communities become fire adapted. Towns County, Georgia, one of the hub communities in the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, is increasing engagement in FAC activities by the local community, governmental, non-profit organizations and local businesses. For more information visit: http://townscountyfireprevention.wordpress.com/ and http://facnetwork.org

Another key component of mitigating risk, especially in the rapidly-developing WUI, is prioritizing and treating hazardous fuels at the landscape scale. For example, research shows that the $300,000 spent on mitigation work prior to the Waldo Fire in Colorado helped to avoid over $77 million in losses from the fire.[22] The SFA program provides Federal assistance in treating fuels on state and private lands, which make up most of the WUI. In FY 2014, SFA provided $20,936,145 for hazardous fuels treatments in the WUI, directly paying for the treatment of 111,002 acres of hazardous fuels and leveraging treatment of another 120,241 acres with in-kind partner support. These projects lowered risk in 1,557 communities. In addition, over 9,972 SFA prevention and education programs conducted in FY 2014 benefitted 5,482 communities.

In FY 2014, SFA also focused on preparedness of state and local firefighting resources, to enable them to effectively address all hazard events, as well as respond to wildland fire situations, including those on Federal lands. Close to 65 million acres of WUI are adjacent to or near

[21] *Headwaters Economics. "Reducing Wildfire Risks to Communities; Solutions for Controlling the Pace, Scale and Pattern of Future Development in the Wildland-Urban Interface". Fall 2014. http://headwaterseconomics.org/wphw/wp-content/uploads/paper-reducing-wildfire-risk.pdf.*

[22] *Quarles, Leschak, Cowger, Worley, Brown and Iskowitcz. "Lessons Learned from Waldo Canyon: Fire Adapted Communities Mitigation Assessment Team Findings". 2013. http://www.fireadapted.org/~/media/Fire%20Adapted/Images/News%20Images/Waldo-Canyon-Rpt-FINAL-shrunk%203.pdf.*

National Forest System lands and local firefighters are often the first on the scene of a wildland fire. In FY 2014, the SFA program supported $14,171,220 in preparedness activities and $10,890,950 in suppression operations. In addition, SFA funded the training of 85,965 firefighters and invested $5,912,156 in the purchase, maintenance, and rehabilitation of needed firefighting equipment for state agencies. In total, SFA assisted 10,141 communities in FY 2014.

The Forest Service FY 2014 Fire-Adapted Communities program, a component of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy) designed to reduce risks in WUI areas, also received significant support through SFA funding. Examples of these national level partnerships and agreements include:

- the wildfire prevention campaign with the Ad Council;
- the fire adapted communities public awareness campaign with the Ad Council, http://fireadapted.adcouncil.org;
- support of the International Association of Fire Chief's Ready, Set, Go! programs with 1,251 fire departments in 48 States, www.wildlandfiresg.org;
- support of the National Fire Protection Association's Firewise program with 1,100 recognized Firewise Communities, www.Firewise.org;
- support of The Nature Conservancy's and the Watershed Center's Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network with 18 hubs nationwide built upon multi-jurisdictional collaboration at the local level, http://facnetwork.org;
- expanding partnerships with national, state, and local organizations and non-governmental organizations that leverage funding and support for fire-adapted communities, including the Institute for Business and Home Safety and a growing number of insurance companies;
- development of the Wildland Fire Assessment Program training through the National Volunteer Fire Association to help volunteer fire departments in the WUI areas conduct needed assessments; and
- support of The Nature Conservancy Fire Learning Network, a coalition of hundreds of partners in 30 landscapes across the country that work together in regional collaborative networks, and work locally to promote the resiliency and restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems across the country.

Funding to States through SFA fluctuates from year-to-year depending on the type and costs of the individual projects that the States choose to implement. For example, States with relatively expensive priority projects generally accomplish fewer projects and therefore assist fewer overall communities. States that spread the funds across a larger number of communities to accomplish less expensive priority projects assist a greater total number of communities. The Forest Service strongly encourages States to focus their efforts on the objectives of the Cohesive Strategy - creation of fire adapted communities, landscape restoration, and wildfire response - and encourages the States to focus funds on areas covered by CWPPs or equivalent plans.

Program Description

Program Overview

The SFA program provides financial assistance through partnership agreements with State Foresters for fire management activities. SFA funds are directed toward helping communities

become fire adapted by conducting hazardous fuel mitigation projects, planning and preparing for wildland fire, creating defensible space in and around communities, and obtaining equipment to respond to and mitigate fire. This program maximizes cross-jurisdictional partnerships to help homeowners and communities in fire-prone areas take responsibility for fire protection. Helping communities become more fire adapted reduces the risk and cost of large wildfires. More than 46 million homes in the United States, representing 40 percent of U.S. housing units, are located in fire-prone WUI areas, and this number is expected to climb in coming years. The SFA program's focus on the Fire Adapted Communities approach helps communities take more responsibility for their wildfire risk and implement appropriate actions to address safety of residents, homes, neighborhoods, businesses and infrastructure, forests, parks, open spaces, and other community assets. Creating communities that are more fire adapted reduces suppression and structural protection costs, while also increasing firefighter and civilian safety.

The SFA program funding helps Federal, state, and local agencies implement a pre-fire strategy and deliver a cohesive suppression response to wildfire. This program emphasizes pre-fire planning in the WUI and hazardous fuels mitigation near communities at risk of catastrophic wildfire in order to create communities more adapted to fire. Training funded by SFA, also part of the Fire Adapted Communities strategy, builds capacity to provide effective initial attack response to wildfire. The first responders on almost 75 percent of wildfires are local fire departments or state agencies.

Allocation and Integration

SFA funding is distributed to the State Foresters to assist them in improving wildfire response, creating fire adapted communities, and restoring and maintaining landscapes. A base level of funding is provided to the State Foresters to maintain and enhance coordination and communication with Federal agencies, as well as supply needed performance data. Funding allocations take into consideration the number of wildland fires, amount of homes and area within the WUI, treatment cost per acre, and the amount of non-Federal land. State Foresters make determinations about how best to direct funding to target the highest priority needs in their State, as suggested in their State Forest Action Plans and through other strategic documents. A percentage of these funds are also used on a competitive basis for hazard mitigation projects.

Partnerships

The SFA program is delivered through partnerships with States, local agencies, local communities, and other organizations such as Fire Safe Councils and funds are leveraged on at least a 1:1 basis. These groups can then participate actively in protecting their communities from wildland fire and ensuring adequate resources are available for wildland fire response.

Volunteer Fire Assistance

Budget Line Item	Volunteer Fire Assistance (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Volunteer Fire Assistance					
Annual Appropriations	$13,025	$13,000	$13,000	0	0%
Volunteer Fire Assistance Total	**13,025**	**13,000**	**13,000**	**0**	**0%**
Annual Appropriations FTEs	0	0	0	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0%**

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Volunteer Fire Assistance						
Number of Volunteer fire departments assisted - NFP (number)	6,120	6,427	8,120	11,018	8,500	8,700

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $13,000,000 for the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program, the same as the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Funding of this program is a critical part of the Forest Service's ability and capacity to reduce the risk of wildland fire to communities, residents, property, and firefighters.

The program will provide matching financial assistance to approximately 8,500 rural communities (less than 10,000 people per community) to build and maintain fire suppression capacity by creating new, or strengthening existing, volunteer fire departments. The Forest Service will work with states to help ensure funds are focused on the highest priorities and in areas with communities that are working to become fire adapted. States will also continue to report how program funds were utilized by eligible volunteer fire departments on an annual basis. Additionally, program reviews will be conducted on an annual rotating basis among Forest Service regions to determine program effectiveness.

Past Performance

Where little or no fire protection is available, the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program assists in organizing, training, and equipping communities to provide for their basic protection. There are over 26,000 rural and predominantly volunteer fire departments nationwide. In recent years, fewer citizens are available or willing to serve in this volunteer capacity and small rural communities often lack the resources to properly equip and train these firefighters. Rural Fire Departments represent the first line of defense in addressing fires and other emergencies in rural

areas and communities and they provide nearly 80 percent of initial attack on wildland fires in the United States – including fires on Federal lands. Without the cooperation of Rural Fire Departments we would be unable to provide the level of fire response needed to keep fires near communities small.

In FY 2014 our investments in VFA were targeted to the areas of highest risk and greatest need by States to assist volunteer fire departments in 11,018 communities; train 16,371 firefighters; expand or organize 182 fire departments; and purchase, rehabilitate and maintain $6,119,234 in equipment. The number of volunteer fire departments assisted fluctuates annually depending on the types and cost of individual projects the States choose to implement.

The Forest Service strongly encourages the States to focus their efforts on the objectives of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy: creation of fire-adapted communities, landscape restoration, and wildfire response.

Program Description

Program Overview

Through the VFA program, the Forest Service provides technical and financial assistance (through the States) to local volunteer fire departments serving communities with a population of 10,000 or less to protect state and private forestlands threatened by wildfire. The VFA program is delivered through the State Foresters and supports local fire preparedness and suppression efforts by providing grants for equipment, training programs, and technical assistance in organizing or expanding volunteer fire departments. More than 1.5 billion acres in the United States are privately owned or owned by state and local governments and basic fire protection on these lands is the responsibility of state and local entities. Loss of human lives, natural resources, crops, homes, facilities, and rural businesses by fires can displace people, eliminate jobs, and further depress rural communities due to loss of community tax bases. The VFA Program helps to enhance stability of rural areas by reducing these losses. Volunteer fire departments that protect communities of less than 10,000 inhabitants from wildfire are eligible for this program, and the VFA program assists them in becoming better prepared to respond to wildfire. Local fire agencies are often the first to respond to wildfire, but often lack the financial and technical resources to obtain the equipment and training necessary to ensure safe and effective wildfire response. Volunteer fire departments also play a key role in educating their jurisdictions about fire adaptation and the need for mitigation, along with meeting expanded fire protection needs within the wildland-urban interface (WUI).

Grants are matched dollar-for-dollar by the recipients to maximize the value of Federal investment. Program funding helps Federal, state, and local agencies deliver a uniform and coordinated suppression response to wildfire by training, equipping, and organizing volunteer fire departments. Through this program, the Forest Service provides support that better enables local communities in rural areas to prepare for, mitigate, and respond to natural and human-caused fires prior to the fires spreading to lands managed by other jurisdictions. All of these initiatives work together to create more fire-adapted communities, an important Forest Service effort that will reduce the risk, cost, and impact of wildfires.

Allocation and Integration

Allocation of funds takes into account the number of volunteer fire departments; number of state wildland fires; number of Forest Service wildland fires; and the number of communities with populations equal to, or less than, 10,000. State Foresters determine which volunteer fire departments within their State should receive priority for VFA funding, utilizing their State Forest Action Plans and other strategic documents.

Partnerships

The VFA program directly supports local fire suppression initial attack efforts by providing technical assistance grants for training and fire department development. The program supports volunteer fire programs throughout the country in rural areas with populations of less than 10,000 people.

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FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund

Appropriation	FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund (dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**	**Percent of Program Changes**
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund					
Annual Appropriations	$315,000	$303,060	0	-$303,060	-100%
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund Total	**315,000**	**303,060**	**0**	**-303,060**	**-100%**
Annual Appropriation FTEs	0	0	0	0	0%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0%**
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund					
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund	315,000	303,060	0	-303,060	-100%

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes no funding for the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement (FLAME) Act account, a decrease of $303,060,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. This request provides Suppression funding equal to 70 percent of the 10-year average, which reflects the level of spending associated with suppressing 99 percent of wildfires. In addition, the Budget includes up to $841 million to be available under a disaster funding cap adjustment to meet suppression needs above the base appropriation. Additional information on funding for wildfire suppression and the proposed cap adjustment can be found in the Wildland Fire Management chapter.

Past Performance

The Forest Service received authorization and funding in the FLAME account in FY 2014. During the FY 2014 fire season we experienced above average wildfire activity in Northern California and the Pacific Northwest while the remainder of the country experienced average or below average activity. The most significant fire activity occurred in August, during which there were several times where nearly 20,000 firefighters were supporting wildfire incidents. Although we never reached the highest preparedness level of 5 nationally, the Pacific Northwest was at this level for 30 days and Northern California for more than 10 days. Maintaining this high level of activity required significant financial resources and so the Secretary of Agriculture issued a declaration on August 18, 2014 that all funds in the FLAME account be transferred due to the imminent exhaustion of funds within the Suppression account.

The Forest Service will issue an annual report that describes the obligations and expenditures of amounts transferred from the FLAME account in FY 2014, as required by the FLAME Act.

Program Description

Background

The FLAME Act of 2009 was authorized in P.L. 111-88, as part of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Program Overview

The FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund is a separate Treasury account and distinct appropriation providing funds to cover fires escaping initial attack (response) that are sufficiently large and complex or when the Suppression account is expected to be completely obligated. It is intended to address the impacts of increasing wildfire suppression costs and their effects on other agency programs. These funds are available to the Secretary of Agriculture to be transferred into the Suppression account.

Permanent Appropriations

	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Brush Disposal				
New Budget Authority	$8,062	$8,700	$8,700	0
Program Level	8,715	8,500	8,500	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	63	62	62	0
Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research				
New Budget Authority	3	30	60	30
Program Level	66	46	46	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Timber Salvage Sales				
New Budget Authority	33,152	20,000	20,000	0
Program Level	20,746	22,000	22,000	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	207	215	215	0
Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration				
New Budget Authority	4,897	5,400	5,700	300
Program Level	2,987	6,400	6,400	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	24	41	41	0
Forest Botanical Products				
New Budget Authority	1,482	1,500	1,500	0
Program Level	1,553	2,000	2,000	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	20	24	24	0
Stewardship Contracting				
New Budget Authority	11,159	14,000	14,000	0
Program Level	9,669	15,000	14,000	-1,000
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Recreation Fees, Forest Service				
New Budget Authority	70,690	65,225	66,625	1,400
Program Level	71,285	75,175	75,575	400
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	576	599	597	-2
Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction				
New Budget Authority	2,000	2,000	2,000	0
Program Level	883	1,000	1,000	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	1	1	1	0
Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters				
New Budget Authority	8,041	7,200	7,100	-100
Program Level	8,683	9,000	8,100	-900
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	21	21	20	-1

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes
Roads and Trails for States				
New Budget Authority	17,354	17,000	17,000	0
Program Level	0	0	0	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Land Between the Lakes Management				
New Budget Authority	4,175	4,200	4,200	0
Program Level	4,753	4,200	4,200	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	11	10	10	0
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fee				
New Budget Authority	4	600	600	0
Program Level	299	600	600	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Restoration				
New Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Program Level	0	0	0	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Quinault Special Management Area				
New Budget Authority	0	2	2	0
Program Level	3	5	5	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Valles Caldera Fund				
New Budget Authority	482	600	0	-600
Program Level	733	600	0	-600
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Restoration of Forest Lands & Improvements				
New Budget Authority	2,213	13,000	13,000	0
Program Level	27,408	51,400	47,400	-4,000
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	110	172	163	-9
Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention				
New Budget Authority	625	554	544	-10
Program Level	422	841	780	-61
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	5	5	5	0
Organizational Camps Programs				
New Budget Authority	964	600	600	0
Program Level	466	700	700	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	5	5	5	0
Cost Recovery (Administration of Rights-of-Way)				
New Budget Authority	5,374	5,200	5,200	0
Program Level	5,185	6,900	5,400	-1,500
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	42	49	42	-7

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes
Licensee Program Smokey Bear				
New Budget Authority	70	100	100	0
Program Level	14	120	120	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Licensee Program Woodsy Owl				
New Budget Authority	1	6	6	0
Program Level	3	12	12	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation)				
New Budget Authority	66	69	70	1
Program Level	10	67	70	3
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Conveyance of Administrative Sites				
New Budget Authority	9,487	9,400	9,400	0
Program Level	4,238	6,000	6,000	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	4	5	5	0
Site-Specific Lands Acts				
New Budget Authority	1,115	2,400	2,400	0
Program Level	7,466	5,600	3,900	-1,700
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	2	2	2	0
Payment to States				
New Budget Authority	337,447	77,150	316,000	238,850
Program Level	325,690	77,150	316,000	238,850
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	78	0	78	78
Permanent Funds New Budget Authority	**518,863**	**254,936**	**494,807**	**239,871**
Permanent Funds Program Level	**501,277**	**293,316**	**522,808**	**229,492**
Permanent Funds Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**1,169**	**1,211**	**1,270**	**59**

Brush Disposal

Budget Line Item	Brush Disposal (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes
Permanent Funds				
Brush Disposal				
New Budget Authority	$8,062	$8,700	$8,700	0
Program Level	8,715	8,500	8,500	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	63	62	62	0

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Brush Disposal						
Acres of harvest related woody fuels treated	51,852	73,813	73,000	63,420	70,000	70,000

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $8,500,000 for the Brush Disposal fund, the same level as the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Funding will be used to treat an estimated 70,000 acres of woody debris resulting from timber harvesting on the national forests.

Past Performance

The disposal of unmerchantable material upon completion of timber harvest not only reduces hazardous fuel loading, but it is necessary for maintaining, improving forest health conditions. In some instances this treatment facilitates site preparation for tree planting or seed dispersal. In FY 2014, 63,420 acres were treated to remove woody debris associated with timber harvesting on national forests. This is slightly lower than estimated due to increased costs associated with brush disposal activities to meet environmental constraints and desired objectives as disclosed in National Environmental Policy Act documentation for projects. The ability to dispose of unwanted slash and debris generated by commercial timber sales depends on availability of the units for treatment, weather and fuel conditions, smoke management prescriptions, and geographical location. Brush disposal treatments where prescribed fire is the preferred alternative requires optimal environmental conditions to achieve desired objectives and must follow strict burning parameters and guidelines.

Authorities

The Brush Disposal Act of August 11, 1916, as amended (16 U.S.C. 490). This Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to require purchasers of national forest timber to deposit the estimated cost to dispose of brush and other debris resulting from their cutting operations.

Program Description

Program Overview

This program provides for the disposal of unmerchantable brush and other debris resulting from timber harvest operations. Timber harvest activities create logging slash which, when left untreated, can increase the risk of fire, impair reforestation, and contribute to the buildup of insect populations. Logging slash can be mechanically treated by scattering, chipping, or crushing down with logging equipment and allowed to decay. The treatment selected depends upon the amount of debris generated, as well as the relative fire hazard created. Slash can also be subjected to broadcast burning or collected into piles and burned during non-hazardous weather conditions.

Timber sale operators can perform the required work, or they can request that the agency complete this work by depositing funds to cover these costs. Brush Disposal funding comes from deposits required of timber purchasers and is used only on timber sale areas.

Allocation and Integration

The allocation of Brush Disposal funds responds to each region's assessment of budget authority required to accomplish necessary treatments. These treatments are integrated with hazardous fuel reduction treatments outside timber sale areas to achieve optimal progress toward agency forest health and fire hazard reduction goals.

Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research

Budget Line Item	Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research				
New Budget Authority	$3	$30	$60	$30
Program Level	66	46	46	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $46,000 for the Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research fund, the same level as FY 2015 Enacted Budget. The permit holder in 2013-2014 ceased operations and went out of business. A new permit holder/lessee is being sought for the mill and shop facilities. Funds received from fees will provide for the operation and maintenance of the Wood Education and Resource Center, which includes an office building, training annex, rough mill, and wood shop.

Past Performance

In FY 2014, no fees were collected from lessee rent. The permit holder/lessee for 2013-2014 went out of business. Annual collections for this fund can vary for several reasons, including potential escalating monthly payments built into the special use permit, fee adjustments due to market and business conditions, vacant rental/lease space and collection challenges. FY 2013 was the last year rent was collected, at a level of $5,000.

Authorities

P.L. 106–113, div. B, §1000(a)(3) [Title III, §332], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1535, 1501A–197. Title 16 – Conservation; Chapter 36 - Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning, Subchapter II – Research; Sec. 1650 - Hardwood technology transfer and applied research. This Act provides authority for the Wood Education and Resource Center to conduct technology transfer and development, training, dissemination of information, and applied research in the management, processing and utilization of the hardwood forest resource. The Act authorizes the generation of revenue and funds to be deposited into a special fund in the U.S. Treasury, known as the Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research fund, which shall be available until expended, without further appropriation, in furtherance of the purposes stated in the Act

including upkeep, management, and operation of the Wood Education and Resource Center and the payment of salaries and expenses.

Program Description

The Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research fund allows for funds to be collected from leasing the wood shop and rough mill under a special use permit and are used to pay for utilities, salaries, repairs and maintenance expenses. While the majority of the funds are generated from lessee rent, a portion of the funds may be derived from machine/timeshare rentals for start-up wood businesses and workshop fees.

Timber Salvage Sales

Budget Line Item	Timber Salvage Sales (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes
Permanent Funds				
Timber Salvage Sales				
New Budget Authority	$33,152	$20,000	$20,000	0
Program Level	20,746	22,000	22,000	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	207	215	215	0

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Timber Salvage Sales						
Volume of salvage timber sold (million board feet (MMBF))	306	329	250	409	300	300

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $22,000,000 for the Timber Salvage Sales fund, which is the same level as the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. The funding will be used to analyze, prepare, and offer new salvage sales while administering salvage timber sales awarded in the recent past. Salvage sale treatments primarily follow recent fire and insect outbreaks. In FY 2016 the Forest Service expects to sell approximately 300 MMBF (million board feet). The volume outcome from this permanent fund is included in the unified volume sold target displayed under the Integrated Resource Restoration budget line item for FY 2015 and FY 2016.

Past Performance

In FY 2014, the agency sold 409 million board feet from timber salvage sales. This 80 million board feet increase from last year is due largely to salvage volume from the Rim Fire area in Region 5. Additional amounts have also come from natural mortality within the Big Thorne stewardship contract in Region 10.

Authorities

The National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a (h)). This Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to require purchasers of salvage timber to make monetary deposits in a designated Treasury fund to cover the costs for sale preparation and administration, and the

engineering design and administration of any needed roads necessary for the harvesting of salvage timber. Funds are available until expended.

Program Description

Program Overview

Salvage sales permit the timely removal of fire damaged, insect damaged, and diseased trees to aid in developing healthy and resilient forest stands. The Timber Salvage Sale program collects revenues from the sale of timber from dead and dying trees to prepare and administer future salvage timber sales, including the provision of engineering support. These revenues are deposited into the Timber Salvage Sale fund and are available to immediately respond to timber salvage opportunities. The removal of fire-damaged, diseased and insect-infested timber through timber sale contracts is a valuable tool to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildland fires and other hazards associated with dead or dying trees. Timely salvage sales also help maximize the recovery of timber product value that would otherwise be lost. Through the collection of Knutson-Vandenberg Act funds, timber salvage sales can also provide for restoration of an affected area.

Allocation and Integration

Timber Salvage Sale funds are allocated based upon the amount of cash available in regional salvage accounts and the relative need for treatment each fiscal year. In addition to the Timber Salvage Sale fund, timber sales are funded through regular appropriations and other special authorities, including the Timber Sale Pipeline Restoration fund, the Knutson-Vandenberg fund, and the Stewardship Contracting fund. All of these funds may receive a portion of the revenues received from timber sales.

Partnerships

Effective implementation of this program requires partnership with local timber industries, since timber processing infrastructure located close to the national forests facilitates salvage timber sales. Without this infrastructure, these sales may not be economically viable, and removal of this material not possible.

Timber Sale Pipeline Restoration

Budget Line Item	Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes
Permanent Funds				
Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration				
New Budget Authority	$4,897	$5,400	$5,700	$300
Program Level	2,987	6,400	6,400	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	24	41	41	0

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration Fund						
Volume of pipeline timber prepared (million board feet (MMBF))	211	242	225	307	242	275

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $6,400,000 for the Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration fund, the same level as the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Specific program funding within this request is as follows:

Timber Sale Pipeline Sale Preparation - The FY 2016 President's Budget includes funding for the timber sales pipeline preparation. The timber sale pipeline represents the queue of timber being prepared for future sales. Sales being prepared with this funding will contributed approximately 275 million board feet (MMBF) of timber volume sold towards the unified volume sold target displayed under the Integrated Resource Restoration budget line item for FY 2015 and FY 2016.

Timber Sale Pipeline Recreation Backlog - The FY 2016 President's Budget includes funding for the backlog of recreation maintenance projects. Emphasis will be placed on repairs to correct health and safety deficiencies, reductions in the backlog of deferred maintenance at priority recreation sites as identified in forests' Recreation Facility Analyses, and maintenance of system trails. Specific use of these funds include addressing the backlog of trail maintenance on three national forests in the Southern Region, asbestos removal and an electrical upgrade to the Sylvania day use facilities in the Eastern Region, and the replacement of a historical facility in the Pacific Northwest Region.

Past Performance

In FY 2014, 307 MMBF of timber pipeline volume was prepared for offer in future fiscal years. Outputs associated with the recreation backlog projects are combined and reported under the Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Facilities and Trails programs. Recreation projects included the decommissioning of recreation facilities on multiple national forests in the Southern Region and recreation facilities and trail improvements activities on several national forests in the Eastern Region.

Authorities

Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-134, Sec. 101 (c), [title III Sec. 327], April 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 1321-206 and 207). The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to collect and deposit revenues from a specific set of timber sales (i.e., sales released under P.L. 104-19, [title II, Sec. 2001(k)], July 27, 1995) for the purpose of preparing timber sales and addressing the backlog of recreation projects. Revenues from the sale of timber prepared using these funds are also deposited into this fund and are available for preparation of additional timber sales and recreation backlog projects.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration Fund contributes to many land and resource management objectives, such as improving forest health, restoring wildlife habitat, and providing forest products to meet local and national needs. In addition, the Fund helps to address health and safety issues in recreation facilities and on system trails, benefiting the recreating public by addressing maintenance issues that may cause harm or otherwise detract from the outdoor experience. These activities are aligned with the agency's watershed improvement goals and ensure forest and grasslands are conserved, restored, and made more resilient to climate change.

The following programs are included in the Fund:

Timber Sale Pipeline Sale Preparation – Seventy-five percent of the Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration funds are used for the preparation of future non-salvage timber sales to restore the timber sales pipeline volume. This activity provides for the National Environmental Policy Act analysis to meet long-term forest health and desired condition objectives, determination of the volume and value of the trees to be removed, and timber sale layout and design necessary for future timber sales. Expenditures may also include the necessary planning and design for the associated timber roads.

Recreation Backlog - Twenty-five percent of the Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration funds are expended on backlog recreation facility projects and system trails. This activity includes maintenance and improvement of recreation sites, system trails, bridges, and trailheads.

Allocation and Integration

Funding is allocated to the field each year based upon the actual prior year collections from qualifying timber sales, with 75 percent of the net receipts collected in each region returned to the region for additional timber sales pipeline preparation work, and the remaining 25 percent used for the recreation backlog.

In addition to this fund, timber sales are funded through the National Forest System, Integrated Resource Restoration budget line item as well as the Salvage Sale Fund and the Knutson-Vandenberg Trust Fund. Recreation facility and trail projects are also funded through the Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Facilities, Trails, and Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement budget line items, the Legacy Roads and Trails activity in Integrated Resource Restoration, and the Permanent Appropriation, Recreation Fees, Forest Service fund.

Partnerships

Effective implementation of this program requires partnership with local timber industries. Without the necessary infrastructure, timber sales might not be economically viable, and associated projects that contribute to resource management objectives could not occur.

The agency accomplishes valuable recreation facility and trails work by leveraging funds and in-kind contributions through many partnerships. The Forest Service engages volunteers, concessionaires, and other partners to enhance recreation experiences and help maintain nearly 70 percent of agency owned recreation sites. Trail crews are one of the primary means for the Forest Service to employ young adults and partner with local communities and interest groups.

Forest Botanical Products

Budget Line Item	Forest Botanical Products (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes
Permanent Funds				
Forest Botanical Products				
New Budget Authority	$1,482	$1,500	$1,500	0
Program Level	1,553	2,000	2,000	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	20	24	24	0

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Forest Botanical Products						
Sold value of forest botanical products	$1,633,714	$1,450,419	$1,700,000	$1,564,200	$2,046,000	$1,700,000

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $2,000,000 for the Forest Botanical Products Pilot Program fund, the same level as the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. The Forest Service will use these funds to accomplish and further develop important projects and activities designed to ensure the viability and sustainability of forest botanical products while responding to the significant demand for culturally important, medicinal, and the wide variety of other botanical products.

Past Performance

The total value of agency forest botanical products sold in FY 2014, based on collections, was $1,564,200. This is an increase of $113,781, or 7.8 percent, compared to FY 2013. Of the total collections during FY 2014, limbs/boughs ($559,772), mushrooms ($357,705), foliage ($255,038), and grasses ($234,567) were the predominant contributors - totaling over $1.4 million dollars. Beyond collections, the sale of these products provided jobs and revenue sources for local gathers; thus, helping to maintain livelihoods and sustain local economies.

Authorities

Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 (16 U.S.C. 528 note) (P.L. 106-113, div. B, Sec. 1000(a)(3), [Appendix C, title III, Sec. 339], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1535, 1501A-199, as amended by P.L. 108-108,[title III, Sec. 335], Nov. 10, 2003, 117 Stat.

1312, and P.L. 111-88, [title IV, Sec. 420], Oct. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 2960). This Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to charge and collect fees from persons who harvest forest botanical products to cover at least a portion of the fair market value for the harvest of forest botanical products and a portion of the costs the agency incurs in administering the pilot program. Funds collected are deposited in a special fund in the Treasury.

Extension of Forest Botanical Products Authorities; Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76). This Act extends until September 30, 2019, the original authorization enacted through Section 339(h)(1) of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 (enacted into law by section 1000(a)(3) of Public Law 106–113; 16 U.S.C. 528 note). This authority will expire on September 30, 2019, unless it is reauthorized by Congress. However, all funds collected on or prior to September 30, 2019 will remain available for expenditure through September 30, 2020.

Program Description

Program Overview

This authority provides a mechanism for charging and collecting fees from persons who harvest forest botanical products. The term “forest botanical products” refers to any naturally occurring mushrooms, fungi, flowers, seeds, roots, bark, leaves, and other vegetation (or portion thereof) that grow on National Forest System lands. Fees collected are available to cover the costs associated with granting, modifying, or administering the authorization for harvesting, including the costs for environmental analyses. Work activities include inventory, analysis, sustainability determination for harvest levels, permit issuance and administration, and monitoring to facilitate the sale and harvest of forest botanical products. The objectives of this program are to maintain, enhance, or restore forest ecosystems to desired conditions, and to provide for the sale and harvest of forest botanical products in a sustainable manner that contributes to meeting the Nation’s demand for these goods and services.

Allocation and Integration

Under this authority, funds collected through FY 2019 are authorized for expenditure through FY 2020, on the unit where the funds were collected. The Forest Botanical Products fund supplements the Integrated Resource Restoration program for the sale and administration of forest botanical products.

Stewardship Contracting

Budget Line Item	Stewardship Contracting (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Stewardship Contracting				
New Budget Authority	$11,159	$14,000	$14,000	0
Program Level	9,669	15,000	14,000	-$1,000
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $14,000,000 for the Stewardship Contracting fund, a decrease of $1,000,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. The continued use of stewardship contracting supports the agency's goal of creating jobs while restoring forest and watershed health.

In stewardship contracting, when the value of the sale of forest products exceeds the cost of the service work to be performed on an Integrated Resource Timber Contract, the excess receipts are retained by the Forest Service and deposited in the Stewardship Contracting fund. These retained receipts are utilized to implement an array of resource restoration work. In FY 2016, the Stewardship Contracting funds will be used to complete resource work, including:

- improving, maintaining, and restoring forest and rangeland health;
- restoring and maintaining water quality;
- improving fish and wildlife habitat and reestablishing native plant species;
- reducing hazardous fuels that pose risks to communities and ecosystem values; and
- decommissioning roads.

The Agricultural Act of 2014 extended stewardship contracting as a permanent authority. This provides the agency flexibility to accomplish collaborative restoration work at a landscape scale. Now that the Authority is permanent the Forest Service will codify existing policy on stewardship contracting into regulation. This will provide greater uniformity in the administration of the various contract and agreement mechanisms used by the agency to implement stewardship contracting projects. The rule will add a new Subpart I to the 36 CFR 223, Sale and Disposal of National Forest System Timber, Special Forest Products, and Forest Botanical Products regulation.

Past Performance

Key accomplishments in FY 2014 utilizing the Stewardship Contracting fund include:

- 4,848 acres of forest vegetation established,
- 26,829 acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) hazardous fuels treated,
- 39,120 acres of non-WUI hazardous fuels treated, and
- 8,093 acres of terrestrial habitat enhanced.

Retained receipts deposited in the Stewardship Contracting fund may be used to accomplish a wide variety of activities through the stewardship contracting authority. The mix and level of accomplishments vary annually. This is due in part to the variability both in the resource work needed in the region where the receipts are collected and the cost of those activities. The performance accomplishments described above are a subset of the total accomplishments associated with the stewardship contracting authority. Appropriated funds from a variety of program areas may also be used to implement projects utilizing stewardship contracting authority. Further discussion of accomplishments associated with Stewardship Contracting can be found in the Stewardship Contracting Special Exhibit.

Authorities

The stewardship contracting authority authorizes the Forest Service, via agreement or contract, to enter into stewardship projects to perform services to achieve land management goals and to meet local and rural community needs. Department of the Interior and Related Appropriations Act, 1999 (16 U.S.C. 2104 note) (P.L.105-277, div. A, Sec. 101(e), [title III, Sec. 347], Oct. 21, 1998, Stat. 2681-231, amended by Department of the Interior and Related Appropriations Act, 2003, P.L. 108-7, div. F, [title III, Sec. 323], Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 275). Section 323 of P.L. 108-7 supersedes the original authority granted to the Forest Service in section 347 of P.L. 105-277. This authority was made permanent, pursuant to P.L. 113-79, the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Program Description

Program Overview

Stewardship Contracting permits the Forest Service to apply the value of timber or other forest products from stewardship contracts as an offset against the costs to accomplish additional land and resource management objectives. If the offset value exceeds the value of the resource improvement treatments, those receipts are retained and deposited in the Stewardship Contracting fund and are available until expended for other authorized stewardship projects. Stewardship Contracting funds may be used for:

- road and trail maintenance or decommissioning to restore or maintain water quality;
- work to improve soil productivity, or other resource values;
- prescribed fires to improve the composition, structure, condition, and health of forest stands or to improve wildlife habitat;
- removal of vegetation or other activities to promote healthy forests, reduce fire hazards, or achieve other land management objectives;
- restoration and maintenance of watersheds;
- restoration and maintenance of wildlife and fish habitat; and
- control of noxious and invasive weeds, and re-establishment of native plant species.

Allocation and Integration

Stewardship contracting retained receipts remain on the unit where the receipts were collected for use on other authorized stewardship projects. Funds can be used on other units after approval by the Regional Forester in the region where the receipts were collected.

Partnerships

Stewardship contracting allows for national, regional, and local-level partnerships and collaboration with local communities. Significant partnerships exist with national organizations, such as the National Wild Turkey Federation and The Nature Conservancy. These partnerships range from collaboration during stewardship project development to entering into stewardship agreements with the Forest Service. These collaborative partnerships have resulted in community support for stewardship projects and have helped the agency to move forward with projects without litigation costs and delays that often confront traditional timber sales and some hazardous fuel reduction projects.

Recreation Fees, Forest Service

Budget Line Item	Recreation Fees, Forest Service (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Recreation Fees, Forest Service				
New Budget Authority	$70,690	$65,225	$66,625	$1,400
Program Level	71,285	75,175	75,575	400
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	576	599	597	-2

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $75,575,000 for the Recreation Fees, Forest Service fund, an increase of $400,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

Specific priorities within each program include:

Recreation Fees, Forest Service Site Specific - The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $51,700,000 to conduct annual maintenance and repairs to recreation facilities, enhance visitor services such as interpretation and education, and provide for the presence of law enforcement and other uniformed employees in recreation areas where fees are generated. The Forest Service will prioritize reducing deferred maintenance at high-priority fee sites and will improve the condition of the facilities used by the recreating public.

Recreation Fees, Forest Service Agency Specific - The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $22,300,000 to continue providing guidance from regional offices, grant money for projects at the forest level, and continue to serve as the contracting agency for the National Recreation Reservation Service for all Federal agencies.

Recreation Fees, Forest Service Grey Towers National Historic Site Fees - The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $75,000. Specific priorities within each activity will use recreation fees to support visitor services at Grey Towers National Historic Site that include, but are not limited to, interpretive and education programs that perpetuate the conservation legacy of Gifford Pinchot and conference center programs and activities that foster leadership within the natural resource community.

Shasta-Trinity Marina Fees - The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $1,500,000. Fees collected from the marina special use permits are used for the direct operating or capital costs associated with issuance of the permits and provide services, protect resources, and meet the needs of the estimated 2.1 million annual visitors to the Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area.

Past Performance

From 2005 to 2014, the Forest Service collected more than $618 million, cumulatively, in fee revenue under this authority. This total includes fee revenue from outfitters and guides. Annually, the Forest Service collects approximately $66 million in recreation fees. From 2005 to 2014 the Forest Service has expended over $600 million to maintain and improve recreation sites and services for the American public, across the Nation. Ninety-five percent of the recreation fees collected on a national forest stay at that national forest to be reinvested back into recreation sites and services.

The recreation fee program has been successful in providing quality recreation facilities and services to the American public that recreate on Federal lands. National Visitor Use Monitoring surveys show that 94 percent of visitors are satisfied with their recreation experience and 85 percent are satisfied with the value received for the fee paid. The overall visitor satisfaction number has been steady to slightly increasing over the last several years.

Authorities

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6806 and 6807) (P.L. 108-447, div. J, [title VIII, Sec. 807 and Sec. 808] Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 3388). This Act provides authority to implement a fee program for certain recreation sites on Federal lands. Fees collected from users of recreation facilities are used to pay for on-the-ground operation, maintenance, and improvements of recreation sites and services to maintain and enhance recreation opportunities, visitor experiences, and related habitat. Funds are available until expended. The Act directs the creation of Recreation Resource Advisory Committees to allow for public involvement in recreation fee programs. This authority was originally set to expire on December 8, 2014, but was extended through December 8, 2015 pursuant to P.L. 113-46, Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014, through December 11, 2015 pursuant to P.L. 113-164, Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, and through September 30, 2016 pursuant to P.L. 113-483, Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015.

Section 422, Div. F, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-161; 121 Stat. 2159). This Act provides authority through September 30, 2014 for the Forest Service to retain permit fees collected for marinas on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest under the Term Permit Act and use the retained fees for the purposes in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. These purposes include repair, maintenance and facility enhancement, interpretation and visitor services, habitat restoration, and law enforcement. The fees may also be used for direct operating or capital costs associated with the issuance of a marina permit. This authority was originally set to expire on September 30, 2014, but was extended through September 30, 2019 pursuant to P.L. 113-76, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014.

Program Description

Program Overview

When recreation fees are collected by the Forest Service, 95 percent of the fees collected are deposited in the Recreation Fees, Forest Service fund and are spent on maintaining and improving the area, site, or projects that directly relate to visitor enjoyment, access, and health

and safety. Work activities include: annual operation and maintenance, interpretation, signage, wildlife habitat restoration, resource preservation, and law enforcement. We execute a large amount of work in this program through contracts.

There are four programs within the Recreation Fees, Forest Service fund:

Recreation Fees, Forest Service Site Specific - We collect approximately $50 million annually to maintain and improve facilities and services for which the fees are collected. At least 80 to 95 percent of the fees collected are deposited in the Recreation Fees, Forest Service fund and are spent on the area, site, or projects that directly relate to visitor enjoyment, access, and health and safety. Work activities include: annual operation and maintenance, interpretation, signage, wildlife habitat restoration, outfitter and guide enhancement, resource preservation, and law enforcement. Five percent goes to the regional offices to support strategic program oversight, financial management, training, and grants to forests for improvements/special projects on the ground.

Recreation Fees, Forest Service Agency Specific - The Forest Service is the contracting agency for the National Recreation Reservation Service, part of Recreation.gov, an e-government initiative. The $120 million contract supports reservations for all recreation facilities on public lands that allow reservations. One task of administering the contract is to manage the pass through account for the reservation fees for all agencies. Approximately $13 million annually is included in this program, and as more sites come on to the reservation system throughout the entire Federal public lands system, this account will continue to grow.

Recreation Fees, Forest Service Grey Towers National Historic Site Fees - Recreation fees are used for annual operations and maintenance of the historic mansion and 102 acre landscape; interpretive and education programs and projects that perpetuate the legacy of Gifford Pinchot for general public and youth; public programs that foster stewardship of natural resources; safety of the visitor and security of the resource; and support for the conference facility that provides conservation leadership development programs and enhances the dialogues taking place within the natural resource community.

Shasta-Trinity Marina Fees - Fees received from the marina project provide funding needed in the Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area to meet critical health and safety standards, address portions of the maintenance backlog, provide for many noteworthy, innovative projects including high quality interpretive and environmental education programs, installation and maintenance of over 300 underwater obstacle markers and 100 safety-related floating directional signs, establishment and maintenance of the National Recreation Area Boating Safety Program, implementation and administration of the program's Marina Standards, maintaining a floating toilet program, and the construction of accessible facilities to provide greater access for persons with disabilities. The goal of these projects is to meet the National Recreation Area's intent, which is to showcase recreation opportunities in the agency.

Allocation and Integration

Recreation fees supplement discretionary appropriations such as National Forest System – Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness; and Capital Improvement and Maintenance – Facilities and

Trails budget line items. Outputs associated with this program are combined and reported under individual resource programs throughout the Forest Service appropriated accounts. A significant benefit from recreation fees is that these fees can roll over from one year to the next, so forests can save some money to tackle a costly capital improvement project later. Because 95 percent of the recreation fee dollars stay at the forest where they were collected, the forest has the authority to direct spending to their priorities.

Partnerships

Recreation fees are used to fund volunteer projects and leverage grants and other challenge cost-share dollars. These fees provide for the health and safety of visitors to national forest recreation areas and restore ecosystem damage caused by recreation use.

The Forest Service has chartered five Recreation Resource Advisory Committees, which include the Southern, Eastern, and Pacific Northwest Regions, and the States of California and Colorado. In cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, the agency participates in 12 additional advisory committees. These committees meet several times a year to review proposed changes to the recreation fee program. Chartering and sustaining these advisory committees, along with our other comprehensive public involvement efforts, demonstrates our continued commitment to improving our effectiveness and efficiency through increased public involvement and cooperation.

Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction

Budget Line Item	Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction				
New Budget Authority	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	0
Program Level	883	1,000	1,000	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	1	1	1	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $1,000,000 for the Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction, the same as the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Program level and accomplishments in FY 2016 will depend upon the number of qualifying small businesses purchasing timber sales and the number of those businesses that do not have the capability to perform the required road work under those sales. This program provides funding for construction or improvement of specified roads and bridges supporting the timber harvest operations of small business operators.

Each year, the agency usually performs between one and 10 miles of high clearance road reconstructions and/or maintenance on behalf of timber purchasers depending upon the particular need that year.

Authorities

National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a(i)). The act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to use any receipts from the sale of timber for the construction of roads required under the timber sale contract.

Department of the Interior and Related Appropriations Act, 1999 (16 U.S.C. 535a (c)) (P.L. 105-277, div. A, Sec. 101(e), [title III, Sec. 329], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-231, 2681-292). This act authorizes small business timber purchasers to elect to pay the Forest Service to construct or reconstruct any permanent roads or bridges required by the timber sale. The timber purchaser must be classified as a small business operator, and the total estimated reconstruction and construction cost in the timber sale contract must exceed $50,000.

Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-161, Sec. 6., div. F, [title IV, Sec. 423], Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 2150). The Forest Service shall allocate to the regions of the Forest Service, $15,000,000 from the current balance in the ''timber roads purchaser election fund,'' to remain available until expended.

Program Overview

Program Descriptions

Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction

The Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction program supports the construction and reconstruction of any permanent road or bridge as required under the terms and conditions of a timber sale contract. When a small business timber purchaser is awarded a contract, the purchaser may elect to pay the Forest Service to construct or reconstruct specified roads in the timber sale contract area to a standard necessary to harvest and remove timber and other forest products. The agency then uses the funds to contract for the required road work and administer the contract. This program benefits small timber contractors who might otherwise be unable to bid on Forest Service timber sales, as well as provides for appropriate road improvements preventing soil degradation, stream sedimentation, or other damages.

Purchaser Election Vegetative Treatment

The Purchaser Election Vegetative Treatment funds support the following actives to improve forest health: vegetative treatments in timber stands at high risk of fire due to insect, disease, or drought; road work in support of vegetative treatments to support forest health objectives; and maintenance of infrastructure for the processing of woody fiber in regions where it is critical to sustaining local economies and fulfilling forest health objectives.

Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters

Budget Line Item	Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters				
New Budget Authority	$8,041	$7,200	$7,100	-$100
Program Level	8,683	9,000	8,100	-900
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	21	21	20	-1

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $8,100,000 for the Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters program, a decrease of $900,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. These funds maintain employee occupied living quarters in safe and healthy conditions. The program will emphasize improvements to water systems and health and safety issues.

Past Performance

Accomplishments under this program are recorded in the Capital Improvement and Maintenance - Facilities Section.

Authorities

Forest Service Quarters Operation and Maintenance (5 U.S.C. 5911, Other Provisions). This Act authorizes the collection of rental income from employees living in government owned or leased residences. Such rents and charges are deposited in a special Treasury fund and remain available for obligation for operation and maintenance of quarters until expended.

Program Description

Program Overview

This program provides for operation, maintenance, and management of employee housing facilities, including associated utility systems. Funds may also be used to pay the rental costs for leased quarters, including utilities, due to extreme housing shortages in an area. In addition to maintaining safe and pleasant housing, work using this fund contributes to the reduction of the agency's deferred maintenance backlog.

This fund covers all types of maintenance of a structure or building, including any government-owned property and any appliances integral to the facility. The fund does not cover betterments, additions, replacement construction, or new construction.

Allocation and Integration

Rental deposits are pooled and remain on the forest where the deposits are collected. If Quarters Maintenance funds are not available, maintenance may be funded using Facilities Maintenance Assessment funds or the Capital Improvement and Maintenance - Facilities and Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement budget line items.

Roads and Trails for States

Budget Line Item	Roads and Trails for States (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Roads and Trails for States				
New Budget Authority	$17,354	$17,000	$17,000	0
Program Level	0	0	0	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget program level is zero. The Forest Service proposes to transfer $17 million (FY 2015) and $17 million (FY 2016) in unexpended collections under this authority to the General Fund of the Treasury. In the FY 2014 and 2015 Omnibus appropriation, Congress directed that funds becoming available under the Act of March 4, 1913 be transferred to the Treasury.

Past Performance

In FY 2014, the agency did not have any accomplishments from Road and Trails for States funds. No new funds were available in FY 2014.

Authorities

The Act of March 4, 1913, as amended (16 U.S.C. 501). This act authorizes ten percent of all National Forest Fund receipts received by the national forests during each fiscal year to be expended for the construction and maintenance of roads and trails within the national forests in the States from which proceeds are derived.

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110–161, div F, title III, Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 2129). This act directed "That funds becoming available in fiscal year 2008 under the Act of March 4, 1913 (16 U.S.C. 501) shall be transferred to the General Fund of the Treasury and shall not be available for transfer or obligation for any other purpose unless the funds are appropriated."

Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111-88, div. A, title III, Oct. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 2940). This act directed "That funds becoming available in fiscal year 2010 under the act of March 4, 1913, (16 U.S.C. 501) shall be transferred to the General Fund of the Treasury and shall not be available for transfer or obligation for any other purpose unless the funds are appropriated."

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112-74). This act directed "That funds becoming available in fiscal year 2012 under the act of March 4, 1913, (16 U.S.C. 501) shall be transferred to the General Fund of the Treasury and shall not be available for transfer or obligation for any other purpose unless the funds are appropriated."

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76). This act directed "That funds becoming available in fiscal year 2014 under the Act of March 4, 1913 (16 U.S.C. 501) shall be transferred to the General Fund of the Treasury and shall not be available for transfer or obligation for any other purpose unless the funds are appropriated."

Program Description

Program Overview

Under this fund, ten percent of all National Forest Fund receipts, which is inclusive of both fees and other types of revenue, are used by the Forest Service without regard to the State in which the amounts were derived, to repair or reconstruct roads, bridges, and trails on National Forest System (NFS) lands. Funds are directed towards correcting road and trail deficiencies that adversely affect ecosystems.

Beginning in FY 1999 and continuing in subsequent appropriation acts, the authority was expanded to allow the use of funds for the purpose of improving forest health conditions and repairing or reconstructing roads and bridges on NFS lands in the wildland-urban interface where there is an abnormally high risk of fire. The program reduces risk to human safety and public health and property and enhances ecological functions, long-term forest productivity, and biological integrity. Work previously funded under this program has been funded through the Legacy Roads and Trails line item.

The last fiscal year that the Forest Service was authorized to obligate new collections from the Roads and Trails Fund was in FY 2007.

Land Between the Lakes Management

Budget Line Item	Land Between the Lakes Management (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes
Permanent Funds				
Land Between the Lakes Management				
New Budget Authority	$4,175	$4,200	$4,200	0
Program Level	4,753	4,200	4,200	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	11	10	10	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $4,200,000 for the Land Between the Lakes (LBL) Management fund, the same as the FY 2015 estimate. Funds will be used to support operational costs for customer-focused recreation and environmental education programs, as well as capital improvements at the facilities where funds are collected. The LBL Management funds will continue to be used to assess, analyze, and implement the highest priorities identified in the LBL Area Plan for integrated forest management. The LBL Area will continue to maintain recreation facilities to standard for public use, and small infrastructure replacement projects will be completed in several of the developed facilities.

Past Performance

In FY 2014there were approximately 1.5 million visits to the LBL National Recreation Area, which is consistent with previous years. LBL has historically covered 30 percent of its costs by receipts through the LBL Management fund authority, supporting a diversity of recreation, fish and wildlife, and environmental education activities. Fee collections were over $4,000,000 in FY 2014.

The LBL Management fund covers routine and inflationary increases to operational costs for the facilities that generate revenue.

Authority

Land Between the Lakes Protection Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 460lll-24) (P.L. 105-277, div. A, Sec. 101(e) [title V, Sec. 524], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-315). This Act establishes the Land Between the Lakes Management fund. In accordance with Title V of the Act, responsibility for the LBL National Recreation Area in Kentucky and Tennessee transferred from the Tennessee Valley Authority to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Program Description

Program Overview

The LBL National Recreation Area provides public recreational opportunities; conserves fish and wildlife and their habitat; provides for a diversity of plants and animals; and offers opportunities for hunting, fishing, and environmental education. LBL hosts an average of 1.5 million visits annually from people all over the Nation and more than 30 foreign countries. LBL continues to demonstrate success with its camping reservation system, which allows visitors to register for camp sites before arrival.

Section 524 of the Land Between the Lakes Protection Act established a special fund known as the Land Between the Lakes Management fund. All amounts received from charges, user fees, and natural resource use, including timber and agricultural receipts, are deposited into the fund. Funds are available for management of LBL, including payment of salaries and expenses.

Partnerships

LBL's program of work provides the opportunity to partner with a number of regional and national conservation organizations, such as the National Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Ducks Unlimited. Further, LBL's volunteers, coordinated through the Friends of LBL partnership, log more than 116,000 hours of volunteer time on LBL projects annually.

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees

Budget Line Item	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees				
New Budget Authority	$4	$600	$600	0
Program Level	299	600	600	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $600,000 for the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees fund, the same level as the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Funds restore and manage prairie and wetland habitats on the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (MNTP).

Past Performance

The rental fee funds collected on the MNTP are used to restore ecosystems and habitats for native prairie and wetlands. Restoration activities including:
stream debris removal, demolition of old Army infrastructure, purchasing and planting of native prairie seeds and plants, management of grassland bird habitat, control of invasive species on restoration sites, and purchasing of miscellaneous restoration equipment and supplies.

Authorities

The Illinois Land Conservation Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 1609 note) (P.L. 104-106, div. B, [title XXIX, sec. 2915 (b), (c)], Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 601-602). The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to issue agricultural special use authorizations or grazing permits for purposes primarily related to erosion control, provision for food and habitat for fish and wildlife, or other resource management activities consistent with the purposes of the MNTP.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Illinois Land Conservation Act of 1995 established the MNTP to be managed as part of the National Forest System. The act authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to issue agricultural special use authorizations and grazing permits. After appropriate payments to the State of Illinois and Will County, pursuant to the act of May 23, 1908, and section 13 of the act of March 1, 1911 (16 U.S.C. 500), available receipts from rental fees may be used to cover the cost of

ecosystem restoration, prairie improvements, and administrative activities directly related to those activities. These funds provide for maintenance of native plant communities and grassland bird habitat at the MNTP. The ability to collect funds from grazing and agricultural uses provides an essential financial resource to MNTP managers to continue to restore ecosystems and habitats in order to enhance biodiversity; promote scientific, environmental, and educational research; and develop best practices for land management.

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

BEFORE **AFTER**

An old railroad bed put through a wetland years ago to link up and restore former wetland areas was removed. Black-necked stilts nested in the restored wetland after the rail bed removal. This is an example of how rental fee funds were used to work with partners to complete restoration projects.

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Restoration

Budget Line Item	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Restoration			
	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Restoration				
New Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Program Level	0	0	0	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

No funds are included for this program in the FY 2016 President's Budget.

Past Performance

There were no collections or expenditures for this account in FY 2014. To date, salvage opportunities anticipated by the legislation have not materialized. Less than $4,000 has been generated by the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (MNTP) Restoration fund over the past 10 years. No expenditures have been made from this account since its creation in 1995.

Authorities

The Illinois Land Conservation Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 1609 note) (P.L. 104-106, div. B, [title XXIX, sec. 2915 (d), (e) and (f)], Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 602). The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to charge reasonable user fees for the admission, occupancy, and use of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, and may sell for salvage value any facilities and improvements which have been transferred under this Act. The Secretary may use amounts in the fund, in such amounts as are provided in advance in Appropriation Acts, for restoration and administration of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Illinois Land Conservation Act of 1995 established the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie to be managed as part of the National Forest System. There are two separate funds: the agricultural rental fund that funds prairie restoration and the salvage fund that may be used for all other activities. Receipts from grazing fees, agricultural leases for row crops, sales of surplus equipment, and the salvage value proceeds from the sale of any facilities and improvements can be used to cover the cost of restoration of ecosystems; construction of a visitor center,

recreational facilities, trails, and administrative office; prairie improvement; and operation and maintenance.

Quinault Special Management Area Fund

Budget Line Item	Quinault Special Management Area (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Quinault Special Management Area				
New Budget Authority	0	$2	$2	0
Program Level	$3	5	5	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $5,000 for the Quinault Special Management Area (QSMA) fund, the same as the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. The Olympic National Forest annually reviews the current deposits of the 10 percent of proceeds from the sale of forest products, and requests authority to use those funds for work performed on the QSMA.

Past Performance

The Forest Service annually reviews the current deposits to the 10 percent of proceeds fund, and requests authority to use those funds for work performed on the QSMA. In FY 2014, expenses were $3,075 and we collected $216 for management of those lands.

Authorities

The Act of November 8, 1988 (P.L 100-638) (102 Stat. 3327). This Act established the Quinault Special Management Area from part of the Olympic National Forest, and it assigns responsibility to the Forest Service for managing its natural resources and distributing proceeds from the sale of forest products according to provisions of the Act.

The Act provides that 10 percent of the gross proceeds from the sale of forest products on the QSMA are transferred to this account and are available for administration of future timber sales. The Act also provides for the distribution of gross receipts from a special management area to compensate the Quinault Indian Tribe and the State of Washington for land that the Forest Service gave back to the Tribe. The distribution must be used for roads and schools.

Program Description

Program Overview

This program and budget line item for the QSMA is unique to the Forest Service. The QSMA is over 5,400 acres, as prescribed by law, which the Olympic National Forest manages for the

Quinault Indian Nation. Specifically, the lands are defined under Section 2 of the aforementioned Act. All receipts from use of this land, including timber sales, firewood, botanicals, special use permits, and minerals, are divided with 45 percent going to the State of Washington, 45 percent to the Quinault Tribe, and 10 percent towards management of those lands by the Olympic National Forest. Quarterly, the Olympic National Forest processes the receipts and sends a letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Tribal Chair, documenting the receipts that will be transferred to Bureau for disbursement to the Tribe.

Valles Caldera National Preserve

Budget Line Item	Valles Caldera (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Valles Caldera				
New Budget Authority	$482	$600	0	-$600
Program Level	733	600	0	-600
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act designates the Valles Caldera National Preserve (Preserve) as a unit of the National Park Service. Transfer of the Preserve to the National Park Service will occur in FY 2015 with any unobligated balances remaining in FY 2015 being transferred to the Department of the Interior as well. As a result, there will be no balance remaining in this fund in FY 2016.

Past Performance

In previous years, the goals of the Preserve's board of trustees, called the Valles Caldera Trust, focused on public access and use, forest restoration, and enhancement of the Preserve's rich natural, cultural and historic resources. During FY 2014 further attention was aimed at increasing recreational opportunities for the public and making investments toward increasing the financial self-sustainability of the Preserve.

The Preserve continued to experience significant effects from the 2011 Las Conchas Fire and the 2013 Thompson Ridge Fire, which burned almost two-thirds of the Preserve. Flash floods, falling dead trees, fence damage, road washouts, and the destruction of the Preserve's entire surface drinking water system have constrained the Preserve's public access and financial self-sustainability goals. Appropriated dollars were used for rehabilitation and repair from post-fire flooding events.

In FY 2014, the Trust's focus was on keeping the Preserve open year round by offering additional recreation and education programs and activities. Visitation increased to approximately 120,000 people in FY 2014, representing a 10 percent increase from the previous year. Public programs included hunting, fishing, hiking, van tours, and environmental education, along with special events. Total revenue generated from these recreation programs in FY 2014 was $781,844.

The Preserve's Landscape Restoration and Stewardship Plan Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision were completed in FY 2014, allowing the implementation of proposed forest restoration projects.

Authorities

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, Sec. 3043 (H.R. 3979 EAH, 113th Cong.), December 12, 2014. This Act abolishes the Valles Caldera Trust and designates the Valles Caldera National Preserve as a unit of the National Park System.

Valles Caldera Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 698v-4, 698v-6). (P.L. 106-248, [title I, Sec. 106, Sec. 108], July 25, 2000, 114 Stat. 603 and 607; as amended by P.L. 109-132, [Sec. 2 (b)-(d)], 119 Stat. 2570). This Act authorized the Valles Caldera Trust to receive and collect funds in support of the management and administration of the Preserve. This included the authority to assess fees for admission to, the use, and occupancy of the Preserve. In addition, it allowed the Trust to solicit and accept donations of funds, property, supplies, or services for the purpose of management of the Preserve.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Valles Caldera Preservation Act provided for the acquisition of the Baca Ranch located in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico, designated the acquired lands as the Valles Caldera National Preserve, and created the Valles Caldera Trust (a government corporation that prepared annual budgets with the goal of achieving a financially self-sustaining operation by 2015) to manage the 88,900 acre tract. The Preserve protects scientific, scenic, geologic, watershed, wildlife, historic, heritage, and recreational values and provides for multiple uses and the sustained yield of renewable resources.

While under the administration of the Trust, the Valles Caldera Preservation Act allowed for a variety of approaches to generate revenue in support of management of the Preserve and to carry out the duties of the Trust. Various funding mechanisms existed from private, public, and non-profit organizations. Options included accepting donations from foundations or the private sector through charitable giving; or charging fees for use (e.g., grazing, forest products, filming); and assessing admission fees and use fees. All monies received were deposited in the Valles Caldera fund, an interest bearing account. These receipts were available without further appropriation for the administration, preservation, restoration, operation, maintenance, and improvement of the Preserve and its properties.

In December 2014, the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act designated the Preserve as a unit of the National Park Service and transferred administration of the Preserve to the Secretary of the Interior. The transfer must occur within 180 days of the passage of the authorization act.

Partnerships

The Valles Caldera Preservation Act required management of the Preserve by the Trust, a government corporation subject to the Government Corporation Control Act. A nine-member

Board of Trustees was responsible for the protection and development of the Preserve. Seven of its members were appointed by the President of the United States. In addition, the Superintendent of nearby Bandelier National Monument and the Forest Supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest also served on the Board. The Board was required to meet in public at least three times per year and all Board decisions were made at public meetings. In August of 2002, management authority was transferred to the Trust. The National Defense Authorization Act mandated termination of the Trust 180 days after the law was enacted, and imposed a deadline for the transfer of jurisdiction from the Trust and the Forest Service to the National Park Service on that same day.

During the term of the Trust's management, the Preserve benefited from monetary as well as non-monetary contributions. Non-monetary contributions included time and expertise contributed by many volunteers. These volunteers assisted with many of the recreation programs, along with wetland restoration projects, throughout the year.

External funding from outside agencies and organization were invested in projects; mostly research, inventory, and monitoring conducted on the Preserve. A continued objective for the Trust is to encourage scientific activities on the Preserve. Indicators of the science community's interest in studying the Valles Caldera National Preserve could be gleaned from the number of projects conducted, the amount of funding generated to support these projects, and the number of publications and presentations resulting from the research. Current (FY 2014) funding from outside (non-Trust) sources came from 38 different project sources and exceeded $4.8 million. While these outside grant funds were not part of the Trust budget, they nonetheless contributed to the regional economy through personnel salaries, purchasing of equipment and supplies, travel, contracts, and educational stipends. All of these transactions generated tax revenues for local, state, and Federal governments. More importantly, the information gleaned from these studies was used to advise managers on how best to apply manipulative actions on the ground, including informing forest thinning prescriptions, use of fire, distributions of livestock, predator impacts on elk populations, fisheries management, and other land management tools.

Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements

Budget Line Item	Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements				
New Budget Authority	$2,213	$13,000	$13,000	0
Program Level	27,408	51,400	47,400	-$4,000
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	110	172	163	-9

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $47,400,000 for the Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements fund, a decrease of $4,000,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. These funds will provide for the rehabilitation of forest resources or infrastructure that has been damaged due to negligence or contract non-performance of other parties. The Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements fund provides a mechanism to quickly bill, collect, and obligate funds necessary to restore damages to critical ecosystems and facilities so that repairs are not deferred or foregone.

Past Performance

Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvement funds are used to perform important restoration and rehabilitation activities or infrastructure repair due to contractor damage, negligence, or non-performance. This can include a variety of activities that will vary from year to year depending upon the need. In FY 2014, activities included:

- 473 acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated;
- 1,179 acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the WUI to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire;
- 924 acres of forest vegetation established;
- 1,515 acres of forest vegetation improved;
- 758 acres of noxious weeds/invasive plant treatments;
- 534 acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained, or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions; and
- 16 miles of system trail maintained to standard.

Many of the accomplishments in the above activities were greater in FY 2014 than in FY 2013.

Authorities

The Act of June 20, 1958 (16 U.S.C. 579c) (P.L. 85-464, Sec. 7, June 20, 1958, 72 Stat. 217). This Act authorizes establishment of a fund for improvement, protection, or rehabilitation of lands under the administration of the Forest Service. This fund receives monies from: (a) forfeiture of a bond or deposit by a permittee or timber purchaser for failure to complete performance of improvement, protection, or rehabilitation work required under the permit or timber sale contract; or (b) the result of a judgment, compromise, or settlement of any claim, involving present or potential damage to lands or improvements. Funds are available until expended to cover the costs of performing the required work. Any funds received in excess of the amount expended in performing the work shall be transferred to miscellaneous receipts.

Program Description

Program Overview

This authority protects the interests of the Forest Service by allowing the agency to address a variety of situations. When work under a permit or timber sale contract is not completed by a permittee or timber purchaser, they forfeit their bond or deposit. These funds then transfer to the Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements fund, allowing the Forest Service to complete the needed restoration and rehabilitation work.

This authority also protects the interests of the American public from present or potential damage to National Forest System lands or improvements due to the actions of another party. This authority provides the Forest Service with the ability to use funds from a judgment, compromise, or claim settlement to address those damages.

Based on a Comptroller General's Decision (67 Comp. Gen. 276), collections may be used to reimburse the Forest Service for any restoration costs paid from Forest Service appropriations before the collections were received.

Allocation and Integration

The proposed FY 2016 program funding level is based on field projections of anticipated work.

Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention

Budget Line Item	Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention				
New Budget Authority	$625	$554	$544	-$10
Program Level	422	841	780	-61
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	5	5	5	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $780,000 for Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention, a decrease of $61,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

Past Performance

During FY 2014, the Forest Service collected $624,510 from commercial filming. These collections are retained at the national, regional and forest unit level and are separate from the fees the agency collects associated with processing film/photo requests. Units use the commercial filming collections to respond to film/photo requests in a timelier manner and to proactively manage the program. More recently, these fees have been used to coordinate inter-regional or inter-forest requests for filming as a means of streamlining the authorization process and reducing the number of authorizations necessary for large landscape filming requests.

Authorities

The Act of May 26, 2000 (16 U.S.C. 460l-6d) (P. L. 106-206). This Act authorizes retention of fees collected for commercial filming and photography land use authorizations and obligation of the monies for maintenance of the filming site. Land use fees are based on a schedule to use and occupy National Forest System land for filming/photo activities. This fee is separate from the cost recovery fee to process applications and to monitor the authorization for compliance with the commercial filming permit.

Program Description

Program Overview

Fees retained by the Forest Service in this fund are used to respond to film/photo use requests and to initiate management activities that help respond to these requests in an expedited manner. For example, forest units use these funds to assess popular film/photo locations in advance of requests and to develop and post information on film/photo procedures specific to the unit. Regional and national units use these funds to provide management oversight, develop policy, and coordinate inter-regional or inter-forest film/photo requests prior to accepting a proposal as a formal application.

Allocation and Integration

In accordance with the Act of May 26, 2000, 90 percent of the fees collected remain at the forest unit where the fee is collected. These funds are used for managing the film/photo program and to defer costs associated with collecting the fee. The remaining 10 percent is used to provide management oversight, to develop policies, and to coordinate inter-regional or inter-forest film/photo requests. Of this 10 percent, 5 percent is retained at the Washington Office and 5 percent is retained at each Regional Office where the film/photo authorization is contained.

Partnerships

Many forest units work cooperatively with State film commissions to inform these entities of Forest Service film/photo processing procedures. The Forest Service is also engaged in coordination with the Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) effort to develop a national fee schedule applicable to film and photo authorizations.

Organizational Camps Program

Budget Line Item	Organizational Camps Program (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes
Permanent Funds				
Organizational Camps Program				
New Budget Authority	$964	$600	$600	0
Program Level	466	700	700	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	5	5	5	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $700,000 for the administration of the Organizational Camps Program fund, the same level as the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Funds will be used to monitor organizational camp special use authorizations; conduct environmental analysis related to the organizational camp special uses program; maintain, recondition, renovate, or improve federally-owned facilities covered by organizational camp special use authorizations; complete environmental restoration projects; administer the special uses program; provide interpretive programs; and conduct other programs and projects deemed appropriate by the authorized officer.

Past Performance

During FY 2014, we collected $963,763 through the organizational camps program, which units used for program administration, monitoring special use authorizations, interpretive programs, environmental analysis and restoration activities related to organizational camps throughout the National Forest System.

Authorities

National Forest Organizational Camp Fee Improvement Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6231 et seq.) (P.L. 108-7). This Act defines an organizational camp as a public or semipublic camp developed by a nonprofit or government entity to introduce young people or people with disabilities to activities they might not otherwise experience and to educate them on natural resource issues. The Act establishes a land use fee system for organizational camps located on National Forest System lands and authorizes the Secretary to retain and spend these fees without further appropriation. The Act also exempts certain ministerial actions from the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Program Description

Program Overview

Organizational camp fees are based on a percentage of the agricultural land value, adjusted downward for services provided to disabled individuals and at-risk youth. Fees collected are available until expended for program administration, monitoring special use authorizations, interpretive programs, environmental analysis and restoration activities, and similar purposes.

The Forest Service administers approximately 285 permits for organizational camps. Work activities include performing oversight, inspection, and monitoring of existing authorizations to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the authorization.

Organizational camps have a three-part fee system:

Land Use Fees - Fees are based on a percentage of the agricultural land value, adjusted downward for services provided to disabled individuals and at-risk youth. The land use fee may be offset by work performed pursuant to Section 3 of the Federal Timber Contract Payment Modification Act (16 U.S.C. 539f).

Facility Use Fees - If an organizational camp utilizes a federally-owned facility, a fee is assessed based on five percent of the value of the government owned improvements.

Fees based on other revenue - If permit holders earn revenue from activities other than providing youth services, a fee is assessed based on five percent of revenue.

Allocation and Integration

Retained land use fees supplement discretionary appropriations from the National Forest System Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness program and from other budget line items. These revenues are an integral part of sustaining the agency's special use programs. Outputs associated with these programs are reported as permits administered to standard.

Enjoying Camp

Two boys sit by a campfire at an organizational camp on a national forest.

Partnerships

Through the organizational camps program the Forest Service works with many partner organizations, such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, faith-based, and community-based groups to provide outdoor recreation programs and services for youth.

Cost Recovery (Land Uses)

Budget Line Item	Cost Recovery (Land Uses)			
	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Cost Recovery (Land Uses)				
New Budget Authority	$5,374	$5,200	$5,200	0
Program Level	5,185	6,900	5,400	-$1,500
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	42	49	42	-7

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $5,400,000 for the Cost Recovery (Land Uses) program, a decrease of $1,500,000, from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Funds will be used to process lands special use proposals and applications in a timely manner, provide customer service, and administer authorizations for which we have no other statutory authority to recover or retain funds for the use and occupancy of National Forest System (NFS) lands. We will continue to implement the program to recover our costs for processing special use applications and monitoring for compliance with the authorizations. We will review progress to ensure consistent and cost-effective management, improve customer service, and reduce the backlog of permit applications. This authority ensures timely customer service, reduces the potential liability to the government associated with uses on NFS lands under an expired authorization, and enables the agency to accept new applications thereby expanding our support for local and regional economies.

In FY 2016, the Forest Service expects to continue working in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management to update their interagency flat fee schedule relative to applicable special use applications and authorizations. Working cooperatively with the Bureau of Land Management ensures interagency consistency for similar uses and works to assess fees that are appropriate.

Past Performance

Our FY 2014 financial records indicate a total of $5.4 million recorded in either advance collections or earned revenue on advances. However, some of the earned revenue was tied to agreements received in years prior to FY 2014. The above revenue was for the processing and monitoring of approximately 1,800 new land use authorizations. Cost recovery helps ensure that we continue to make progress in administering authorizations. We have used our current authority to respond to numerous requests for use of NFS land for the purposes of transmitting electricity, oil and gas, and broadband communication, as well as responding to requests for major modifications to resort operations and numerous smaller private or commercial requests.

Authorities

Numerous Federal statutes authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to assess and collect fees from applicants for, and holders of, special use authorizations. These fees pay for the agency's administrative costs to process and monitor applications for such authorizations. These authorities include the Independent Offices Appropriations Act of 1952 (P.L. 82-137); Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (P.L. 66-146); and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (P.L. 94-579). In addition, specific legislation authorizing the implementation of each program within this account is as follows:

Special Use Application and Permit Monitoring Fees (Recovery of Costs). P.L. 106-113, Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000, Section 331 (113 Stat. 1501A-196 - 197), as amended by P.L. 108-447, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, Division E, Section 345 (118 Stat. 3105), P.L. 109-54, Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006, Section 425 (119 Stat. 555), P.L. 110-161 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 and P.L. 113-6 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013. This Act provides authority through September 30, 2013, to implement a pilot program to improve customer service to applicants and holders of special land use authorizations and reduce the agency's backlog of expired authorizations.

Forest Service Administration of Rights-of-Way and Land uses; Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76). This act provides permanent authority to retain and spend fees as originally authorized under Section 331 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 (as enacted into law by section 1000(a)(3) of Public Law 106–113; 16 U.S.C. 497 note).

Program Description

Programs included in this fund are:

Cost Recovery Lands Major Projects - All recreation and non-recreation (land) uses that require more than 50 hours of agency time to process or monitor. Uses involving construction/reconstruction are deemed to be Major Categories for which the agency collects all appropriate administrative costs.

Cost Recovery Lands Minor Projects - Excluding recreation uses, all non-recreation (land) uses not subject to exemption or waiver that require 50 hours or less of agency time to process or monitor are deemed Minor Categories. These categories use a flat fee schedule established in four different tiers, subject to annual indexing.

Program Overview

The Forest Service processes over 6,000 applications each year for the use and occupancy of NFS lands. In FY 2012, we administered nearly 82,000 authorizations for a wide variety of non-occupancy purposes, including energy-related uses, broadband and communication facilities, and campground management. Processing and authorizing these uses is an important component of facilitating the development and transmission of affordable and reliable energy and communication services, supporting national security, supporting economic development, and

promoting the public health and safety of populations within or in proximity to national forests and grasslands throughout the nation. Work activities include:

- Evaluating applications to use Federal land for other government use, commercial, and private requests to assure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, land use management plans, and the technical and financial capability of applicants to conduct use on NFS land.
- Conducting appropriate environmental, social, and economic analyses on requests to use NFS land pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Developing special use authorizations with appropriate terms and conditions that ensure protection of public health and safety and resource protection measures.
- Performing oversight and inspection of certain authorization activities associated with construction/reconstruction activities.

All determinations are subject to dispute, allowing the applicant or holder to confront the superior officer of the initial determination as to the validity of the estimated cost recovery fee. Disputes must provide written rationale and evidence as to why the estimated fee is in error, and suggest alternative fee estimations based in fact. Waivers of cost recovery fees are provided for local, State, or Federal governmental applicants and authorizations for recreation uses that require 50 hours or less to process.

Allocation and Integration

Major Categories - For uses not subject to exemption or waiver, the Forest Service estimates actual expenses and works with the applicant or holder to determine if the costs are reasonable in accordance with the Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976 as amended or are required actual expenses in accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 as amended.

Minor Categories - Uses subject to Forest Service cost recovery regulations (not exempt or waived) that require 50 hours or less of agency time to process or monitor are assessed a fee in accordance with a fee schedule published in the *Federal Register*.

Partnerships

We cooperate with many other Federal agencies, such as Department of the Interior agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Army Corp of Engineers; interagency working groups; State, local, and Tribal governments; and partners such as the Western Utility Group and the National Forest Recreation Association. Partnership opportunities lead to streamlined procedures in order to deliver consistent and clear direction.

Licensee Program Smokey Bear

Budget Line Item	Licensee Program Smokey Bear (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes
Permanent Funds				
Licensee Program Smokey Bear				
New Budget Authority	$70	$100	$100	0
Program Level	14	120	120	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $120,000 for the Licensee Program Smokey Bear fund, the same level as the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Funds will support special projects regarding Smokey Bear's 70th Birthday preparations, as well as the national fire prevention awards program, and licensing agent/contractor services. This program supports national initiatives, local programs, and products that help increase public awareness with regard to wildfire prevention.

Authorities

Fees for the use of the Smokey Bear character by private enterprises are collected under regulations formulated by the Secretary of Agriculture. They are available to further the nationwide forest fire prevention campaign (16 U.S.C. 580 p-2) (18 U.S.C. 711).

Program Description

The Smokey Bear program supports national initiatives, programs, and products that help increase public awareness in regard to wildfire prevention. The licensee contractor manages the marketing and administration of the commercial license program and receives 35 percent of the royalties collected for its services. The national fire prevention program staff manages the licensing contract. Smokey Bear royalties also support the National Smokey Bear Award program and the national fire prevention public service campaign. The Chief of the Forest Service has discretionary authority to use money from royalties in special projects that support the Smokey Bear fire prevention message.

Licensee Program Woodsy Owl

Budget Line Item	Licensee Program Woodsy Owl (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Licensee Program Woodsy Owl				
New Budget Authority	$1	$6	$6	0
Program Level	3	12	12	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $12,000 for the Licensee Program Woodsy Owl fund, the same level as the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Funds support the development of Woodsy Owl educational products and the licensing contract. This program supports national initiatives, local programs, and products that help increase public awareness about the importance of maintaining environmental quality.

Authorities

Fees for the use of the Woodsy Owl character by private enterprises are collected under regulations formulated by the Secretary of Agriculture. They are available to promote wise use of the environment and programs that foster maintenance and improvement of environmental quality (16 U.S.C. 580 p-1) (formerly classified as 31 U.S.C. 488a, 488b-3, 488b-6) (18 U.S.C. 711a).

Program Description

The Woodsy Owl program supports national initiatives, programs, and products that help increase public awareness of activities and issues related to improvement and maintenance of the environment. The Conservation Education program identifies funding for the Woodsy Owl conservation program initiative to develop products, to manage the licensing program, and to enhance partnerships. One of these activities includes the management of the licensing program. The licensing contractor receives 35 percent of the royalties reported. In addition, during FY 2015 a share of the licensing fund will be used to continue Woodsy' s participation in the government challenge (through Challenge.gov) to provide a public service advertising campaign to promote Woodsy Owl and his message to social media users.

Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation)

Budget Line Item	Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation)			
	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation)				
New Budget Authority	$66	$69	$70	$1
Program Level	10	67	70	3
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $70,000 for the Forest Service Go Green program, an increase of $3,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget.

Past Performance

The funding level in this program depends on the proceeds collected. Total collections for this program have grown from $3,701 in the inaugural year of FY 2009 to a cumulative total of $229,317 as of September 20, 2014.

Authorities

Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2002. This Act authorizes Federal agencies to receive and use revenue resulting from waste prevention and recycling programs. Such revenue shall be available until expended for the purpose of waste reduction, prevention, and recycling programs.

Accountable property is excluded from this program, which includes all capital leases and all owned personal property having an acquisition cost of $5,000 or more. Excess property, such as electronics and other personal property that is not considered accountable property, follows an initial screening by USDA agencies which determines if the property is eligible for donation, to be transferred to another government agency, or to be recycled. Other items excluded from the scope of this program are Forest Service and General Services Administration vehicles, which also have disposal/excess rules in place.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Forest Service promoted the implementation of the "Go Green" program on the national forests and grasslands in FY 2009 to help meet the agency's recycling and waste reduction goals. Go Green funds are collected not only from recycling simple items such as cans, but also from recycling abandoned vehicles and appliances which makes this funding essential for land management. This funding enables field units to also accomplish clean-up activities they otherwise might not be able to accomplish due to reduced budgets.

Since FY 2009, the implementation of the authority to collect revenue resulting from waste prevention and recycling programs has increased significantly. The funding level in this program depends on the proceeds collected. As information on Go Green is more widely shared, funding levels are expected to increase. Every dollar collected under this authority offsets funding from other programs.

In FY 2016, we anticipate our Go Green program will continue to grow given increasing awareness through our Sustainable Operations peer learning series and the agency's Climate Change Scorecard Element 10.

Conveyance of Administrative Sites

Budget Line Item	Conveyance of Administrative Sites (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Conveyance of Administrative Sites				
New Budget Authority	$9,487	$9,400	$9,400	0
Program Level	4,238	6,000	6,000	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	4	5	5	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $6,000,000 for the Conveyance of Administrative Sites, the same as the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Retaining proceeds from these conveyances provides the Forest Service with funds for maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction for specified projects, while we continue to right-size the agency's real property portfolio.

Past Performance

In FY 2014, the agency collected property valued at $9.49 million through land and facility conveyances reducing deferred maintenance by approximately $2.5 million, as displayed in Table A. Outputs associated with this program are combined with and reported under individual resource programs in the National Forest System, Land Acquisition, and Capital Improvement and Maintenance chapters.

Authorities

Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005, (FSFREA), Title V of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 109-54). This Act provided authority through September 30, 2008 to convey unneeded administrative sites and retain the proceeds for building maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction provided certain criteria contained in Title V are met. This authority was extended through September 30, 2011, pursuant to the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (P.L. 111-8).

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112-74, Title IV, Sec. 421). This Act amends Section 503(f) of the Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 (Title V of the Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006, P.L. 109-54; 16 U.S.C. 580d note), as amended by section 422(1) of Public Law 111-8 (123 Stat. 748), by extending authorization to September 30, 2016.

Revenues received from the sale of land or structures are deposited into the Sisk Act Fund and are available without further appropriation.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Administration has made it a priority for Federal agencies to dispose of unneeded properties and make more efficient use of the Government's real estate. This effort builds upon the Administration's ongoing work to sell unneeded Federal properties.

The Administrative Site Conveyances Program provides for the realignment of the agency's facility portfolio by providing an incentive for local managers to liquidate obsolete or underutilized assets and reinvest in assets that best support the agency's mission. This authority provides the opportunity to efficiently address current and future needs, reduce annual lease costs, and reduce the deferred maintenance backlog. In addition to operational benefits, the program provides substantial economic and social benefits. These include providing local communities with an additional tax base and opportunities for redevelopment to align with community plans and economic stimulus strategies.

The Forest Service currently owns approximately 17,000 administrative and research buildings. A large number of these facilities do not meet the agency's needs and are either underutilized or in need of maintenance in order to meet current health and safety standards. More than 60 percent of Forest Service facilities are more than 30 years old and more than half have exceeded their design life. Without major and often costly renovations, these structures frequently fail to meet administrative needs due to inadequate space, improper location, high maintenance costs, and failure to meet current health, safety, and accessibility codes. Improving asset management allows the agency to fully utilize mission critical and mission dependent assets and manage those assets in the right condition and at the right cost.

Work functions for this program include: notification, analysis, valuation, and realty case processing services; facility repairs, preventive maintenance and replacement of parts and structural components; construction of new facilities; alteration of existing facilities to change function; and expansion of facilities to meet the needs of changing mission critical functions.

Allocation and Integration

Proceeds from FSFREA projects compliment discretionary appropriations in the Landownership Management budget line item of the National Forest System appropriation and, Facilities and Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement budget line items of the Capital Improvement and Maintenance appropriation. The revenues generated from the sale of land and facilities play an integral role in enhancing the agency's land and facility program. Outputs associated with this program are combined with and reported under other individual resource programs throughout the Forest Service appropriated accounts. The authority for obligation and expenditure of these funds is allocated to the regions based on the amounts collected from sales within that region.

Partnerships

The agency participates in partnerships with other Federal agencies through this program, including the General Services Administration who maintains a national memorandum of agreement with the Forest Service to fulfill the requirements of FSFREA, as well as Tribal governments, local communities, local governments, and many private landowners. The program is enhanced by partnership opportunities that eliminate or reduce redundant efforts. Examples include leveraging funds to secure high priority resource lands for public access and resource protection or co-locating facilities with other Federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations to lower operational costs

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TABLE A
FY 2014 Final Accomplishments Land and Facility Conveyance Projects
(dollars in thousands)

Region	State	Congressional District	Forest	Project Name	Year Initiated	*Sale Value	Acres Conveyed	Deferred Maintenance Eliminated	Gross Square Feet Reduced
2	CO	2	Arapaho/Roosvelt	Rollinsville Administrative Site	2012	$420	36.25	$72	2,286
2	CO	3	White River	Aspen Administrative Site - Ducote	2011	3,000	0.3	0	0
2	CO	3	White River	Aspen Administrative Site - Aspen Dragonfly	2011	2,860	0.44	0	0
2	CO	3	Grand Mesa/Gunnison	Coon Creek AD Site - Parcel 2	2008	72	36.1	0	0
2	CO	3	Grand Mesa/Gunnison	Coon Creek AD Site - Parcel 3	2008	70	35.33	0	0
4	NV	1	Humboldt-Toiyabe	Minden Warehouse Site	2010	144	0.72	1,345	6,315
5	CA	41	0	March Conveyance	2007	970	12.63	0	0
6	OR	4	Siuslaw	Mapleton Ranger Station	2012	195	18.3	267	16,611
8	VA	6	George Wash-Jeff	Dry River District WC (Bridgewater)	2000	120	1.15	32	6,174
9	MI	1	Ottawa	Ottawa Combined Project 2006 (Old Watersmeet Admin Site)	2006	18	1.76	290	5,805
9	MI	1	Hiawatha	Sault Ste. Marie Administrative Site	2008	214	4.08	123	5,013
9	MI	2	Huron-Manistee	White Cloud Administrative Site	2007	122	10.08	12	12,642
10	AK	At-large	Tongass	Scow Bay Warehouse	2008	311	0.57	311	1,901
10	AK	At-large	Tongass	Scow Bay Upper Lot	2008	55	1.07	45	0
Total, Forest Service						$8,570	158.78	$2,497	56,747

**Sale amounts may not equal actual collections by September 30.*

TABLE B
Change in Land and Facility Planned Conveyance Projects for FY 2015
(dollars in thousands)

Change	Region	State	Congressional District	Forest	Project Name	Gross Square Feet Reduced	Acres	Deferred Maintenance Reduction	Estimated Sale Value	Proceeds for Maintenance	Proceeds for new Construction	Proceeds for Bldg. Disposal	Planned Conveyance Completion Date
The following 15 projects have been added for FY 2015. These are in addition to the projects listed in the FY2015 Budget Justification													
New	1	ID	3	Idaho Panhandle	Lone Mountain Seed Orchard 4	0	10.00	$ -	$200	$ -	$200	$ -	2015
New	1	ID	4	Idaho Panhandle	Lone Mountain Seed Orchard 5	0	10.00	$ -	$200	$ -	$200	$ -	2015
New	1	ID	1	Idaho Panhandle	Lone Mountain Seed Orchard 6	0	14.00	$ -	$200	$ -	$200	$ -	2015
New	6	OR	2	Fremont-Winema	Thomas Cr WC - Barracks-1320	1,840		$30	$10	$10	$0		2015
New	6	OR	2	Fremont-Winema	Thomas Cr WC - Wrhs 2200	1273		$50	$5	$5	$0	$0	2015
New	6	OR	2	Fremont-Winema	Thomas Cr WC - Gas Hs 2506	96		$1	$0		$0	$0	2015
New	6	OR	2	Fremont-Winema	Thomas Cr WC - Light Plnt 2602	36		$1	$0		$0	$0	2015
New	6	OR	2	Fremont-Winema	Lakeview RD - Geotech 2207	5184		$50	$10	$10	$0	$0	2015
New	6	OR	2	Fremont-Winema	Lakeview RD - Eng.Off. 2014	1222		$20	$10	$10	$0	$0	2015
New	6	OR	2	Fremont-Winema	Silver Lake RD-Trailer 1209	891		$5	$1	$1	$0	$0	2015
New	6	OR	2	Fremont-Winema	Silver Lake RD - Storage 2606	1049		$10	$2	$2	$0	$0	2015
New	6	OR	2	Fremont-Winema	Chemult RD - Res - W1037	1132		$20	$50	$50	$0	$0	2015
New	6	OR	2	Fremont-Winema	Chemult RD - Res - W1038	1046		$20	$40	$40	$0	$0	2015

Change	Region	State	Congressional District	Forest	Project Name	Gross Square Feet Reduced	Acres	Deferred Maintenance Reduction	Estimated Sale Value	Proceeds for Maintenance	Proceeds for new Construction	Proceeds for Bldg. Disposal	Planned Conveyance Completion Date
New	9	WI	7	Chequamegon-Nicolet NF	Laona Dwelling West 314100	2834	1.00	$110	$10	$0	$0	$10	2015
New	9	WI	7	Chequamegon-Nicolet NF	Laona Dwelling East 315100	2834	1.00	$110	$10	$0	$0	$10	2015
Total						19,437	36.00	$427	$748	$128	$600	$20	
The following 5 projects, which were listed in previous Budget Justifications, have changed in Gross Square Feet and/or Acres													
Reduced	1	ID	1	Idaho Panhandle	Lone Mountain Seed Orchard 1	0	34.00	$0	$200	$0	$200	$0	2015
Reduced	1	ID	1	Idaho Panhandle	Lone Mountain Seed Orchard 2	0	34.00	$0	$200	$0	$200	$0	2015
Reduced	1	ID	2	Idaho Panhandle	Lone Mountain Seed Orchard 3	0	34.00	$0	$200	$0	$200	$0	2015
Increased	1	ID	1	Idaho Panhandle	Clarkia RS	37,162	27.95	$2,605	$300	$0	$209	$91	2015
Reduced	6	WA	6	Olympic	Norwood	3,364	5.00	$ 110	$200	$60	$0	$60	2015
The following 6 projects, which were listed in a previous Budget Justification, are no longer available for conveyance.													
Remove	1	MT	1	Bitterroot	Rye Creek Admin Parcel	0	1.83	$0	$10	$0	$10	0	2016
Remove	2	CO	3	San Juan	Pagosa Dwelling #1 & Garage	2835	0.3	$92	$500	$0	$450	0	2014
Remove	2	CO	3	San Juan	Pagosa Dwelling #2 & Garage	3160	0.2	$86	$550	$0	$500	0	2014
Remove	2	CO	3	San Juan	Durango 7th Ave. Dwelling & Garage	3254	0.3	$60	$550	$0	$500	0	2014
Remove	3	AZ	1	Prescott	Willow Admin Site	9,690	3.50	$32	$969	$0	$969	0	TBD
Remove	4	UT	2	Dixie	Widtsoe Administrative Site	0	40.00	0	$24	$0	$24	$0	TBD

TABLE C
FY 2016 Planned Conveyance Projects
(dollars in thousands)

Region	State	Congressional. District.	Forest	Project Name	Gross Square Feet Reduced	Acres	Deferred Maintenance Reduction	Estimated Sale Value	Proceeds for Maintenance	Proceeds for new Construction	Proceeds for Bldg. Disposal	Planned Conveyance Completion Date
1	MT	1	Beaverhead-Deerlodge	Sheridan Work Center	4,802	1.09	$62	$175	$175	$0	$0	2016
1	MT	1	Beaverhead-Deerlodge	Wise River Office	4,493	2.00	92	250	0	250	0	2017
2	CO	3	San Juan	Mancos Horse Pasture	0	1.50	0	22	15	0	0	2017
3	AZ	1	Apache-Sitgreaves	Lakeside Admin Site	0	40.00	151	4,000	280	3,600	120	TBD
3	NM	3	Carson	Piedra Lumbre VC	14,289	18.00	273	350	0	350	0	2018
3	AZ	1	Prescott	Verde Land Parcels	0	55.00	0	1,500	0	1,500	0	2016
3	AZ	1	Prescott	Chino Valley DO	7,000	7.00	250	1,000	0	1,000	0	2019
6	OR	4	Umpqua	Wolf Crk Guard Sta (Christian Camp)	2,479	4.80	138	200	30	140	30	2018
6	OR	2	Fremont-Winema	Lakeview RD - Site	36,618	5.00	500	400	0	400	0	TBD
6	OR	2	Fremont-Winema	Chemult RD - Res - W1027	1,014	0	20	40	40	0	0	2016
6	OR	2	DESCHUTES - 0601	Bldg Decom Phase 1	6,573	0.00	1,625	0	0	0	0	2016
6	OR	2	OCHCOCO - 0607	Bldg Decom: Ochoco RS Phase 1	12,956	0.00	702	5	0	0	0	2016
6	OR	2	OCHCOCO - 0607	Bldg Decom: Rager RS Phase 1	42,173	0.00	3,065	10	0	0	0	2016
8	AR	4	Ouachita NF	Thornburg Work Center	5,502	10.00	003	0	0	0	0	2016
8	AR	3	Ozark-St. Francis	Mountainburg Work Center	5,582	1.61	15	350	0	0	0	2016

Region	State	Congressional. District.	Forest	Project Name	Gross Square Feet Reduced	Acres	Deferred Maintenance Reduction	Estimated Sale Value	Proceeds for Maintenance	Proceeds for new Construction	Proceeds for Bldg. Disposal	Planned Conveyance Completion Date
9	VT	1	Green Mountain & Finger Lakes	Middlebury Office Administrative Site	6,661	3.90	215	400	0	320	0	2018
10	AK	At-Large	Tongass	Sitka Duplexes	3,168	0.57	799	250	0	0	0	2017
Total, All Forest Service					153,310	150.47	$7,907	$8,952	$540	$7,560	$150	

Site-Specific Lands Act

Budget Line Item	Site-Specific Lands Acts (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Permanent Funds				
Site-Specific Lands Acts				
New Budget Authority	$1,900	$2,400	$2,400	0
Program Level	7,466	5,600	3,900	-$1,700
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	2	2	2	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $3,900,000 for the Site-Specific Lands Acts fund, a decrease of $1,700,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. This program of work pertains to site specific acts passed by Congress pertaining to the sale of National Forest System (NFS) land and the use of retained receipts to make specific improvements. The proceeds from each of these transactions are used in strict accordance with the terms and provisions of the authorizing legislation. The collected receipts under these Acts are available without further appropriation.

Past Performance

In FY 2014, we collected $1,900,000 from the conveyance of NFS land. Funds were used towards Capital Improvement and Maintenance and Land Adjustment projects.

Authorities

The Sisk Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 484a; P.L. 90-171). The Sisk Act is an exchange authority that allows certain parties to deposit cash, in lieu of land, to complete a land exchange. The funds are then utilized by the Secretary to acquire non-Federal properties. Subsequently, other authorities have specified that the Sisk Act account be utilized to hold other proceeds until expended, consistent with the legislation. Revenues received from the sale of land or structures are deposited into the Sisk Act Fund and are available without further appropriation for the purpose(s) specified in the statutes.

Program Description

Program Overview

This program enables the collection of receipts from the sale of NFS land pursuant to special acts passed by Congress. The proceeds are used for specific improvements to lands and facilities within the same national forest or State.

The legislated project may include work functions such as: notification, analysis, valuation, and realty case processing services; construction of new facilities; alteration of existing facilities to change function; and expansion of facilities to meet the needs of changing mission critical functions. Projects are identified annually through the legislative process. As a result, benefits and funds collected vary each year based on legislation.

Allocation and Integration

Conveyances under Special Legislation proceeds may compliment discretionary appropriations in the Landownership Management budget line item of the NFS appropriation and the Facilities and Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement budget line items of the Capital Improvement and Maintenance appropriation. The revenues generated from the sale of land and facilities may contribute to enhancing the agency's land and facility program. Outputs associated with this program are combined with and reported under other individual resource programs throughout the Forest Service appropriated accounts. The authority for obligation and expenditure of these funds are available without further appropriation.

Partnerships

The level of collaboration and partnerships that occurs through this program depends on the direction provided in each site specific act passed by Congress.

Payment to States

Budget Line Item	Payment to States (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 President's Budget	FY 2016 vs FY 2015
Payment to States Funds				
National Forest Fund Payments to States Available, Title I & III				
New Budget Authority	$91,369	0	$50,850	$50,850
Program Level	83,445	0	50,850	50,850
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Payments to States Act of 1908				
New Budget Authority	0	50,000	10,000	-40,000
Program Level	11,078	50,000	10,000	-40,000
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Payments to States Supplemental				
New Budget Authority	180,000	0	164,000	164,000
Program Level	175,604	0	164,000	164,000
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Payments to Minnesota Counties				
New Budget Authority	6,150	6,150	6,150	0
Program Level	5,707	6,150	6,150	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Payments to Counties, Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act				
New Budget Authority	29,764	21,000	21,000	0
Program Level	21,605	21,000	21,000	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Secure Payments for States (SRS), Title II				
New Budget Authority	29,934	0	64,000	64,000
Program Level	28,046	0	64,000	64,000
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	78	0	78	78
Secure Payments for States/Repayment per DOT Reauthorization				
New Budget Authority	230	0	0	0
Program Level	205	0	0	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Payment to State Funds New Budget Authority	**$337,447**	**$77,150**	**$316,000**	**$238,850**
Payment Funds Program Level	**$325,690**	**$77,150**	**$316,000**	**$238,850**
Payment to States Funds Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs)	**78**	**0**	**78**	**78**

FY 2016 Program Changes

National Forest Fund Payments to States Available, Title I & III

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes a mandatory reauthorization and a four-year phase-out through 2019 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Secure Rural Schools Act), starting in FY 2015.

Under the Secure Rural Schools Act, the Forest Service deposits all receipts to be used for Title I and Title III payments into the National Forest Fund Payments to States Available account, from which payments are made. The FY 2016 President's Budget projects a level of $50,850,000 for this account, an increase of $50,850,000 from the FY 2015 estimate. The FY 2015 estimate reflects the fact that the Secure Rural School Act was not reauthorized in FY 2014, which means that there were no receipts available to make payments in FY 2015, resulting in an account level of $0.

Payment to States Act of 1908

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $10,000,000 for Payments to States under the Act of 1908 (25 percent fund), a decrease of $40,000,000 from the FY 2015 estimate. This reflects payments under the 1908 Act with the proposed reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Act. The large decrease from FY 2015 reflects the fact that the Secure Rural Schools Act was not reauthorized in FY 2014, which means that all payment to States in FY 2015 occurred under the terms of the 1908 Act. Payments under the 1908 Act are made one year in arrears based on receipts and credits specified in the authorizing legislation.

Payments to States Supplemental

Under the Secure Rural Schools Act, the Forest Service first uses all forest receipts from the National Forest Fund receipt account to fund payments. If those receipts are insufficient, a transfer from Treasury to supplement receipts is obtained for the amount required. The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $164,000,000 for supplemental funding to continue the payments, an increase of $164,000,000. The FY 2015 estimate reflects the fact that the Secure Rural School Act was not reauthorized in FY 2014, which means that no Treasury funds were used to supplement National Forest Fund receipts, resulting in an account level of $0.

Payments to Minnesota Counties

The FY 2016 President's Budget contains the mandatory Payments to Minnesota Counties of $6,150,000 as required by the authorizing legislation.

Payment to Counties Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes $21,000,000 in Payments to Counties Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act based on receipts from activities on the national grasslands and from land utilization projects, approximately the same level as the FY 2015 estimate.

Secure Payments for States (SRS), Title II

The FY 2016 President's Budget request is $64,000,000 for Secure Payments for States. This is an increase of $64,000,000 from the FY 2015 estimate. The FY 2015 estimate reflects the fact that the Secure Rural School Act was not reauthorized in FY 2014, which means that there were no receipts available to make payments in FY 2015, resulting in an account level of $0.

Secure Payments for States/Repayment per DOT Reauthorization

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act as reauthorized in Public Law 110-343 required an eligible county that received a share of the State payment greater than $100,000 to submit its election to allocate its share among titles of the Act not later than September 30 each year. An eligible county that failed to make a timely election was considered to have elected to return 15 percent of its share of the State payment to the Treasury as required in 16 U.S.C. 7112(d)(3)(A)(ii) as in effect for fiscal year (FY) 2011 under Public Law 110-343. For FY 2011 approximately $2,500,000 was returned to the Treasury as required by this provision.

Section 100101(b) of Public Law 112-141 makes available to the Forest Service an amount equal to the shares of the State payment forfeited by counties that failed to meet the deadline for fiscal year 2011. These funds are referred to as recovered funds. The recovered funds must be used to carry out projects that further the purposes of Title II of the Act. Specifically, they are to be used to carry out projects that protect, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat; improve the maintenance of existing Forest Service infrastructure; enhance forest ecosystems; and restore and improve land health and water quality. Project objectives include maintenance or obliteration of roads, trails, and infrastructure; improvement of soil productivity; improvements in forest ecosystem health; restoration and maintenance of watersheds; control of noxious and exotic weeds; and reestablishment of native species. In FY 2014 recovered funds are $204,989.

Program Overview

National Forest Fund Payments to States Available, Title I & III

The National Forest Fund Payment to States Available is an account where all receipts that are projected to be used for Title I and Title III payments under Secure Rural Schools are deposited. These funds, combined with Payments to States Treasury transfer, are the source of payments to states under the Secure Rural Schools Act.

Payments to States Act of 1908

Payments to States Act of 1908 of May 23, 1908, as amended (16 U.S.C. 500 note), Payment for Receipts for Schools and Roads. This Act commonly known as "the 25 percent fund" or "the Act of 1908," authorizes annual payments on a seven-year rolling average basis to States equal to 25 percent of revenues from the sale of goods and services by the national forests. States shall use these payments to benefit public schools and roads in the county or counties containing national forests and grasslands. P.L. 110-343 amended the Act of 1908 which, among other things, changed the payment formula. Instead of being based on each year's receipts, payments to the States are now based on a rolling seven-year average of receipts (16 U.S.C. 500 note).

Payments to States Supplemental

Under the Secure Rural Schools Act, the Forest Service first uses all forest receipts from the National Forest Fund receipt account to fund SRS payments. If those receipts are insufficient, a request is made to Treasury to transfer the additional amount required.

Payments to Minnesota Counties

Thye-Blatnick Act of June 22, 1948, as amended (16 U.S.C. 577g), Payment for Additional Lands Acquired in Northern Minnesota. This Act directed the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire resorts, cabins, and private lands within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and permanent residents were prohibited after 1974. Additionally, in-lieu-of-tax payments were authorized to Cook, Lake, and St. Louis Counties for Federal wilderness land from any national forest receipts not otherwise appropriated. At the close of each fiscal year, the State of Minnesota is paid three-fourths of 1 percent of the appraised value of certain Superior National Forest lands in the counties of St. Louis, Cook, and Lake for distribution to those counties. The land value is reappraised every 10 years. New appraisals were done in 2008.

Payments to Counties, Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act

Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of July 22, 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1012). This Act pertains primarily to national grasslands and land utilization projects. Annual payments are authorized to counties which contain Forest Service lands that were acquired under the Bankhead-Jones Act. Twenty-five percent of the revenues received during the year (excluding receipts from the sale of land) from each national grassland or land utilization project are paid to the counties in which such lands are located. The funds are restricted to uses that benefit public schools and roads.

Secure Payments for States (SRS), Title II

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 500 note) originally authorized through FY 2006 as P.L. 106-393, provides choices to counties to either receive a guaranteed level of annual payments for roads and schools and other authorized purposes, as well as funding for specific resource improvement projects on the national forest where the county is located, or to receive payments under the Act of May 23, 1908. The Act was reauthorized through FY 2011 on October 3, 2008 in P.L. 110-343, Division C, Title VI. The program was reauthorized through FY 2012 by P.L. 112-141 and reauthorized again through FY 2013 by P.L. 113-40.

Counties that opt to not receive payments under this Act as reauthorized do receive, with few exceptions, 25 percent of all moneys collected from the national forests and grasslands in which the counties are located, under the Act of 1908. Counties electing to receive their share of a State's "full payment amount" under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, as amended by P.L. 110-343, receive payments under a formula based on several factors, including acreage of Federal land, previous payments, and per capita personal income.

Payments to Communities

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes a mandatory reauthorization and a four-year phase-out through 2019 of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Act starting in FY 2015 with $279 million from mandatory sources. The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes funding through mandatory appropriations supplemented by funds from the Treasury. The FY 2016 payment proposed is for $251 million and includes payments for both the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Payments to Communities Proposal – Funding Source
(dollars in thousands)

Funding Source*	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Mandatory	$275,000	$247,000	$154,000	$118,000	$97,000

**Funding totals estimated payments of $50 million to reflect payments under the Payments to States Act of 1908, as amended (16 U.S.C. 500)*

This proposal titled "Payments to Communities" continues to split allocations between the three portions of the program from the previous authority emphasizing enhancement of forest ecosystems, restoration and improvement of land health, and water quality and the increase of economic activity. The common types of work funded by each title are listed below:

Title I: Title I payments provide funding for county roads and schools.

Title II: Title II payments fund projects that enhance forest ecosystems, restore and improve the health of the land and water quality; and protect, restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

Title III: Title III payments are used by counties for activities under the Firewise Communities program, reimbursement for emergency services on national forests, and preparation of a community wildfire protection plan.

Past Performance

The SRS Act was not reauthorized to make FY 2014 payments. As such, receipts collected in FY 2014 will be paid to States according to the terms and conditions of the Payments to States Act of 1908 Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 500 note). For further details on the Payments to States Act 1908 Act fund see the Payments to States exhibit in the Permanent Appropriations chapter.

Program Description

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS Act), P.L. 106-393, was enacted to provide for transitional assistance to rural counties affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. The last payment authorized under P.L. 106-393 was for 2006. Section 601 of Division C of P.L. 110-343 amended and reauthorized the SRS Act (P.L. 106-393) through 2011. P.L. 112-141 reauthorized the program through FY 2012, and P.L. 113-40 reauthorized the program through FY 2013. The SRS Act, as amended, retains the original title. The amended SRS Act was similar to P.L. 106-393, although it is structured to phase out payments. The amended Act is no longer authorized as of the end of FY 2014; payments issued in FY 2015 are for the 2014 fiscal year.

In FY 2014, the SRS Act was not reauthorized. As a result, the States reverted to the Payments to States Act of 1908, as amended (16 U.S.C. 500). The Payments to States Act requires, with a few exceptions, that 25 percent of all monies received from the national forests and deposited into the National Forest Fund during a fiscal year from timber, grazing, special-use permits, power and mineral leases, and admission and user fees be paid to the States in which the national forests are located, for public schools and public roads in the county or counties in which the national forests are situated.

The Budget reflects a reauthorization and a four-year phase-out through 2019, starting in 2015, of the Secure Rural Schools Act with funding through mandatory appropriations. This SRS proposal revises the allocation split between the three portions of the program from the currently expired authority emphasizing enhancement of forest ecosystems, restoration, and improvement of land health and water quality and the increase of economic activity.

Refer to the Payment to States section under the Permanent Appropriations chapter for more details on other payments.

Trust Funds

Budget Line Item	Trust Funds (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Trust Funds				
Cooperative Work, Knutson-Vandenberg				
New Budget Authority	$249,579	$46,000	$40,800	-$5,200
Program Level	65,146	70,000	65,900	-4,100
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	481	502	484	-18
Cooperative Work, Other				
New Budget Authority	34,631	35,000	31,000	-4,000
Program Level	40,051	81,000	73,000	-8,000
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	206	207	207	0
Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund				
New Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Program Level	13	250	200	-50
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Reforestation Trust Fund				
New Budget Authority	30,000	30,000	30,000	0
Program Level	29,255	30,000	30,000	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	155	158	158	0
Trust Funds New Budget Authority	**314,210**	**111,000**	**101,800**	**-9,200**
Trust Funds Program Level	**134,465**	**181,250**	**169,100**	**-12,150**
Trust Funds Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**842**	**867**	**849**	**-18**

.

Cooperative Work - Knutson-Vandenberg

Appropriation	Cooperative Work - Knutson-Vandenberg (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Trust Funds				
Cooperative Work, Knutson-Vandenberg				
New Budget Authority	$249,579	$46,000	$40,800	-$5,200
Program Level	65,146	70,000	65,900	-4,100
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	481	502	484	-18

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	**FY 2013 Actual**	**FY 2014 Estimate**	**FY 2014 Actual**	**FY 2015 Estimate**	**FY 2016 Estimate**
Cooperative Work, Knutson-Vandenberg						
Acres of forest vegetation established	40,677	44,237	67,600	38,988	50,000	40,000
Acres of forest vegetation improved	29,161	18,643	42,000	22,306	39,000	35,000
Acres of lake habitat restored or enhanced with non-Wildlife funds	206	97	206	94	100	100
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	7	4	350	35	10	10
Acres of hazardous fuels treated to reduce risk of catastrophic fire	67,079	91,073	30,310	89,157	27,500	80,000
Miles of high clearance system roads improved	2	1	7	3	6	6
Highest priority acres treated annually for noxious weeds and invasive plants on NFS lands	9,768	9,446	39,863	9,835	1,000	8,000
Acres of rangeland vegetation improved	581	491	800	93	321	120
Miles of roads decommissioned	29	12	5	1	10	5
Acres of watershed improvement	2,843	79	9,200	2,330	7,630	3,500
Acres of wildlife habitat (terrestrial) (TES and Non-TES) restored or improved with non-Wildlife dollars	93,929	72,774	184,600	124,986	60,000	90,000

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Cooperative Work, Knutson-Vandenberg - Regional Work						
Acres of forest vegetation established	61	124	200	119	150	150
Acres of forest vegetation improved	504	1,714	867	504	1,000	600
Forestlands treated to achieve healthier conditions	7,610	3,450	0	2,174	2,000	2,000
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	3	0	5	7	5	5
Miles of landownership boundary line marked/maintained to standard	0	16	20	13	15	15
Volume of timber sold (million board feet (MMBF))	64	27	120	24	27	27
Acres of hazardous fuels treated to reduce risk of catastrophic fire	116	4,318	200	662	700	700
Acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) high-priority hazardous fuels treated	821	2,959	700	597	500	500
Highest priority acres treated annually for noxious weeds and invasive plants on NFS lands	72	15	100	638	50	200
Acres of wildlife habitat (terrestrial) (TES and Non-TES) restored or improved with non-Wildlife dollars	454	750	400	967	400	800

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $65,900,000 in the Knutson-Vandenberg (K-V) program, a decrease of $4,100,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Funds will be used to conduct sale area improvement work on timber sale areas on national forests. Funds will also be used within timber sale areas to implement reforestation following timber harvest as well as other sale area improvements approved in the related environmental analyses. The request fully funds the required sale area improvement work planned for accomplishment in FY 2016.

A total of $13,800,000 of the K-V program will be used for the K-V Regional Work program. This work will provide for vegetative treatments to meet forest health and resource restoration objectives. Activities include wildlife habitat improvement, control of insects, disease, and noxious weeds, community protection activities, and the maintenance of forest roads. An estimated outcome from these vegetation treatments is 27.5 million board feet (MMBF) of timber volume sold. The timber volume sold from this fund is accounted for in the timber volume sold accomplishment displayed in the Integrated Resource Restoration budget line item in FY 2015 and FY 2016.

Past Performance

Completion of K-V timber sale area projects is dependent upon the rate at which timber is harvested. Factors that influence the rate of harvest include weather and decisions made by the timber sale purchaser regarding which units are harvested. In FY 2014, 38,988 acres of forest vegetation was established, just slightly less than in FY 2013. Each year, treatments also include, but are not limited to, forest vegetation improved, fuels reduction, plant invasive species and noxious weed control, terrestrial habitat enhancement, and water and soils improvement.

Authorities

The Act of June 9, 1930, (16 USC 576b) (P.L. 71-319, Ch. 416, June 9, 1930, 46 Stat. 527, as amended by P.L. 94-588, 1976, and P.L. 109-54, [title IV, Sec. 412], Aug. 2, 2005, 119 Stat. 551). The Act, known as the Knutson-Vandenberg Act, established a special fund to collect a portion of timber sale receipts to pay for reforesting the area from which the timber was cut. The Act was amended in 1976 to allow the Forest Service to use these funds for other sale area improvement activities. The FY 2006 Interior Appropriations Act amended this authority to allow for the expenditure of unused funds, not needed to accomplish work on the sale area, on other areas "…within the Forest Service region in which the timber sale occurred."

Program Description

Program Overview

The following programs are included in this fund:

Knutson-Vandenberg - This program uses funds derived from timber sale revenues to accomplish improvement work within the timber sale area. Planned resource project work is documented in the sale area improvement plans as determined by the project environmental analysis. The first priority for K-V program funds is reforestation of harvested areas. These funds can also be used to perform timber stand improvement and protection, and for the improvement of other resource values, including wildlife, soil, watershed, range, and recreation.

Knutson-Vandenberg Regional Work - The FY 2006 Interior Appropriations Act expanded the authority to allow for the expenditure of unused funds, not needed to accomplish work on the timber sale area, on another area "…within the Forest Service region in which the timber sale occurred." Unused collections are generated when actual costs are less than planned costs. This authority is used to accomplish watershed restoration; wildlife habitat improvement; control of insects, disease, and noxious weeds; community protection activities; and the maintenance of forest roads. The work can be performed through the use of contracts, forest product sales, and cooperative agreements. If forest product sales are used to accomplish these objectives, K-V Regional Work program funds may be utilized for timber sale planning, preparation, administration, engineering support, and land line location.

Allocation and Integration

The K-V program funding is allocated to the regions based upon cash collected on timber sale areas and the planned resource projects identified on approved sale area improvement plans. The K-V Regional Work program funds are allocated based upon cash availability, which includes unused collections when actual costs are less than planned cost.

Partnerships

The K-V program has contributed to partnerships and productive working relationships with State fish and game agencies and organizations such as the Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited, and the Ruffed Grouse Society. These productive relationships and partnerships are critical in the identification and planning of some K-V funded projects.

Cooperative Work, Other

Budget Line Item	Cooperative Work, Other (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Trust Funds				
Cooperative Work, Other				
New Budget Authority	$34,631	$35,000	$31,000	-$4,000
Program Level	40,051	81,000	73,000	-8,000
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	206	207	207	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $55,000,000 for the Cooperative Work, Agreement Based program, a decrease of $8,000,000 from FY 2015 Enacted Budget. The Budget also includes $18,000,000 for the Cooperative Work, Non-Agreement Based program, equal to the FY 2015 enacted level, for a total of $73,000,000. This level is consistent with anticipated collections from partners and cooperators. The collections allow the agency to leverage appropriated funds to deliver a variety of treatments and services, which benefit Forest Service lands and other resource programs.

Cooperative projects vary in size and scope each year depending on partner interest, objectives, and financial resources, and meet both agency and partner needs. Each agreement specifies the type of work to be done as well as the funds being donated.

Past Performance

A variety of work activities are performed each year using funds deposited in advance by partners and cooperators. No targets are set because it is difficult to predict the mix of collections or the specific work that will be needed. Activities include wildlife habitat enhancement; recreation program activities; research; fire prevention and education; construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of roads, trails, and other improvements; scaling services; fire protection; and other resource purposes as authorized by law. For example, American Conservation Experience crews were hired under this authority to install new trail as an extension to the Lower Bones Trail outside Dead Horse State Park in the Coconino National Forest. Lower Bones is a multi-purpose trail for all non-motorized users and one favored by the bourgeoning mountain biker community. The extension was designed and installed with a focus on sustainability to reduce erosion and limit the need for future maintenance. Larger projects are also funded by this authority including the Stanislaus National Forest collection agreement with Pacific Gas and Electric to provide the cost of constructing, reconstructing, and rehabilitation of Forest Service-owned recreation facilities as described in the Recreation Implementation Plan for the Spring Gap-Stanislaus project.

Authorities

The Act of June 30, 1914 (16 U.S.C. 498). This act authorizes the acceptance of contributions for cooperative work in forest investigations, protection, management, and improvement of the National Forest System.

The Granger-Thye Act of April 24, 1950 (16 U.S.C. 572). This act authorizes cooperation with other parties to perform work for permittees, agencies, organizations, and persons for the kinds of work that the Forest Service is authorized to do on lands of the United States.

The Roads and Trails Act of October 13, 1964 (16 U.S.C. 532-537). This act authorizes the construction of roads using cooperative financing from other agencies.

The Act of June 30, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1643). This act authorizes the acceptance and use of donated funds for research activities.

The Act of October 10, 1978 (7 U.S.C. 2269). This act authorizes agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture to accept donations for non-research activities.

The Act of June 6, 1968 (16 U.S.C. 693d). This act authorizes cooperation in the operation of the Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum and Nature Center.

The Act of July 4, 1968 (16 U.S.C. 471h). This act authorizes cooperation in the operation of the Cradle of Forestry.

Title 31, United States Code, section 1321 (31 U.S.C. 1321). Section 1321 of Title 31 of the United States Code authorizes Trust Funds.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Cooperative Work, Other fund is used to collect deposits received from partners and cooperators for protecting and improving resources of the National Forest System (NFS) as authorized by cooperative agreements. The deposits are for a wide variety of activities that benefit and support programs in Forest and Rangeland Research, on NFS lands, and for other agency activities.

Cooperative Work, Agreement Based – This is a direct project-to-customer relationship, typically involving long-term liability on the part of the Forest Service to perform work for the contributor. An example of this work are special use permits with collection provisions under the Granger-Thye fee offset where the Forest Service has a liability to perform work for the permit holder specially tied to the permit. These agreements should typically be accompanied by a collection agreement.

Cooperative Work, Non-Agreement Based – These deposits occur when the terms of the authorizing instrument, such as a permit or sale contract, allow for deposits from multiple contributors to be pooled and expended for the intended purpose. The majority of these pooled

collections are not subject to refunds in accordance with the provisions of the respective authorizing instrument.

Cooperative deposits are received from a vast assortment of local, regional, and national organizations and individuals; State and other public agencies; industrial associations; and other private sources. The deposits are made under a variety of cooperative instruments that specify the mutual benefits of the work. Cooperative deposits leverage appropriated funds to increase effectiveness and complement the objectives of Forest Service appropriated resource management programs and cooperative research projects. These programs and projects may involve any aspect of forestry and vary widely in scope and duration.

Cooperative road maintenance deposits can be made by commercial users of the National Forest Road System in lieu of actually performing their commensurate share of road maintenance. These deposits are used in conjunction with the other road maintenance appropriations to provide maintenance of National Forest System roads by the Forest Service.

Deposits for administering and protecting non-Federal land within or near the national forests can be made by owners of non-Federal lands that are intermingled with, or adjacent to, NFS lands. These deposits help landowners manage their lands in accordance with good forest management practices and provide for wildfire protection on State and private lands intermingled with Federal ownership.

Reforestation Trust Fund

Budget Line Item	Reforestation Trust Fund (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget	Program Changes
Trust Funds				
Reforestation Trust Fund				
New Budget Authority	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	0
Program Level	29,255	30,000	30,000	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	155	158	158	0

Performance Measure	Accomplishment and Targets (1)					
	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Reforestation Trust Fund						
Acres of forest vegetation established	108,457	79,734	96,300	80,751	81,250	81,250
Acres of forest vegetation improved	28,078	33,727	27,300	27,177	35,450	31,000

(1) The Past Performance narrative below provides detailed information on aspects of program management, strategies, and/or improvements in relation to the accomplishments associated with the performance measures.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $30,000,000, the same as the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Funds are used to analyze, prepare, and implement reforestation and forest vegetation improvement projects outside of timber sale areas on National Forest System lands. The request will fund an estimated 81,250 acres of reforestation work and 31,000 acres of forest vegetation improvement activities. The FY 2016 program continues to prioritize reforestation treatments arising from unplanned disturbance events such as wildfires, insects, and diseases. In such places, timely reforestation is required to meet specified land management objectives.

The agency will give high priority to reforestation treatments and forest vegetation improvement activities on lands where appropriated or Cooperative Work Knutson-Vandenberg funds are not available. Financing reforestation and forest vegetation improvement treatments ensure that appropriate forest vegetation is established on National Forest System lands within acceptable timeframes. Improvement treatments help to maintain and improve forest health conditions.

Past Performance

In FY 2014, the agency accomplished 80,751 acres of reforestation and 27,177 acres of timber stand improvement through the Reforestation Trust Fund. Reforestation includes planting and field examination and certification of acres successfully regenerated to meet specified land management objectives. This certification is completed the third year after plantation

establishment, or five years after natural regeneration. The purpose is to demonstrate that the area is satisfactorily stocked with acceptable levels of live seedlings at the time of examination survey, and also to determine that there is no additional work required other than protection. The field examination and certification procedures are accomplished at lower unit cost than any other reforestation or timber stand improvement activities. This allows for implementation of timber stand improvement treatments, such as pre-commercial thinning on high priority areas to meet forest health, future stand development, and critical hazardous fuel reductions, while exceeding reforestation objectives.

Authorities

Reforestation, Recreational Boating Safety and Facilities Act of 1980, Title III, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1606a(d)) P.L. 96-451. This act established the Reforestation Trust fund.

Program Description

Program Overview

A maximum of $30,000,000 is transferred to the Reforestation Trust Fund by the U.S. Treasury each fiscal year to reduce the backlog in reforestation and timber stand improvement work. Reforestation activities include site preparation for planting or seeding of the appropriate tree species, site preparation to encourage natural regeneration, and certification of acres naturally regenerated without the need of site preparation. In addition, as part of the reforestation activity, various treatments are applied to improve initial seedling survival rates. Benefits of reforestation include restoration of forest vegetation on areas impacted by wildfire, floods, and hurricanes; increased carbon sequestration capacity; establishment of forest vegetation resilient to the effects of climate change; and improved habitat diversity for many wildlife species. More detailed information on related activities is presented in the Reforestation Special Exhibit.

Timber stand improvement activities include release treatments through removal of competing vegetation; pre-commercial thinning to regulate stand density, composition and structure; pruning treatments that reduce ladder fuels, reduce the effects of pathogens (such as white pine blister rust) and improve future wood product quality; and fertilization treatments to maintain and improve soil productivity and enhance rapid stand development to improve carbon storage capacity. Benefits of timber stand improvement include improved forest health and productivity; hazardous fuel reductions; improved forest resiliency to the impacts of drought, insects and disease; and diversified wildlife habitat. In addition, timber stand improvement generates woody biomass that is available to meet renewable energy needs.

Allocation and Integration

Funds are allocated based on reforestation or timber stand improvement needs, which include reforestation needs created by wildfires and other natural events. Prior year accomplishments are also a factor. Allocation decisions consider the combined accomplishments from the Integrated Resource Restoration program and the Reforestation Trust Fund program. These funds are used in conjunction with other vegetation management funds to provide an integrated, effective means of accomplishing forest vegetation establishment, maintenance, or improvement of forest health conditions under a variety of ecological and biological settings.

Partnerships

Partnerships in reforestation are critical for program accomplishments. Several key reforestation partners are American Forests, The National Forest Foundation, the Arbor Day Foundation, the National Garden Clubs, Batesville Casket Company, and individual donations under the Plant-A-Tree program.

Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund

Budget Line Item	Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund (dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2014 Enacted	**FY 2015 Enacted**	**FY 2016 Pres. Budget**	**Program Changes**
Trust Funds				
Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund				
New Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Program Level	$13	$250	$200	-$50
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a program level of $200,000 for the Land Between the Lakes (LBL) Management fund, a decrease of $50,000 from the FY 2015 Enacted Budget. Funds will be used to support operational costs for customer-focused recreation and environmental education programs, as well as capital improvements at the facilities where funds are collected. The LBL Management funds will continue to be used to assess, analyze, and implement the highest priorities identified in the LBL Area Plan for integrated forest management. The LBL Area will continue to maintain recreation facilities to standard for public use, and small infrastructure replacement projects will be completed in several of the developed facilities.

Past Performance

In FY 2014there were approximately 1.5 million visits to the LBL National Recreation Area, which is consistent with previous years. LBL has historically covered 30 percent of its costs by receipts through the LBL Management fund authority, supporting a diversity of recreation, fish and wildlife, and environmental education activities. Fee collections were over $4,000,000 in FY 2014.

The LBL Management fund covers routine and inflationary increases to operational costs for the facilities that generate revenue.

Authority

Land Between the Lakes Protection Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 460*lll*-24) (P.L. 105-277, div. A, Sec. 101(e) [title V, Sec. 524], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-315). This Act establishes the Land Between the Lakes Management fund. In accordance with Title V of the Act, responsibility for the LBL National Recreation Area in Kentucky and Tennessee transferred from the Tennessee Valley Authority to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Program Description

Program Overview

The LBL National Recreation Area provides public recreational opportunities; conserves fish and wildlife and their habitat; provides for a diversity of plants and animals; and offers opportunities for hunting, fishing, and environmental education. LBL hosts an average of 1.5 million visits annually from people all over the Nation and more than 30 foreign countries. LBL continues to demonstrate success with its camping reservation system, which allows visitors to register for camp sites before arrival.

Section 524 of the Land Between the Lakes Protection Act established a special fund known as the Land Between the Lakes Management fund. All amounts received from charges, user fees, and natural resource use, including timber and agricultural receipts, are deposited into the fund. Funds are available for management of LBL, including payment of salaries and expenses.

Partnerships

LBL's program of work provides the opportunity to partner with a number of regional and national conservation organizations, such as the National Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Ducks Unlimited. Further, LBL's volunteers, coordinated through the Friends of LBL partnership, log more than 116,000 hours of volunteer time on LBL projects annually.

Special Exhibits

Special Exhibits

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Bark Beetle Infestation in the West

Background

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction but is included to report accomplishments for the Bark Beetle Infestation in the West program.

Overview

Current information indicates that tree mortality caused by western bark beetles has declined significantly since 2011.

For the period of 2000 to 2010, over 43 million acres in the West had trees infested with bark beetles, of which nearly 32 million acres are National Forest System (NFS) lands. During the same period the infestation was growing at approximately 600,000 acres per year. In 2011, it was estimated that 100,000 beetle-killed trees fell daily in southern Wyoming and northern Colorado, posing a serious health and safety threat to forest visitors, residents, and employees[23].

On July 11, 2011, the Forest Service released the five-year Western Bark Beetle Strategy[24], which identified how the Forest Service was going to respond to the western bark beetle epidemic in Regions 1 through 6. The strategy focuses on the future and on the continued need to integrate and prioritize our response around three goals: human safety, forest recovery, and long-term forest resiliency.

Agency Priorities and Actions

Protecting human health and safety is the Forest Service priority when allocating funds to treat forests. The decision to remove trees to mitigate the effects of the western bark beetle takes into consideration both the health and safety of the public, as well as that of Forest Service employees. Priorities include: treatment near roads, trails, and campgrounds that experience high public use; treatment in areas adjacent to communities and homes for protection from fire; and coordination of larger-scale projects with other governmental agencies and partners that identify and communicate risks to public safety and leverage treatments across boundaries. Additional priorities include recovery and forest resiliency. Effective recovery improves watershed health, wildlife habitat, and water quality; creates more resilient forests following infestation; and provides benefits above and beyond what would be expected if nature were allowed to take its course. Active forest management can increase the resiliency of forests not yet infested by bark beetles. Thinning young stands to decrease basal area and creating a diversity of age classes over time can mitigate potential catastrophic beetle losses. Species and age diversity are key elements of a forest's resiliency to insects, disease, and wildfire. Managing for resiliency can reduce the environmental, health, and safety impacts of beetle infestation.

[23] USDA Forest Service 2011 Western Bark Beetle Strategy page 4, http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/bark-beetle/bark-beetle-strategy-appendices.pdf

[24] USDA Forest Service 2011Western Bark Beetle Strategy, http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/bark-beetle/bark-beetle-strategy-appendices.pdf

Research and Development

The Forest Service is investing in knowledge and management tools needed to guide the above priorities. Research efforts will provide better strategies for mitigating tree hazards to people and community infrastructure; improving the ability of fuel and fire behavior models to map fire hazards due to bark beetles; exploring pest management treatments for beetle control; and improving our understanding of the effects of increased vegetation diversity, thinning and, disturbance agents on the population dynamics of various bark beetle species.

Tracking Performance

The Forest Service is tracking activities related to bark beetle recovery using existing performance measures. These include hazardous fuels acres treated, road and trail hazard acres mitigated, and recreation site hazards mitigated.

In FY 2014, the Forest Service treated 320,930 acres. Of these, 14,080 acres were treated as a subset of the resiliency total with funding from State and Private Forestry. A total of 10,667 acres were treated to improve human safety (safety goal), 18,406 acres were reforested (recovery goal), and 291,857 acres were thinned to improve resiliency (resiliency goal). The Forest Service removed hazard trees along 206 miles of roads and trails.

These treatments resulted in 176.2 million board feet (MMBF) of timber sold and 59,337 green tons of biomass produced. The planned treated acres are in line with the Accelerated Restoration Initiative, which seeks a 20 percent increase in the number of acres being mechanically treated over the three years FY 2012 through FY 2014.

Regions have invested additional resources in implementing the bark beetle strategy. Actual accomplishments exceed planned levels.

FY 2014 Funding and Accomplishments

In FY 2014, the Forest Service invested $101.5 million on bark beetle mitigation activities in Regions 1 through 6. Specific mitigation activities were funded under various programs including Recreation, Roads, Trails, Forest Health Management, Hazardous Fuels, Facilities Maintenance, Forest Products, Vegetation and Watershed Management, and Salvage Sale Fund.

FY 2014 Accomplishments

Performance	Safety	Recovery	Resilience	Total
Treated Area (acres)	10,667	18,406	291.857	320,930
Volume Sold (MMBF)	19.1	26.0	131.1	176.2
Bio-Energy Production (green tons)	6,193	7,070	46,074	59,337
Road and Trail Maintenance (miles)	40	8	198	206

Research and development

Forest Service researchers and their partners continued to study the biology, ecology, and management of the principal species of tree-killing bark beetles and the socioeconomic effects of bark beetle activity. More specifically, scientists examined: 1) the effects of forest thinning and other silvicultural methods on the occurrence and severity of bark beetle-caused tree mortality, 2) interactions between bark beetles and forest fires, 3) ecological, economic, and social consequences of bark beetle outbreaks, 4) effects of climate change on beetle dynamics, and 5) use of pheromones and insecticides-based strategies for managing bark beetles in high value areas.

In FY 2014, researchers developed 24 new publications and several other tools aimed at improving bark beetle management in western forests. Some highlights include:

- Researchers published the most thorough synthesis of current knowledge about any forest bark beetle in North America. The Western Bark Beetle Research Group, which is an assemblage of Forest Service entomologists working on bark beetles in western forests, published a special section in the journal Forest Science that includes 10 papers concerning different aspects of the biology, ecology, and management of mountain pine beetle. Topics are relevant to land managers, forest health specialists, scientists, and students from a variety of disciplines.
- Researchers working with their university colleagues examined and summarized the effect of interactions beetle low level populations of dwarf mistletoe and bark beetle on forest dynamics, fuel heterogeneity, and species composition. Most studies have addressed outbreak populations of bark beetles only, not the effects of other biotic disturbance agents that could have a major influence on forest dynamics, fuel heterogeneity, and species composition.
- Researchers reviewed multi-aged lodgepole pine stand dynamics and discussed variable-retention harvesting as a silvicultural option for managing mountain pine beetles. They agreed that silvicultural treatments can simulate mixed-severity disturbances that create multi-aged lodgepole pine stands, which, along with heterogeneous forest landscapes, can play a role in mitigating susceptibility to primary disturbance agents (bark beetles and wildfire).
- Researchers recently developed a compendium describing the various kinds of impacts caused by the major bark beetle pest found in western forests. Several recent and current beetle outbreaks were reviewed as case studies, including: spruce beetle on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska, western pine beetle in California, mountain pine beetle in Colorado, Douglas-fir beetle in the northern Rockies, and multiple insect interactions in southern Arizona. The impacts of these bark beetles were described for the provision services (e.g., timber and water production, wildlife habitat), regulating services (e.g., nutrient cycling, energy flows, carbon sequestration), supporting services (e.g., flood control, erosion mitigation, air purification), cultural services (e.g., recreational experience, spiritual renewal), and preserving services (e.g., genetic repositories, biodiversity).

FY 2015 and FY 2016 Funding

The Forest Service plans to invest $101.5 million in FY 2015 and $101.5 million in FY 2016 to implement the Western Bark Beetle Strategy. In both FY 2015 and FY 2016, the target is to treat 293,293 acres per year. This target increase reflects greater capacities derived from expanded collaborative restoration partnerships and increased efficiency in the agency's National Environmental Policy Act analyses. In FY 2016, specific mitigation activities will be funded by the national Integrated Resource Restoration program proposed for FY 2016.

Priority beetle-related work in FY 2015 and FY 2016 will continue to promote human safety, forest recovery, and ecological resilience as well as research and development. We will coordinate work with our partners and continue to maximize appropriated dollars to mitigate negative impacts from these unprecedented outbreaks.

Biomass, Wood Products, and Wood Energy

Background

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction; however, it is included to report Forest Service accomplishments related to agency work on biomass, wood products, and wood energy.

Overview

Our Nation's forests are strategic assets that benefit the United States' energy security, economic opportunity, environmental quality, and global competitiveness by providing raw material for the renewable wood energy and wood products markets. These markets are a growing source of jobs, particularly in rural America, that contribute to a sustainable future based on a locally-grown renewable resource. The tremendous potential for the use of wood residues in the generation of heating, cooling, and electricity has not been realized. Moreover, the wood products sector, which has experienced a steep decline over the past few decades, has a significant opportunity to contribute to the greater use of wood in building construction. With additional research, wood could be converted to high value liquid or gaseous bioenergy and bioproducts that serve as cost-effective renewable substitutes for fossil fuel intensive products. Sustainable development of healthy bioenergy and biobased products sectors depends on rapid and robust research and development.

From a land management perspective, expanding biomass, wood products, and wood energy markets reduces forest treatment costs and wildfire risk, restores forested landscapes, and generates new income streams for forest landowners. The following table shows Forest Service funding by budget line item.

Forest Service Funding for Biomass, Wood Products, and Wood Energy
(dollars in thousands)

	Budget Line Item	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres, Budget
Biomass Production	Forest Products	$5,000	$5,000	-
	Integrated Resource Restoration	-	-	5,000*
Bioenergy & Biobased Products Research	Research and Development	12,476	12,476	11,511
Wood Innovations: Wood Energy and Wood Products Markets	Hazardous Fuels	6,750	7,500**	9,500**
	Integrated Resource Restoration			800
*Biomass Air Quality Improvement****	*Hazardous Fuels*	-		*1,000*
*Geographically Target Wood Utilization****	*Hazardous Fuels*	-		*2,500*
*Expanded Use of Wood in Green Building****	*Hazardous Fuels*	*1,000*		*2,000*
Total		**$25,226**	**$24,976**	**$26,811 to $32,311**

*This includes funding for the national target of 2.8 million green tons of biomass and funding for wood supply assessments.
**Administered by Regions/Area with support from the Forest Products Laboratory.
*** Funding for these items will be dependent on specific needs identified and dollar amounts may vary.

Other participating USDA agencies provide the bulk of funding for the USDA Wood to Energy Initiative. The Forest Service is increasing its investment in this work, but our primary focus is delivering subject matter expertise and technical assistance.

FY 2016

Forest Service's emphasis on biomass, wood products, and wood energy encourages market development for woody biomass and provides high quality data to inform business decisions. The work planned for FY 2016 is primarily structured around the USDA Wood to Energy Initiative. We will continue to support and develop sustainable management and wood utilization technologies and practices to effectively integrate biomass production into forest management activities. The following describes the work to be accomplished with respect to each of the items listed in the table above.

Biomass Production

In FY 2014 the Forest Service was instrumental in helping the Farm Services Agency implement the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), which provides eligible farmers, ranchers, and foresters with an incentive to harvest forest and agricultural residues and deliver them to qualified energy facilities. The program provided transportation subsidies to loggers and energy facilities for the removal and delivery of biomass for energy generation. Key program accomplishments include:

- In Colorado's Front Range, 18,000 tons of forestry residues that the Forest Service targeted for removal to reduce forest fire threats was delivered for energy generation.

- In the Rim Fire area of Tuolumne County, California, the vast majority of the 40,000 tons of forestry residues the Forest Service had targeted for removal was transported to energy facilities.
- In Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona, 41,000 tons of forest residues were approved for removal and transport to energy facilities.
- In Oscoda County, Michigan, home of the Huron Manistee National Forest, 5,000 tons of forest residues were approved for removal and transport to energy facilities.

The delivery of these residues advanced an important component of the restoration activities occurring on National Forest System Lands.

Bioenergy and Biobased Products Research

We continuously strive to provide more accurate national and regional feedstock availability projections; models to assist in bioenergy facility site selection; sustainable management systems, options, and practices for forest bioenergy feedstocks; logistics and decision support tools to improve treatment, harvest, and transport efficiency; integrated models of land use patterns and bioenergy markets; and life cycle analysis and assessment tools for forest bioenergy and bioproducts supply chains.

We will continue the development of wood-based biofuels, chemicals, and products that can substitute for petroleum-based materials, including developing biomass deconstruction science and technology, conversion technologies for wood-based liquid fuels including drop-in fuels and science and technology for manufacturing chemicals and other co-products from biomass-to-energy conversion.

USDA Wood to Energy Initiative

The USDA Wood to Energy Initiative is a collaborative interagency effort within USDA's Rural Development (Rural Utilities Service, Rural Housing Service, and Rural Business Cooperative Service), Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Forest Service. This initiative synergistically facilitates achievement of all cooperating agencies' goals, such as Rural Development's goal of creating renewable energy and Forest Service's goal to expand markets for low value wood to reduce forest management costs. The Forest Service annually issues a small amount of grant funds and provides technical assistance so that project proponents can successfully compete for Rural Development's loans and grants as well as other funding opportunities. The Forest Service works in a variety of areas that support the USDA Wood to Energy Initiative, including the following.

Expand Wood Products and Wood Energy Markets - The Forest Service established the Wood Innovations initiative in 2014 to strategically expand wood products and wood energy markets that support forest management and deliver economic and environmental benefits to communities throughout America.

Expand Wood Energy Markets - Since 2013, 16 States have established Statewide Wood Energy Teams through separate cooperative agreements with the Forest Service of up to $250,000 in value. The teams create opportunities for communities and facilities to convert

to wood energy in the highest priority areas of each State. States have identified an unprecedented number of wood energy projects that need financial or technical assistance. The Forest Service will facilitate State efforts by issuing grants for projects that make use of low value wood generated from National Forest System and other forest lands with high wildfire risk. The Forest Service will also continue to dedicate funding to establish more Statewide Wood Energy teams because the cross collaboration among participating States has leveraged opportunities and outcomes that have exceeded expectations.

Expand Wood Products Markets - In 2016, the Forest Service will issue grants to expand wood products markets in traditional and emerging sectors. Preference will be given to projects that promote wood as a construction material in commercial building or expand markets that use traditional or innovative wood products. Grant amounts will not exceed $250,000 in most cases and all grantees must provide a 35 percent match.

Biomass Air Quality Improvement - Wood energy development can be impeded by poor air quality conditions caused in part by old residential wood stove technology. Improving combustion technology enhances air quality and creates opportunities to expand residential wood energy markets that support forest management. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently reduced the ambient air quality standard for particulate matter, which will result in more communities being classified as nonattainment areas under the Clean Air Act. In partnership with the EPA, a competitive grant process will be used to provide funding for the replacement of inefficient residential wood stoves with EPA certified wood stoves in areas where there are high levels of particulate matter in the air.

Geographically Target Wood Utilization - This program, in conjunction with geographically-focused hazardous fuels work, will support wood utilization to reduce treatment costs through technical assistance, grants, and cooperative agreements, if specific needs are identified.

Expand the use of Wood in the Commercial Building Sector - Engineered wood products and innovative building designs for commercial high rise buildings are opening extensive new markets for the conversion of relatively low-value small dimension lumber into higher-value structural materials. This new market has the potential to produce significant benefits for climate change; energy conservation; and the reduction of costs for hazardous fuels reduction, forest restoration, and other forest treatments. This promising market promotes the storage of carbon in long-lived building materials by “making big wood out of small wood,” reduces the amount of energy needed for building construction, and generates a higher monetary value for wood. Funding will be used to work with architects, engineers, developers, and others to increase the use of wood construction materials, establish demonstration projects, conduct Life Cycle Assessments, and pursue Environmental Product Declarations, if specific needs are identified.

The combination of up to $15 million from the Hazardous Fuels program and up to $5,800 from the Integrated Resource Restoration program in the FY 2016 proposed budget will be strategically targeted to advance the development of biomass, wood products, and wood energy.

Past Performance

The Forest Service has a long history of success in encouraging the expansion of wood products and wood energy markets, but sees a more urgent need to support these goals. Selected accomplishments include the following.

- In FY 2014, State and Private Forestry awarded $1.25 million in grants to small businesses and community groups for wood energy projects and $2.5 million in cooperative agreements to establish 11 Statewide Wood Energy teams. This funding stimulates the use of low value wood in areas of the country with significant forest restoration needs, especially areas of high wildfire risk. The funding promotes the use of commercially proven technologies for the production of heat, cooling, or electricity. Communities and businesses use the funding to complete the feasibility analyses, cost assessments, and engineering designs needed to obtain and leverage construction funding.
- In FY 2014, Forest Service Research and Development (R&D) scientists produced more than 85 publications and presentations advancing science and technology in biomass production and management systems, biofuels and bioproducts, and decision support and policy analysis.
- Forest Service R&D scientists produced a Community Biomass Handbook and a wood energy financial application that allow users to quickly assess whether wood energy is a feasible option for their community or small business. (http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/45769).
- Forest Service R&D co-authored a major publication synthesizing the literature on biomass carbon accounting, which is used to identify and examine scientific insights that advance our understanding of forest bioenergy and "carbon debts." (http://dx.doi.org/10.5849/jof.14-009).
- Forest Service R&D scientists used a life cycle inventory (LCI) analysis to evaluate a 200-kilowatt (electrical) modular advanced biomass pyrolysis system, referred to as the Tucker renewable natural gas (RNG) unit. They found that the system is energy efficient and has the potential to assist lumber mills and other manufacturing facilities with the management of biomass byproducts and conversion into useful co-products. (http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/46266).

Chief's Reserve Fund

Background

This exhibit is required by P.L. 109-54, House Report 109-80, page 151, Administrative Provisions, which directed:

The Committee also requests that future budget justification displays on this fund include a complete presentation of spending from the fund during the most recent complete fiscal year, with a brief explanation why the uses were indeed important, unanticipated, and appropriate.

Overview

The Chief's Reserve Fund (CRF) is managed by the Chief's Office to fund emergencies or unforeseen events that occur throughout the fiscal year. This reserve fund allows units to respond quickly to unplanned urgent work without impacting the planned program of work.

FY 2016 Program

At the Chief's discretion, funds from this reserve are available for unplanned and/or emergency circumstances. Requests are evaluated against criteria including the urgent nature of the event, relevance of proposed use to priorities, other funding source considerations, and risks from being unfunded. Requests must be for work or projects exceeding $25,000. Initial fund mixes are determined at the beginning of the fiscal year, but may be remixed during the year to meet unanticipated needs. Funds are only spent in accordance with the purposes for which they were appropriated. Unused funds are distributed to the Regions, Stations, and Northeastern Area as carryover in the following year.

FY 2014 to FY 2016 Funding
(dollars in thousands)

FY 2014 Actual	**FY 2015 Enacted Budget**	**FY 2016 President's Budget**
$6,318	$6,318	$6,318

Past Performance

In FY 2014, CRF funds were approved for some unplanned projects and provided additional funding for others. Total program amounts assessed and obligated in FY 2014 are illustrated in the table below

FY 2014 Program Amounts
(dollars in thousands)

FY 2014 Program	Approved
Forest & Rangeland Research	$280
Forest Health Management-Cooperative Lands	126
Forest Health Management-Federal Lands	189
Forest Stewardship	79
Urban & Community Forestry	63
Land Management Planning	253
Inventory & Monitoring	505
Recreation, Heritage, & Wilderness	569
Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Management	316
Grazing Management	126
Forest Products	569
Minerals & Geology Management	158
Vegetation & Watershed Management	569
Landownership Management	253
Law Enforcement Operations	131
Hazardous Fuels	253
Cooperative Fire Protection, State Fire Assistance	142
Preparedness	478
Suppression	406
Facilities	379
Roads	253
Trails	158
Infrastructure Improvement	63
Total	**$6,318**

Projects funded by the Chief's Reserve Fund in FY 2014 include:

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects (CFLRP) ($2,142,409)

The CRF provided additional funding to supplement the regions for their Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund projects. Each region is required to fund up to 50 percent of the cost of carrying out and monitoring ecological restoration treatments on National Forest System (NFS) lands for each of their proposals selected. The CFLRP budget line item contributed $31.9 million of the $47.3 million of funding required for these projects in FY 2014 and other NFS funds were used to supplement the program funding to insure the successful continuation of these projects. The additional funding from the Chief Reserve Fund assisted the regions in accelerating restoration activities and sustaining forest product inventory.

RadioTower Construction ($552,516)

Funds were used to replace critical towers listed below that were deemed unserviceable, un-climbable and could not use during the winter season.

- Region 5 - Tahoe National Forest, Babbitt PK;
- Region 5 – Six Rivers National Forest, Orleans;
- Region 8 – National Forests in Mississippi, Stoney; and
- Region 9 – Monongahela National Forest, Barton Knob.

Region 1 Office Relocation Costs ($300,000)

Funds were used to award Phase 1 of the Building 26 reconstruction project. Building 26 is at Ft. Missoula and it will be the new home of the R1 Regional Office as the Regional Office leaves the General Service Agency lease. The Building 26 renovation will continue into FY 2016. The regional office move to Fort Missoula is planned to:

- vacate a high cost lease (approximately $1.9 million /year), reducing cost pools,
- reduce 30-year life cycle costs by 65 percent, a savings of $23,706,982 over this period,
- have a design/construction payback period of approximately five and a half years,
- reduce the footprint and meet Department space policies,
- preserve and use a historic structure, and
- construction will occur in FY 2016.

Conservation Education

Background

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction; however, it is included to provide information about this program, which is funded by multiple budget line items.

Overview

Since 1905, the Forest Service has recognized a role and responsibility to educate people about management and conservation of our Nation's forests and grasslands. Increasingly, citizen knowledge of forests and natural and cultural resources continues to be critical to the accomplishment of the Forest Service mission. The Forest Service provides expertise in science, land management, and outdoor experiences as the foundation of environmental literacy efforts. Private landowners, local community leaders, elected officials, forest visitors, homeowners, students, and educators are among the audiences reached by Forest Service Conservation Education (CE) programs. Through these opportunities, the Forest Service plays an effective role in developing an environmentally literate citizenry to sustain our Nation's forests and grasslands, public and private, for future generations, and to develop future generations of conservation leaders by connecting people to our Nation's forests and grasslands.

The Forest Service connects an average of more than five million people each year with nature and public lands through its CE programs. CE teaches people about natural resource management and gives them the tools to make informed decisions and take action to sustain natural and cultural resources. CE efforts provide a full range of educational experiences, including awareness and knowledge-building, engagement, and action-based programs for youth, and their educators in classroom and non-formal settings.

The CE programs are delivered by a network of land managers, scientists, educators, and interpreters representing all branches of the agency, and are supported by extensive partnerships with nongovernmental organizations, State, Tribal, and local agencies, and educational institutions. Learning experiences include outdoor recreation and interpretive activities, formal school-based programs that adhere to national and local standards of learning, capacity building for educators, and service-learning projects. Some of the CE program focus areas include education about climate change, reconnecting children with nature, and preparing youth for jobs in the green economy.

FY 2016 Program

In FY 2016, CE will continue to use the National Guidelines for Excellence as a guide to develop new programs and materials and to evaluate existing agency programs and materials. We will continue working through trusted professionals to connect children to nature and provide experiential learning opportunities. Conservation Education will continue to:

- Expand the Discover the Forest Campaign to include targeted outreach to Urban Youth. The campaign will also focus on celebrating American cultural diversity. Activities currently in development include television, radio, and outdoor public service advertisements, as well as maintaining strong social media communities in English and Spanish.

- Support the agency's climate change emphasis area, specifically through climate change educational materials and "Green Schools!" activities.
- Support the agency's pollinator education, specifically through pollinator education materials for elementary and middle school students.
- Contribute to the general body of knowledge regarding the field of environmental education by continuing distribution of an updated Environmental Literacy in America report, and supporting the study of evaluation of environmental education programs.
- Foster first hand experiences in nature through innovative uses of technology.
- Continue to build outreach to underserved populations into our programs.
- Continue to expand programming directed at early childhood populations.
- Continue to support social media campaign featuring Woodsy Owl.
- Continue the Forest Service Conservation Education distance learning programing with a unit on Fresh Water.

CE will support teacher training through the Forest for Every Classroom program and continue distribution of an invasive species information guide to 4th and 5th grade teachers to generate awareness and initiate a dialog among children about invasive species and their impacts on nature and the economy. The program will continue to produce and distribute *Natural Inquirer* and *Investi-gator* science journals for students, encourage the expanded adoption of the revised Junior Snow Ranger program, support the participation of underserved populations in environmental education events such as Environmentors and the Envirothon, and continue our support for large event days such as National Public Lands Day.

CE will outreach to Head Start to reach the early learner and underserved populations through Woodsy Owl themed materials. Studies show that outdoor play promotes young children's physical and emotional health and enhances their learning capabilities and brain function.

In addition, CE will continue our strong partnership with the National Garden Clubs, Inc. for the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest. Over 25,000 children nationwide participate in this contest every year.

Past Performance

In 2014, the "Discover the Forest" campaign specifically targeted girls, as research shows they are even less likely to go outside. The campaign encouraged them to reconnect with nature and our Nation's forests. A new set of Public Service Announcements (PSA's) featuring characters from the Rio 2 movie was launched as a result of a private-public partnership between the Forest Service, 20th Century Fox, and the Ad Council. All of these assets encourage parents and their children to reconnect with nature. From FY 2008 through half of FY 2014, the campaign has received over $224 million in donated media.

In FY 2014, over 6 million people participated in environmental education, recreation, and related literacy programs on public lands and waters to increase understanding of the natural world and its benefits to society.

CE and its partners also fund many other new and ongoing projects, including:

- "A Forest for Every Classroom" Teacher Training Initiative, an intensive teacher training model that emphasizes place-based education and service-learning;
- The *Natural Inquirer* journals where scientists share their research with students;
- Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl, America's conservation icons whose messages continue to resonate with youth;
- Nature Explore classrooms and learning spaces to connect children with nature in economically disadvantaged urban areas;
- The Green Schools! program, designed to raise environmental literacy;
- The Envirothon, which develops an understanding of the principles and practices of natural resource management and ecology in young people through practice dealing with complex resource management decisions; and
- Hands on the Land, a national network of field classrooms that connects students, teachers, and parents to their public lands and waterways.

Allocation and Integration

CE is one of the most broadly integrated programs in the Forest Service and operates with an all-lands approach. The CE program in the national office supports field offices in the implementation of agency and Department priorities related to conservation education. At the national forest and Region/Station/Area levels, conservation education efforts are funded through leveraged investments of over a dozen agency programs including: Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness; Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air, and Rare Plants; Forest and Rangeland Research; Forest Health Management; Urban and Community Forestry; Hazardous Fuels; and Wildfire Prevention.

Partnerships

Partnerships are critical to the success of CE in the Forest Service. More than 2,500 individual organizations at the national, State, Tribal, and local levels help to ensure that our Conservation Education efforts meet local needs through both financial and in-kind contributions that leverage the agency's investment of resources each year. The Forest Service creates and nurtures partnerships nationwide that provide technical assistance to our vast network of providers across the agency and improve our outreach to diverse, underserved, and urban populations. The Discover the Forest Campaign, developed in partnership with the Ad Council, has leveraged a Forest Service $6.92 million investment over the past 5 and 1/2 years to provide $224.2 million in donated media exposure for this outreach campaign.

Cost Pool Totals (both Direct and Indirect)

Background

This exhibit is required by P.L. 107-63, 115 Stat. 452, as follows:

The Forest Service shall fund indirect expenses, that is expenses not directly related to specific programs or to the accomplishment of specific work on-the-ground, from any funds available to the Forest Service: Provided, that the Forest Service shall implement and adhere to the definitions of indirect expenditures established pursuant to Public Law 105–277 on a nationwide basis without flexibility for modification by any organizational level except the Washington Office, and when changed by the Washington Office, such changes in definition shall be reported in budget requests submitted by the Forest Service: Provided further, that the Forest Service shall provide in all future budget justifications, planned indirect expenditures in accordance with the definitions, summarized and displayed to the Regional, Station, Area, and detached unit office level. The justification shall display the estimated source and amount of indirect expenditures, by expanded budget line item, of funds in the agency's annual budget justification. The display shall include appropriated funds and the Knutson-Vandenberg, Brush Disposal, Cooperative Work-Other, and Salvage Sale funds. Changes between estimated and actual indirect expenditures shall be reported in subsequent budget justifications.

Overview

Cost pool expenses support every Forest Service employee at every level of the agency. Cost pools are a financial management tool. The purpose is to allocate funding for items directly related to delivery of Forest Service programs that are not directly related to a specific program. Cost pools fund line officers' salaries (e.g. District Rangers) and expenses, administrative support, information technology, human resources, computers, telephones, rent, utilities, and other common services.

The Forest Service receives appropriations by program and does not receive a general administration or management appropriation. Cost pools are not a source for funding, but are a mechanism to charge expenses that cannot reasonably be charged directly to a single program. The cost pools are designed to maintain accurate reporting of the true costs by program, by having each program contribute into the cost pools an amount based on its share of indirect, support, and common services charges.

Appropriate application of cost pools allows the Forest Service to accurately reflect the cost of doing business in compliance with the federal financial reporting standards articulated by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB). Accurately reflecting the true cost of doing business improves the government's ability to account for public funds, provides information for evaluating agency costs, accomplishments, and impacts of accomplishments, and provides a basis to assess agency financial systems and controls.

Direct and Indirect Costs

Forest Service definitions of direct and indirect costs are consistent with FASAB Statement #4. The agency published the definitions in the FY 2000 Budget Justification. The Department of

Agriculture Chief Financial Officer and the Office of Management and Budget cleared, and the Government Accountability Office, United States Department of Commerce's Office of Inspector General and Office of General Counsel, and the Department of Justice reviewed the definitions prior to publishing.

Direct Costs

Direct costs are specifically identified with the delivery of a program or a program's accomplishments. Direct costs include expenses associated with employees working directly on the production of an output. Program management is an integral cost of the production of an output and therefore is included as a direct cost. Direct costs might also include costs not associated with employees involved in the production of output(s), such as office and other facility space, computer equipment, and utilities, as well as materials, supplies, and equipment. Direct costs are generally charged directly to a single primary purpose budget line item.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs are costs that are necessary for the operation of the Forest Service as an organization but are not traceable to any specific outputs. These include Legislative and Public Communication, Ongoing Business Services, and Common Services (cost pools 3, 4, and the indirect portion of cost pool 5).

Cost Pools

For management and tracking purposes, categories of similar expenses are combined into five cost pools. Cost pools 1 and 2 track those expenses defined as direct costs, cost pools 3 and 4 include those expenses classified as indirect costs, and cost pool 5 includes both indirect and direct components.

The terms cost pool 6 and cost pool 7 have been previously used to describe the pooled costs for Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) and Unemployment Compensation Insurance (UCI) respectively. Please see the section on Other Pooled Costs below for more details.

There is no cost pool 8.

Cost pool 9 collects facilities maintenance assessment funds and assesses Forest Service programs separately from pools 1 through 5.

In addition to being a cost allocation mechanism, cost pools also serve as an accounting tool, providing the Forest Service with financial data on categories of similar expenses. This permits the Forest Service to plan for and manage support, indirect and direct pool costs at different levels of the organization. A description of these pools and their associated costs are listed below.

Cost Pool 1 - General Management

This cost pool includes salaries, associated employee benefits, and related costs for general line managers and officers (including secretarial staff) at the Washington Office (WO), Regions/Stations/Area (R/S/A), national forest, and ranger district levels. In addition, union officials, civil rights positions, and safety officers are included in Cost Pool 1 to show their direct connection and link to line management. Related costs include uniforms, travel, transfer of station, vehicles, cell phones for the positions that charge to this cost pool, specialized supplies and equipment, and discretionary expenses associated with these positions. Cost Pool 1 consists entirely of direct costs and is based on total FTEs charged in the previous 12 months.

Cost Pool 2 - Direct Project Approved Activities

This cost pool includes salaries, benefits, and related costs for a limited set of nationally designated cross-cutting projects, currently limited to Conservation Education, Tribal Relations, Freedom of Information Act, Resource Advisory Council administration, and Grey Towers. Cost Pool 2 consists entirely of direct costs. It is based on total FTEs charged in the previous 12 months.

Cost Pool 3 - Legislative and Public Communications

This cost pool includes salaries, associated employee benefits, and related costs for public affairs, and legislative liaisons at the WO, R/S/A, national forest, and ranger district levels. Related costs include uniforms, travel, transfer of station, vehicles, cell phones for the positions that charge to this cost pool, specialized supplies and equipment, and discretionary expenses associated with these positions. Cost Pool 3 consists entirely of indirect costs and is based on total FTEs charged in the previous 12 months.

Cost Pool 4 - Ongoing Business Services

Cost Pool 4 includes salaries, associated employee benefits, and related costs for business operations at the WO, R/S/A, national forest, and ranger district levels. Business operations include budget, finance, acquisition, human capital management, some procurement and grants and agreements, general receptionists and information systems management. Cost Pool 4 consists entirely of indirect costs and is based on total FTEs charged in the previous 12 months.

Cost Pool 5 - Common Services

This cost pool generally includes rent, utilities, corporate communications, equipment, supplies, radios, and corporate computer and phone related expenses for all employees. Cost Pool 5 consists of both indirect and direct pool costs. The distribution of costs in pool 5 is based on FTEs for permanent employees only; the division between direct and indirect costs is based on the ratio of direct to indirect employees. For example, if the common services for a unit with 100 employees, consisting of 80 direct and 20 indirect, is $500,000, then $400,000 of these costs would be direct and $100,000 would be indirect.

Cost Pool 9 - Facilities Maintenance Assessment Fund

This cost pool contains the Facilities Maintenance Assessment Fund. This is a direct cost pool used to allocate facilities maintenance work funded by assessing each R/S/A based on gross square foot of facilities. These charges are then allocated by BLI using the same basis as Cost Pool 5 in compliance with the FY 2006 Appropriations Act and accompanying conference report language. Refer to the Facilities Maintenance Assessment Special Exhibit for more information.

Other Pooled Costs

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) and Unemployment Compensation Insurance (UCI) do not assess Forest Service programs. These are for required payments and unlike cost pools 1-5 and 9, are charged directly to a program and then pooled to make required payments out of a single BLI. These pooled costs are used as methods of payment, and are not mechanisms to allocate costs.

Both OWCP and UCI costs are charged directly to the program in which they were incurred. OWCP costs are distributed based on the work being performed at the time of the injury and UCI costs are distributed based on the work performed while employed.

Cost Allocations

The Forest Service allocates indirect and direct pool costs among programs through the cost allocation process, which assesses each Forest Service budget line item a certain percentage of total cost pool expenses. Cost pools are generally allocated using direct labor hours (DLH). DLH are converted to FTEs; 1 FTE = 2,096 DLHs (the DLH number varies depending on the year). For cost pools 1 to 4, DLHs are used for all employees charging to direct costs (all employees includes those holding permanent, temporary, intermittent, and other types of positions).

This approach for Cost Pools 1 to 4 is used because these costs generally reflect the entire organization. For Cost Pools 5 and 9, only permanent employees DLHs are used, because these costs (rent, communication, utilities, etc.) are driven primarily by the need to support the permanent workforce. Planning estimates for OWCP and UCI are based on actual past cases. Because of their nature, the FTEs associated with supplemental, transfer, and emergency funds are dropped from the cost pools and are not used in calculating indirect costs.

The Forest Service uses cost allocation to charge expenses back to a single budget line item. Cost allocation is used for expenses that:

- are indirect (e.g., Cost Pools 3 and 4),
- simultaneously support multiple programs in a way that cannot be efficiently charged directly to a budget line item (BLI) (e.g., Cost Pools 1 and 2),
- involve multiple transactions that need to be summarized for payment purposes (e.g., OWCP and UCI), and
- are otherwise directed by congressional or administrative action (e.g., Cost Pool 9).

Cost allocation compliance review is performed to determine the consistency in which the field organization and the WO headquarters implement cost pool policy and to identify areas for improvement. The agency uses the information gathered from the reviews to improve the cost allocation process and update cost allocation directions for the following fiscal year.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 President's Budget proposes a ceiling of $957 million for cost pool expenses. This level of cost pool funding represents a $100 million decrease from FY 2012 levels. This reduction has been achieved through a variety of measures such as reduced management contracts, utilities, travel and training. Rent savings were realized through building consolidations. The Forest Service will continue to strive for efficiency and to keep cost pool expenses low.

FY 2014 to FY 2016 Cost Pool (1-5) Assessments
(dollars in thousands)

Budget Line Item	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Bud.
Cost Pool Assessment	$967,000	$957,000	$957,000
Percent of Total Forest Service Budget	15.8%	17.3%	14.8%

Forest Service Cost Pool Exhibits

In FY 2016, the Forest Service is estimating that cost pools will be $957,000,000, representing 14.8 percent of the FY 2016 President's Budget. For an estimate of FY 2016 Total Cost Pool 1-5 Assessments by Budget Line Item, see Exhibit 1.

In FY 2014, the Forest Service estimated that $967,000,000 would be charged to the cost pools, representing 15.8 percent of the Enacted Budget. Actual costs totaled $967,000,000. In FY 2015, cost pools are estimated to decrease by another $10 million, however due to a decrease in the total Forest Service Enacted Budget, this will result in a percentage increase to 17.3 percent. For a comparison of FY 2014 Planned and Actual Cost Pool 1-5 Assessments and FY 2015 Estimated Cost Pool 1-5 Assessments by Budget Line Item, see Exhibit 2.

Actual cost pool expenditures decreased from $972,682,000 in FY 2013 to $967,000,000 in FY 2014. For a display of Cost Pool Actuals for FY 2013 and FY 2014 by Pool and Region, see Exhibit 3.

Exhibit 1

Estimate of FY 2016 Total Cost Pool 1-5 Assessments by Budget Line Item
(dollars in thousands)

Budget Line Item	FY 2016 President's Budget	Estimated Total Cost Pool Assessments by BLI	Cost Pool Assessments as Percent of BLI	Amount Assessed as Percent of Total Cost Pools
Forest and Rangeland Research	$291,982	$44,022	15.1%	4.6%
Total Research	**$291,982**	**$44,022**	**15.1%**	**4.6%**
Forest Health Fed Lands	$58,998	$12,441	21.1%	1.3%
Forest Health Coop Lands	40,678	1,914	4.7%	0.2%
Forest Stewardship	23,049	1,914	8.3%	0.2%
Forest Legacy	61,000	957	1.6%	0.1%
Urban and Community Forestry	23,686	1,914	8.1%	0.2%
International Forestry	4,004	957	23.9%	0.1%
Total State and Private Forestry	**$211,415**	**$20,097**	**9.5%**	**2.1%**
Integrated Resource Restoration	$822,110	$172,260	21.0%	18.0%
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	60,000	10,527	17.5%	1.1%
Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring	184,236	41,151	22.3%	4.3%
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	263,942	86,130	32.6%	9.0%
Grazing Management	49,706	15,312	30.8%	1.6%
Minerals and Geology Management	70,689	19,140	27.1%	2.0%
Landownership Management	71,601	21,054	29.4%	2.2%
Law Enforcement Operations	126,030	20,097	15.9%	2.1%
Total National Forest System	**$1,648,314**	**$385,671**	**23.4%**	**40.3%**
Preparedness	$1,082,620	$243,078	22.5%	25.4%
Suppression	794,534	87,087	11.0%	9.1%
Hazardous Fuels	359,126	66,990	18.7%	7.0%
State Fire Assistance	78,012	1,914	2.5%	0.2%
Total Wildland Fire	**$2,314,292**	**$399,069**	**17.2%**	**41.7%**
Facilities	$71,695	$16,269	22.7%	1.7%
Roads	154,262	39,237	25.4%	4.1%
Trails	82,516	21,054	25.5%	2.2%
Legacy Roads & Trails	33,451		0.0%	0.0%
Total Capital Improvement & Maintenance	**$341,924**	**$76,560**	**22.4%**	**8.0%**
Land Acquisition	$63,000	$1,914	3.0%	0.2%
Total Land Acquisition	**$63,000**	**$1,914**	**3.0%**	**0.2%**
Brush Disposal	$8,500	$1,914	22.5%	0.2%
Timber Salvage Sales	22,000	8,613	39.2%	0.9%
Cooperative Work, Knutson-Vandenburg Trust Fund	52,100	13,398	25.7%	1.4%
Reforestation Trust Fund	30,000	5,742	19.1%	0.6%
Total Permanent and Trust Funds	**$112,600**	**$29,667**	**26.3%**	**3.1%**
Total Assessed BLI's	**$4,983,527**	**$957,000**	**19.2%**	**99.9%**
Total Forest Service	**$6,472,318**	**$957,000**	**14.8%**	**100.0%**

Only includes appropriations (BLIs) which will be assessed for cost pools 1-5 in FY 2016.
Supplemental, emergency, transfer, or Payments to States funds are not assessed for cost pools 1-5.
BD/KV/SSF budget amounts based upon FY16 RSA estimated obligation data

Exhibit 2

Comparison of FY 2014 Planned and Actual Total Cost Pool Assessments 1-5 and FY 2015 Estimated Cost Pool 1-5 Assessments by Budget Line Item

(dollars in thousands)

	FY 2014 Planned			FY 2014 Actual			FY 2015 Planned			
Budget Line Item	**FY 2014 Enacted Budget**	**Estimated Cost Pools 1-5**	**Cost Pools as a Percent of BLI**	**FY 2014 Actual Cost Pools 1-5**	**Cost Pools as a Percent of BLI**	**Percent of Total FS Cost Pools 1-5**	**FY 2015 Enacted Budget**	**Estimated Cost Pools 1-5**	**Cost Pools as a Percent of BLI**	**Percent of Total FS Cost Pools 1-5**
Forest and Rangeland Research	$292,805	$42,547	14.5%	$42,547	14.5%	4.4%	$296,000	$44,022	14.9%	4.6%
Total Research	**$292,805**	**$42,547**	**14.5%**	**$42,547**	**14.5%**	**4.4%**	**$296,000**	**$44,022**	**14.9%**	**4.6%**
Forest Health Fed Lands	$58,922	$12,571	21.3%	$12,571	21.3%	1.3%	$58,922	$12,441	21.1%	1.3%
Forest Health Coop Lands	$45,655	3,868	8.5%	$3,868	8.5%	0.4%	$45,655	1,914	4.2%	0.2%
Forest Stewardship	$22,398	1,934	8.6%	$1,934	8.6%	0.2%	$23,036	1,914	8.3%	0.2%
Forest Legacy	$50,965	967	1.9%	$967	1.9%	0.1%	$53,000	957	1.8%	0.1%
Urban and Community Forestry	$28,040	1,934	6.9%	$1,934	6.9%	0.2%	$28,040	1,914	6.8%	0.2%
International Forestry	$8,000	967	12.1%	$967	12.1%	0.1%	$8,000	957	12.0%	0.1%
Total State & Priv Forestry	**$213,980**	**$22,241**	**10.4%**	**$22,241**	**10.4%**	**2.3%**	**$216,653**	**$20,097**	**9.3%**	**2.1%**
Integrated Resource Restoration	$170,000	$25,142	14.8%	$25,142	14.8%	2.6%	$190,321	$26,796	14.1%	2.8%
Collaborative Forest Landscape	$40,000	6,769	16.9%	$6,769	16.9%	0.7%	$40,000	10,527	26.3%	1.1%
Land Management Planning,	$188,773	45,449	24.1%	$45,449	24.1%	4.7%	$188,773	41,151	21.8%	4.3%
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	$261,719	92,832	35.5%	$92,832	35.5%	9.6%	$261,719	86,130	32.9%	9.0%
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat	$109,466	28,043	25.6%	$28,043	25.6%	2.9%	$109,106	28,710	26.3%	3.0%
Grazing Management	$55,356	17,406	31.4%	$17,406	31.4%	1.8%	$55,356	15,312	27.7%	1.6%
Forest Products	$286,130	86,064	30.1%	$86,064	30.1%	8.9%	$273,570	79,431	29.0%	8.3%
Vegetation and Watershed	$134,716	30,945	23.0%	$30,945	23.0%	3.2%	$134,135	33,495	25.0%	3.5%
Minerals and Geology Management	$76,423	19,340	25.3%	$19,340	25.3%	2.0%	$76,423	19,140	25.0%	2.0%
Landownership Management	$77,730	23,208	29.9%	$23,208	29.9%	2.4%	$77,730	21,054	27.1%	2.2%
Law Enforcement Operations	$126,653	18,373	14.5%	$18,373	14.5%	1.9%	$126,653	20,097	15.9%	2.1%
Total Nat. Forest System	**$1,526,966**	**$393,571**	**25.8%**	**$393,571**	**25.8%**	**40.7%**	**$1,533,786**	**$381,843**	**24.9%**	**39.9%**
Preparedness	$1,057,580	$234,980	22.2%	$234,980	22.2%	24.3%	$1,145,840	$243,078	21.2%	25.4%
Suppression	$680,488	87,030	12.8%	$87,030	12.8%	9.0%	$708,000	87,087	12.3%	9.1%
Hazardous Fuels Management	$282,500	65,756	23.3%	$65,756	23.3%	6.8%	$333,672	66,990	20.1%	7.0%
State Fire Assistance	$78,000	1,934	2.5%	$1,934	2.5%	0.2%	$78,000	1,914	2.5%	0.2%
Total Wildland Fire	**$2,098,568**	**$389,700**	**18.6%**	**$389,700**	**18.6%**	**40.3%**	**$2,265,512**	**$399,069**	**17.6%**	**41.7%**
Facilities	$71,000	$18,373	25.9%	$18,373	25.9%	1.9%	$71,600	$16,269	22.7%	1.7%
Roads	$166,000	40,614	24.5%	$40,614	24.5%	4.2%	$168,094	39,237	23.3%	4.1%
Trails	$75,000	24,175	32.2%	$24,175	32.2%	2.5%	$77,530	21,054	27.2%	2.2%
Legacy Roads and Trails	$23,000	3,868	16.8%	$3,868	16.8%	0.4%	$25,257	3,828	15.2%	0.4%
Total Capital Improv. & Mntce.	**$335,000**	**$87,030**	**26.0%**	**$87,030**	**26.0%**	**9.0%**	**$342,481**	**$80,388**	**23.5%**	**8.4%**
Land Acquisition	$43,525	$2,901	6.7%	$2,901	6.7%	0.3%	$47,500	$1,914	4.0%	0.2%
Total Land Acquisition	**$43,525**	**$2,901**	**6.7%**	**$2,901**	**6.7%**	**0.3%**	**$47,500**	**$1,914**	**4.0%**	**0.2%**
Management of NF Lands for	$2,500	967	6.7%	$967	38.7%	0.1%	$2,500	$0	0.0%	0.0%
Total Other Appropriations	**$2,500**	**$967**	**6.7%**	**$967**	**38.7%**	**0.1%**	**$2,500**	**$0**	**0.0%**	**0.0%**
Brush Disposal	$8,715	$1,934	22.2%	$1,934	22.2%	0.2%	$8,500	$1,914	22.5%	0.2%
Timber Salvage Sales	$20,746	7,736	37.3%	$7,736	37.3%	0.8%	$22,000	8,613	39.2%	0.9%
Cooperative Work, Knutson-Vandenburg Trust Fund (CWKV)	$50,682	12,571	24.8%	$12,571	24.8%	1.3%	$56,000	13,398	23.9%	1.4%
Reforestation Trust Fund	$29,255	5,802	19.8%	$5,802	19.8%	0.6%	$30,000	5,742	19.1%	0.6%
Total Permanent and Trust Funds	**$109,398**	**$28,043**	**25.6%**	**$28,043**	**25.6%**	**2.9%**	**$116,500**	**$29,667**	**25.5%**	**3.1%**
Total Assessed BLI's	**$4,622,742**	**$967,000**	**20.9%**	**$967,000**	**20.9%**	**100.0%**	**$4,820,932**	**$957,000**	**19.9%**	**100.0%**
Total Forest Service	**$6,115,352**	**$967,000**	**15.8%**	**$967,000**	**15.8%**	**100.0%**	**$5,530,812**	**$957,000**	**17.3%**	**100.0%**

Only includes appropriations (BLIs) which were assessed for cost pools 1-5.
Supplemental, emergency, transfer, or Payments to States funds are not assessed for cost pools 1-5.
Displays BLI's after transfers for the Integrated Resource Restoration pilot.
BD/KV/SSF budget amounts based upon FY15 RSA estimated obligation data

Exhibit 3

Cost Pool Expenditures for FY 2013 and FY 2014 by Pool and Region
(dollars in thousands)

	Cost Pool	FY 2013	FY 2014
Cost Pool 1	General Management	$159,665	$161,636
Cost Pool 2	Direct Project Approved Activities	13,618	13,492
Cost Pool 3	Legislative and Public Communications	35,165	34,344
Cost Pool 4	Ongoing Business Services	350,625	345,965
Cost Pool 5	Common Services	413,609	411,564
	Total Cost Pool Expenditures	**$972,682**	**$967,000**

	Region/Station/Area	FY 2013	FY 2014
Region 1	Northern	$41,126	$41,975
Region 2	Rocky Mountain	39,394	37,237
Region 3	Southwestern	42,392	41,203
Region 4	Intermountain	41,448	41,943
Region 5	Pacific Southwest	63,250	63,880
Region 6	Pacific Northwest	71,914	71,906
Region 8	Southern	46,395	45,673
Region 9	Eastern	37,076	40,140
Region 10	Alaska	17,536	16,890
Region 12	International Institute of Tropical Forestry	1,495	1,485
Region 13	Washington Office-HQ	84,090	75,901
Region 14	Chief's Reserve	0	0
Region 15	National Operations	104,781	101,283
Region 17	Accounting Adjustments	0	
Region 25	Central Business Services	379,911	385,879
Region 26	Pacific Northwest Research Station	185	189
Region 42	Northeastern Area	1,689	1,416
	Total Cost Pool Expenditures	**$972,682**	**$967,000**

Region 13 Washington Office –HQ funds support staff, programs, operations, and facilities of the National Headquarters office located in Washington, D.C. and units considered attached to the National Headquarters and includes the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC); NIFC Aircraft Working Capital Fund; Geospatial- Salt Lake City; the National Advisory Resource Technical Center; the Chief’s Office; Washington Office Operations and Common Services; Washington Office National Forest System, State and Private Forestry, and Research; International Forestry; Chief Financial Officer; Law Enforcement and Investigations; San Dimas Technology and Development Center; Missoula Technology and Development Center; and Working Capital Fund.

Region 15 National Operations funds are held and allocated at the national level and support work and programs nationwide such as FLAME, Law Enforcement, and portions of other funds

including USDA Working Capital Fund National Services, National Operations, Budget and Finance Service Wide Cost Pools, Grey Towers, Facilities Maintenance Cost Pool, and other Service Wide Cost Pools.

Region 25 Central Business Services include Albuquerque Service Center (ASC) Budget & Finance, ASC Human Resources, Chief Information Officer, IT – Information Solutions Organization, Acquisition Management Support for IT & Fire, and Competitive Sourcing and Business Process Reengineering Implementation Unit.

Deferred Maintenance and Asset Management

Background

This special exhibit is included to address requirements of P.L. 111-88 House Report 111-80 page 132, which directed: "The Committee notes that the budget justification indicates a deferred maintenance backlog. The Forest Service should continue to update this information in its future budget requests."

Overview

Deferred maintenance is maintenance scheduled to be performed on an asset that was delayed due to a backlog of priority work, funding availability, or other reasons. Repairs, replacements, and rehabilitation to restore functionality are actions that can be taken to preserve an asset so that it continues to provide acceptable service and achieve its expected lifespan. Maintenance excludes activities aimed at expanding the capacity of an asset or otherwise upgrading it to service needs different from those originally intended.

Over the past decade, the Forest Service has implemented a national effort to collect detailed data on infrastructure condition and maintenance and improvement needs. This effort was initiated in response to both financial reporting requirements and direction from Congress, but has also shown significant value in support of additional agency priorities.

The Forest Service uses condition surveys to estimate deferred maintenance on all major classes of its property, plant, and equipment. No deferred maintenance exists for fleet vehicles and computers. Deferred maintenance estimates for most assets are based on condition surveys performed on a 5-year maximum revolving schedule, with the exception of the Bridges Asset Class which is on a 2-year maximum revolving schedule. To date, surveys of all administrative buildings, dams, bridges, roads open to passenger cars, and recreation sites have been accomplished. The agency's deferred maintenance for the national forest passenger car road system (Maintenance Levels 3 through 5) is determined annually from random sample surveys providing a 90 percent level of confidence. In FY 2013, the sample included 340 roads.

Specific programmatic tools in support of asset management include:

Asset Management Planning

Executive Order 13327 - "*Federal Real Property Asset Management*" established a framework for improved use and management of real property owned, leased, or managed by the Federal Government. The agency recognizes the importance of real property resources and has increased management attention and established clear goals, objectives, policies, and levels of accountability. We expect to implement active management of our infrastructure portfolio based upon asset management principles established by the Office of Management and Budget.

All facility projects exceeding the General Services Administration prospectus level ($2.79 million) and up to $10 million are reviewed by a Forest Service Asset Management Review Board (FS-AMRB). Similarly, projects exceeding $10 million are reviewed by both the FS-

AMRB and USDA-AMRB. All projects proposed for Deferred Maintenance funding are reviewed and prioritized by the FS-AMRB.

We continue to evaluate the road management objective levels for each road in our system through site specific project analysis utilizing the Travel Analysis Process. Our goals are to operate and maintain a road system that is financially sustainable and consistent with forest land management plan objectives, and to align funds to address critical deferred maintenance.

Facility Master Planning

Forest Service field units continue to complete or update their facility master plans which identify fire, administrative, research, visitor center, and recreation facilities for decommissioning, retention, alternate use, or acquisition. These plans will be used to actively manage the facility inventory and decommission unneeded facilities.

For recreation sites, such as campgrounds, the agency is implementing both the results of the Recreation Facility Analysis (RFA) and Recreation Site Improvement processes as a means to reposition the recreation sites program to better meet the current and future needs of recreation visitors. One of the primary goals was to reduce the deferred maintenance of recreation sites on each national forest by 20 percent over the five years covered by the RFA program of work for each national forest. As of December 31, 2008, all national forests completed an RFA and produced a five-year program of work that prioritized recreation site investments based on public needs. At the end of FY 2014, two regions had met this goal with a national five-year average reduction of five percent.

Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act

In FY 2006, the Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act (Title V, Appropriations Act, P.L. 109-54) was enacted. This legislation authorizes the sale of unneeded administrative sites and the use of receipts for acquisition, maintenance, reconstruction, and construction of administrative infrastructure, creating incentives to dispose of these unneeded facilities. To date, activities under this authority, including pilot projects authorized under P.L. 107-63, Section 329 as amended, have generated over $66 million in revenues and reduced facilities deferred maintenance by more than $23 million.

The Forest Service Facility Realignment Enhancement Act Outcomes
(dollars in thousands)

Fiscal Year	Receipts	Deferred Maintenance Reduction
2004-2012	$53,018	$15,418
2013	$3,849	5,389
2014	$9,490	2,497
Total	$66,357	$23,304

In FY 2014, we collected approximately $9.49 million in receipts through the conveyance of real property sale authorities. We reduced the deferred maintenance backlog by $2.5 million, and disposed of 14 properties. The agency plans to initiate the conveyance of an estimated $8.9

million in land and excess administrative facilities, reducing deferred maintenance by an additional $7.9 million in FY 2016.

Facilities Maintenance Assessment

Beginning in FY 2006, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006 authorized the agency to assess all funds available to the agency for the purpose of performing facilities maintenance on fire, administrative, and other facilities and major visitor centers (Title III, Administrative Provisions, P.L. 109-54). Using a program assessment to fund facility maintenance provides an incentive to identify and invest in only those facilities that are needed to accomplish the agency's mission, dispose of unneeded buildings, and exercise restraint on starting new construction because the cost of facilities maintenance is borne by an assessment of program funds. In FY 2016, we proposed language would increase the assessment cap from $55 million to $65 million. Refer to the Facility Assessment Special Exhibit for additional information.

The table below displays facilities maintenance - Cost Pool 09 (CP09) by Budget Line Item for FY 2014.

FY 2014 Facilities Maintenance (CP09) Assessment by BLI
(dollars in thousands)

BLI Description	BLI	FY 2013 Facilities Maintenance Assessment
Forest & Rangeland Research		
Total Forest & Rangeland Research	**FRRE**	**$3,960**
State & Private Forestry		
Forest Stewardship	SPST	$55
Forest Health Mgmt - Cooperative Lands	SPCH	$220
Forest Health Mgmt - Federal Lands	SPFH	$550
Urban and Community Forestry	SPUF	$55
Total State & Private Forestry		**$880**
National Forest System		
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	CFLN	$330
Land Management Planning	NFPN	$550
Grazing Management	NFRG	$1,100
Forest Products	NFTM	$5,555
Inventory & Monitoring	NFIM	$1,980
Landownership Management	NFLM	$1,485
Minerals and Geology Management	NFMG	$1,265
Recreation, Heritage, & Wilderness	NFRW	$5,500
Integrated Resource Restoration	NFRR	$3,795
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	NFWF	$1,760
Vegetation and Watershed Management	NFVW	$1,870
Subsistence Management - Alaska	SMSM	$55
Unit Recreation Enhancement	FDDS	$55
Total National Forest System		**$25,300**
Capital Improvement and Maintenance		
Facilities	CMFC	$1,100
Roads	CMRD	$2,750
Trails	CMTL	$1,320
Legacy Road Remediation	CMLG	$220
Total Capital Improvement and Maintenance		**$5,390**
Land Acquisition		
Total Land Acquisition	**LALW**	**$165**
Wildland Fire Management		
Preparedness	WFPR	$13,475
Hazardous Fuels Reduction	WFHF	$3,905
Coop Fire Plan - State Fire Assistance	WFCF	$110
Total Wildland Fire Management		**$17,490**
Permanent Appropriations		
Brush Disposal	BDBD	$110
Timber Salvage Sales	SSSS	$550
Total Permanent Appropriations		**$660**

FY 2014 Facilities Maintenance (CP09) Assessment by BLI
(dollars in thousands)

BLI Description	BLI	FY 2013 Facilities Maintenance Assessment
Trust Fund Appropriations		
Cooperative Work – Knutson-Vandenberg	CWKV	$770
Reforestation Trust Fund	RTRT	$385
Total Trust Fund Appropriations		**$1,155**
TOTAL		**$54,999**

The table below displays deferred maintenance by asset class as reflected in the agency's financial statement.

Deferred Maintenance by Asset Class as of September 30, 2014
(dollars in thousands)

Asset Class	Critical[1]	Non-critical[2]	Total
Bridge	32,593	151,801	$184,394
Building	51,482	1,104,994	$1,156,475
Dam	11,237	14,824	$26,061
Fence	263,565	389	$263,953
Handling Facility	21,823	22	$21,845
Heritage	4,657	18,510	$23,167
Minor Constructed Features		90,639	$90,639
Roads[3]	229,000	2,692,000	$2,921,000
Trail	4,062	265,844	$269,906
Trail Bridge	3,407	5,718	$9,125
Wastewater System	16,413	15,754	$32,168
Water System	48,689	45,879	$94,568
Wildlife, Fish, and TES	4,537	1,969	$6,507
Grand Total	**691,464**	**4,408,344**	**$5,099,808**

[1] Critical Deferred Maintenance: Deferred maintenance that results in a serious threat to public health or safety, a natural resource, or the ability to carry out the agency mission.
[2] Non-critical Deferred Maintenance: Deferred maintenance that results in a potential risk to public or employee safety or health, compliance with codes, standards, regulations, and so forth; or needs that address potential adverse consequences to natural resources or mission accomplishment.
[3] The roads deferred maintenance amount is for passenger-car roads (Levels 3 through 5). Maintenance Level 1 and 2 roads have been classified as stewardship assets.

The overall condition of major asset classes range from poor to good depending on the location, age, and type of property. The standards for various classes of general property, plant, and equipment, stewardship, and heritage assets are as follows:

Roads and Bridges - Conditions within the National Forest System (NFS) road system are measured by various standards, including: Federal Highway Administration regulations for the Federal Highway Safety Act, best management practices for the non-point source provisions of the Clean Water Act from the Environmental Protection Agency and States, road management

objectives developed through the National Forest Management Act forest planning process, and Forest Service directives.

Administrative Buildings - Administrative facilities are Forest Service buildings on designated administrative sites. The condition of administrative facilities ranges from poor to good based on the facilities condition index (FCI). The FCI is one minus the ratio of repair needs to the facility current replacement value. Good or Fair facilities have an FCI of greater than 90 percent.

Dams - The condition of a dam is acceptable when the dam meets current design standards and does not have any deficiencies that threaten the safety of the structure or the public. For dams to be rated in acceptable condition, the agency needs to restore the dams to the original functional purpose, correct unsightly conditions, or do work to prevent more costly repairs in the future.

Range Structures - The condition assessment for range structures (fences and stock handling facilities) is based on a determination by knowledgeable range specialists or other district personnel of whether the structure would perform the originally intended function, and a determination through the use of a protocol system to assess conditions based on age. A long-standing range methodology is used to gather this data.

Heritage Assets - Condition surveys are performed annually on a minimum of 20 percent of the agency's priority heritage assets. Deferred maintenance is considered critical if there is a potential health or safety risk, or an imminent threat of loss of significant resource value. Heritage assets include archaeological sites that require determination of status by the National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmarks, and significant historic properties.

Recreation Sites - Quality standards for operating and maintaining recreation sites are established as measurable outputs for health and cleanliness, setting, safety and security, responsiveness, and the condition of the facility. Recreation sites include developed recreation sites, recreation areas within general forest areas, campgrounds, trailheads, trails, water and wastewater systems, interpretive facilities, and visitor centers. These components are included in several asset classes of the deferred maintenance exhibit.

Trails and Trail Bridges - Conditions within the NFS trail system are measured by various standards including: trail national quality standards, trail management objectives, and Forest Service directives. Condition surveys are conducted to provide up to date information about the condition of all physical features and to provide data to identify deficiencies and any corrective measures that need to be taken. Deferred maintenance is identified for trails and trail bridges that are in disrepair due to lack of scheduled maintenance and are in violation of applicable safety codes or other regulatory requirements such as applicable accessibility guidelines, or which are beyond their designed service life.

Wildlife, Fish, and Threatened and Endangered Species Structures - Conditions are determined by field biologists using their professional judgment. The deferred maintenance is considered critical if resource damage or species endangerment would likely occur if maintenance were deferred much longer.

Equal Access to Justice Act

Background

This special exhibit is included to address requirements of House Report 112-151, page 8; Conference Report 112-331, page 1046, which directed:

Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) Fee Payments - The Committee has learned that the Forest Service does not comprehensively track EAJA fee payments, identify the funds used to pay EAJA fees, nor routinely make this information publicly available. Accordingly, the Committee directs the Forest Service to provide to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and make publicly available, and with each Agency's annual budget submission thereafter, the following information: detailed reports on the amount of program funds used; the names of the fee recipients; the names of the Federal judges; the disposition of the applications (including any appeals of action taken on the applications); and the hourly rates of attorneys ad expert witnesses states in the applications that was awarded, for all EAJA fee payments awarded as a result of litigation against the Forest Service, or their respective employees. The report shall also include the information listed above for litigation relating to the Endangered Species Act and the amounts, outside of EAJA awards, paid in settlement for all litigation, regardless of the statute litigated.

Overview

The Equal Access to Justice Act was enacted in 1980 to provide individuals, small businesses and non-profit organizations with the means to ensure federal agencies make their decisions transparent and in accordance with law. Since 2009, the Forest Service has tracked the payment of both EAJA and other attorney's fees.

FY 2011 through FY 2014 Funding and Reporting

In FY 2012 the Forest Service provided EAJA information to Government Accountability Office (GAO), in response to a request, on EAJA case names and docket/court number, the name of the award recipient, the amount of program funds used and dates paid. The final EAJA report to Congress is available on the internet at the following world-wide web address. http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/budget/requests/7105962_Equal%20Access%20to%20Justice%20Act_Letters%20and%20Report.pdf

Subsequent FY 2014 EAJA information is reported in Table 1 of this Special Exhibit.

The Forest Service does not track and therefore cannot report on the following information:

- the Federal judges making the awards,
- the disposition of the applications for EAJA fees (including any appeals of action taken on the applications), and
- the hourly rates of the attorneys and expert witnesses stated in the applications for which an award was made.

Table 1. Forest Service Equal Access to Justice Act Statistics for FY 2011 through FY 2014

Date Rec	Docket, Court	Case	Project Name	Vendor Name	Date Certified	Program	Amount
12/21/2010	CV 1:09-cv-00003-JWS, D. AK	Tongass Conservation Society, Sierra Club… v. Forrest Cole Tongass NF, USFS, USDA	Orion North Reoffer timber sale, Tongass NF	Earthjustice	12/28/2010	Forest Products	$53,000
1/13/2011	08-01185-MHP, D. N Cal	California Resources Agency v. USDA	Inventoried Roadless Areas, CA NFs	Earthjustice	2/9/2011	Land Management Planning	250,000
3/10/2011	CV-04-127-M-DWM, D. Mont	Native Ecosystems Inc v. Tidwell	Grazing Permits, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF	Alliance for the Wild Rockies	3/11/2011	Grazing Management	85,000
3/11/2011	08-01927 CW, D. N Cal	Citizens for Better Forestry v. USDA	National Forest Management Act	Western Environmental Law Center	3/17/2011	Land Management Planning	170,047
3/11/2011	08-01927 CW, D. N Cal	Citizens for Better Forestry v. USDA	National Forest Management Act	Earthjustice	3/17/2011	Land Management Planning	251,312
4/6/2011	10-cv-01514-JDB	Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility v. USDA, USFS		Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility	4/8/2011	Cost Pools	1,848
4/25/2011	CV 08-43-M-DWM	Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics v. USFS and National Marine Fisheries Service		Bechtold Law Firm PLLC	4/25/2011	Wildland Fire Supression	95,000
5/2/2011	CV 07-1043-JB-ACT, D. NM	Wildearth Guardians v. USFS, New Mexico Cattle Growers Association	Livestock grazing, Gila NF	Wildearth Guardians	5/12/2011	Grazing Management	27,500
5/25/2011	CV 09-164-N-EJL, D. ID	The Lands Council v. Leslie Weldon Region 1, Ranotta MaNair Idaho Panhandle NF, USFS	Bussel 484, Idaho Panhandle NF	Public Interest Defense	6/9/2011	Forest Products	50,064
5/26/2011	5:08-CV-00091-TBR	Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics v. USFS	Continued Maintenance of Open Lands, Land Between the Lakes	Bechtold Law Firm PLLC	5/26/2011	Land Between the Lakes Management Fund	29,400
6/13/2011	09-cv-00160-DWM	Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Paul Bradford Kootenai NF	Grizzly Vegetation and Transportation Management Project	Public Interest Defense	6/16/2011	Timber Salvage Sales	28,000
6/20/2011	05-107M (DWM)	Rock Creek Alliance v. USFS	2001 EIS	Western Mining Action Proj	6/22/2011	Minerals & Geology Management	186,500
7/25/2011	08-1067-JCC	Conservation Northwest v. Harris Sherman and D.R. Johnson Lumber Co.	EIS Survey and Manage Mititgation Measure Standards and Guidelines, 2007	Western Environmental Law Center	7/27/2011	Forest Products	155,555

Date Rec	Docket, Court	Case	Project Name	Vendor Name	Date Certified	Program	Amount
			Supplement				
9/8/2011	CV F 09-392 LJO	Sequoia Forestkeeper v. USFS	Special Use Permit to Robert Sellers and Quarter Circle Five Ranch	Paul Hastings LLP	9/13/2011	Landownership Management	74,640
9/8/2011	CV F 09-392 LJO	Sequoia Forestkeeper v. USFS	Special Use Permit to Robert Sellers and Quarter Circle Five Ranch	Rene Voss	9/13/2011	Landownership Management	13,800
Subtotal FY 2011							**$1,471,666**

Date Rec	Docket, Court	Case	Project Name	Vendor Name	Date Certified	Program	Amount
10/6/2011	10-cv-01514-JDB	Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility v. USDA, USFS		Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility	10/11/2011	Cost Pools	$1,848
1/23/2012	09-cv-1500-SU	Hells Canyon Preservation Council v. USFS	Sled Springs Off Highway Vehicle Trail System and Road Management Plan	Hells Canyon Preservation Council	1/27/2012	Recreation, Wilderness, & Wild and Scenic Rivers	79,874
1/27/2012	10-cv-6337-TC	Cascadia Wildlands v. USFS		Daniel Kruse	1/30/2012	Forest Products	56,500
2/15/2012	2:10-cv-02830-WBS	Center for Biological Diversity v. Mike Crawley, USFS	Motor vehicle use on Bridgeport Ranger District	Center for Biological Diversity	2/16/2012	Roads	9,000
3/6/2012	CV 09-107-M	Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Leslie Weldon, USFS	Rat Creek Salvage	Western Environmental Law Center	3/6/2012	Integrated Resource Restoration	53,000
5/29/2012	CV 07-39-M-DWM	Montana Wilderness Association v. Vicki Christiansen, USFS		Earthjustice	6/4/2012	Recreation, Wilderness, & Wild and Scenic Rivers	137,000
6/14/2012	CV 08-92-DWM	Smith Creek		Bechtold Law Firm	6/19/2012	Integrated Resource Restoration	48,489
7/5/2012	3:09-CV-03048	Wilderness Society v. US DOI	West-Wide Energy Corridors	Earthjustice	7/5/2012	Landownership Management	10,000

Date Rec	Docket, Court	Case	Project Name	Vendor Name	Date Certified	Program	Amount
8/8/2012	10-CV-00026	Idaho Conservation League and The Wilderness Society v. Frank Guzman and USFS	Travel Management Plan for the Salmo-Challis NF	Earthjustice	8/10/2012	Integrated Resource Restoration	90,000
8/22/2012	11-VC-830-RCC	Defenders of Wildlife v. USFS	Hardshell Project	Defenders of Wildlife	8/28/2012	Minerals and Geology Management	10,500
9/18/2012	09-CV-131 CW	Sierra Club v. USFS	Ogden Ranger District's Motorized Travel Plan	Western Wildlife Conservancy	9/18/2012	Recreation, Wilderness, & Wild and Scenic Rivers	69,027
Subtotal FY 2012							**$565,237**

Date Rec	Docket, Court	Case	Project Name	Vendor Name	Date Certified	Program	Amount
10/11/2012	No.10-2039-WHA	CV-10-2039	Orleans Community Fuels Reduction (OCFR) & Forest Health	Marianne Dugan	10/11/2012	Hazardous Fuels	$30,000
1/7/2013	CV-11-125-M-DWM	Friends of the Wild SWAN	Colt Summit NEPA Litigation	Western Environmental Law	1/18/2013	Land Management Planning	40,000
2/12/2013	12-CV-286-BLW	Advocates for the West Inc		Advocates for the West Inc	2/12/2013	Wildlife & Fish Management	52,000
2/28/2013	CV-01477-GEB-CMK	Californians for Alternatives to Toxics	Paiute Cutthroat Trout Restoration	Western Environmental Law	3/1/2013	Wildlife & Fish Management	8,000
2/28/2013	CV 11-99-M-DWM	Native Ecosystems		Rebecca Smith	3/1/2013	Wildlife & Fish Management	33,279
2/28/2013	CV 11-99-M-DWM	Native Ecosystems		Tim Berchtold	3/1/2013	Wildlife & Fish Management	13,598
3/1/2013	CV-1212-CL	Oregon Natural Desert Assoc.	Environment & Natural Resources	Advocates for the West Inc	3/1/2013	Wildlife & Fish Management	137,000
5/9/2013	CV-00048-WJM	National Ski Areas Assn. Inc.	Natural Resources & Environment	Ducker Montgomery Lewis /Bess, Williams & Weese, P.C.	5/9/2013	Recreation, Wilderness, & Wild and Scenic Rivers	125,000
5/23/2013	10-CV-01797-JCC	Wilderness Watch	Glacier Peak Wilderness Are. Green Mountain Lookout.	Wilderness Watch	5/24/2013	Facilities	70,804
5/23/2013	12-CV-01757-TC	Central Oregon LandWatch	Bend Waterpipe Deschutes NF	Central Oregon LandWatch	5/24/2013	Vegetation & Watershed Management, Wildlife & Fish Management	66,350

Date Rec	Docket, Court	Case	Project Name	Vendor Name	Date Certified	Program	Amount
6/18/2013	08-CV-1460 PJH	Watersheds Project	Western Watersheds Project	Advocates for the West Inc	6/19/2013	Grazing Management	264,358
6/18/2013	08-CV-1460 PJH	Watersheds Project	Western Watersheds Project	Keher and Van Nest LLP	6/19/2013	Grazing Management	172,703
9/10/2013	09-cv-01272-WJM	WildEarth Guardians	Email sent 09/18/13 requesting FS-6500-224	WildEarth Guardians	9/18/2013	Vegetation & Watershed Management	141,886
9/11/2013	11-CV-95-BLW	Idaho Rivers United	Idaho Rivers United	Advocates for the West Inc	9/14/2013	Roads, Wildlife & Fish Management	45,500
09//19/2013	11-CV-23-PK	Hells Canyon Preservation Council	Grazing CE's Hells Canyon	Hells Canyon Preservation Council	9/17/2013	Recreation, Wilderness, & Wild and Scenic Rivers	136,500
9/24/2013	09-cv-2523-LKK-JFM	Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation	National Forest Management Act/Endangered Species Act	Bahr Law Offices, P.C.	9/25/2013	Trails	110,000
9/25/2013	10-cv-00612-EJL-REB	Western Watersheds Project	FC #7600034286 created & posted 09/25/13 - Waiting for final settlement approval amount to pay	Advocates for the West Inc	11/14/2013	Hazardous Fuels	125,000
9/5/2013	11-cv-02921-MCE-DAD	Snowlands Network, Winter Wildlands Alliance & Center for Biological Diversity	Over snow vehicle (OSV) recreation	Advocates for the West Inc	9/6/2013	Vegetation & Watershed Management	15,000
Subtotal FY 2013							**$1,586,978**

Date Rec	Docket, Court	Case	Project Name	Vendor Name	Date Certified	Program	Amount
9/25/2013	10-cv-00612-EJL-REB	Western Watersheds Project	Western Watersheds Project	Advocates for the West Inc	11/14/2013	Hazardous Fuels Reduction	125,000
1/10/2014	3-11-CV-895-ST	Friends of the Columbia Gorge Inc	Special Management Area	Friends of the Columbia Gorge Inc	1/10/2014	Land Management Planning, & Landownership Management	17,855
3/14/2014	CV-12-27-M-DLC	Native Ecosystems for the Wild Rockies	Fleecer Mointains Projec	Public Interest Defense	3/19/2014	Integrated Resource Restoration	19,802
3/19/2014	CV-10-2141	Breaker-Attorney's Fees	Martin Breaker	Siegel Brill P.A Trust	3/21/2014	Landownership Management	155,000

Date Rec	Docket, Court	Case	Project Name	Vendor Name	Date Certified	Program	Amount
3/21/2014	13-CV-1827-CL	Murphy Co High Cascade Inc	Stipulation for Temporary Stay of Proceedings	American Forest Resource Council	3/24/2014	Forest Products	7,500
4/24/2014	13-CV-01157-TLN-AC	Porcupine Vegetation & Road Management Project	Porcupine Vegetation & Road Management Project	Sean Malone - Attorney at Law	5/8/2014	Forest Products	3,500
5/1/2014	12-CV-00804-AA	Goose Project-Willamette	Cascadia Wildlands and Oregon Wild	Western Environmental Law Center	5/2/2014	Forest Products	60,000
5/22/2014	PIOGA	Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Assoc	Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Assoc	Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Assoc	5/23/2014	Minerals Geology Mgt	530,000
6/5/2014	10-CV-02172-KJM-AC	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, The Wilderness Society, and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility	California Association of 4-wheel Drive Clubs (Alleged violations of NEPA & APA)	Earthjustice	5/23/2014	Recreation Heritage Wilderness, & Vegetation Watershed Mgt	100,000
6/24/2014	12-CV-02416-WBS-KJN	Conservation Congress v. USFS. Tatham Project (NEPA),(ESA).	Tatham Project (NEPA)	Marianne G Dugan PC Attorney Trust	6/24/2014	Forest Products	36,500
9/12/2014	4:08-CV-00363-EJL	The Wilderness Society & Prairie Falcon Audubon, Inc. v. USFS & Magic Valley Trail Machine Assoc.		Western Environmental Law Center	9/15/2014	Roads Capital Imprv Mtnce, Trails Capital Imprv Mtnce, Grazing Management, Recreation Heritage Wilderness, & Integrated Resource Restoration	120,000
9/11/2014		Citizens for Healthy Communities			Funds Committed, Pending Final Judgment Information	Minerals Geology Mgt	60,000
9/26/2014	11-CV-00679-LJO-DLB	11-CV-00679-LJO-DLB		Matt Kenna, Attorney	9/26/2014	Land Management Planning	100,000
FY 2014 Subtotal							**1,335,757**

Facilities Maintenance Assessment

Background

This exhibit is included to address requirements of P.L. 109-54 Conference Report 109-188 page 125, which directed:

There should also be a display which indicates, by national forest, research station and area, the funding being allocated for facilities maintenance. The budget justification displays shall indicate, for every budget line item, the funding amount being assessed for facilities maintenance. This information should be readily visible along with each program description.

Overview

In FY 2006, Congress authorized a multi-program assessment for maintenance of agency-owned buildings in the categories of fire, administrative, and other (FA&O) facilities, including recreation visitor centers (Title III, Administrative Provisions, P.L. 109-54). Appropriated funds from Forest and Rangeland Research, State and Private Forestry, National Forest System, Wildland Fire Management, Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Land Acquisition, Other Appropriations, and eligible Permanent and Trust Fund accounts were assessed up to $35 million.

In FY 2013, the assessment was increased to $55 million as detailed in the table Facilities Maintenance (CP09) Assessment by budget line item FY 2013 and FY 2014. FA&O facilities include: fire facilities, such as air tanker bases, lookouts, airports, heliports, and fire management centers; administrative facilities, such as administrative offices (ranger district offices, forest supervisor offices, regional offices, research stations, and laboratories), service centers, storage buildings, and nurseries; and other facilities, such as telecommunication facilities, towers, dams, and major recreation visitor centers. Generally, routine maintenance costs for these facilities come from funds collected by this assessment, while more expensive maintenance needs are funded through the Capital Improvement and Maintenance Facilities or Deferred Maintenance budget line items.

The Forest Service currently maintains approximately 16,400 administrative buildings. The agency also maintains an inventory of approximately 1,750 Forest Service owned, special use permitted, and other dams as well as numerous other facilities including approximately 4,800 water and 4,770 wastewater systems and numerous communication facilities. The current inventory is a legacy of former management needs and practices with many facilities in disrepair as evidenced by a significant deferred maintenance backlog.

Using program assessments to fund facility maintenance provides an incentive to identify and invest in only those facilities that are needed to accomplish the agency's mission, to dispose of surplus buildings, and to exercise restraint on starting new construction because the programs bear the cost of maintaining these facilities. This provides financial accountability to represent the cost of conducting business operations for land management purposes.

Federal mandates such as the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and Energy Policy Act (EPAct) of 2005 in combination with Executive Orders (EO) 13514 and 13423 require

energy, water, and other environmental impact reductions. Facilities Maintenance Assessment funds are also used to accomplish the following:

- Conduct energy and water efficiency evaluations to identify energy and water conservation measures per the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and to reduce building energy intensity to meet greenhouse gas emission targets per EO 13514.
- Conduct assessments of existing buildings and incorporate necessary improvements to existing buildings to meet the guiding principles per EO 13514 including increasing energy efficiency; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; protecting water resources through efficiency, reuse, and stormwater management; eliminating waste, recycling, and preventing pollution; and designing, constructing, maintaining, and operating sustainable buildings.
- Install renewable energy sources where economically feasible per the EPAct of 2005.
- Install advanced metering systems to measure, verify, and improve utility consumption per the EPAct of 2005.
- Decommission or dispose of surplus facilities thereby reducing deferred maintenance and amount of square footage requiring maintenance.

Assessments and Allocations

The FY 2014 initial facilities maintenance assessment was based on the final FY 2012 square footage of approximately 21.4 million square feet. The facility maintenance assessment applies only to owned administrative space and does not include leased space or recreation space. Assessments are distributed across eligible budget line items based on each program's prior year direct labor hour charges. In FY 2014, units (Region, Station, or other units) requested assessments totaling $55 million. The initial assessment varies from a minimum of $1.34 per square foot up to $4.27 per square foot, which falls within the limits of four percent of the facility replacement value and seven dollars per square foot.

In FY 2016, the Forest Service proposes language in the Administrative provision to increase the assessment from $55 million to $65 million. The assessment by region and program will be based on the final FY 2015 square footage corrected for salary charges by budget line item. Consistent with FY 2014, the assessed amount is limited to four percent of the facility replacement value and seven dollars per square foot. We will base allocations on each unit's requested assessment amounts. The following tables display the FY 2014 initial allocations by unit as well as the distribution of the assessment by program for FY 2013 and FY 2014.

Past Performance

Accomplishments related to buildings and similar structures are included under the Capital Improvement and Maintenance Facilities Section.

Facilities Maintenance (CP09) Assessment by BLI
FY 2013 and FY 2014
(dollars in thousands)

BLI Description	Budget Line Item	FY 2013 Facilities Maintenance Assessment	FY 2014 Facilities Maintenance Assessment
Forest & Rangeland Research			
Total Forest & Rangeland Research	FRRE	**$4,117**	**$3,960**
State & Private Forestry			
Forest Stewardship	SPST	68	55
State Fire Assistance	SPCF	64	0
Forest Health Mgmt. – Coop. Lands	SPCH	124	220
Forest Health Mgmt. - Federal Lands	SPFH	735	550
Urban and Community Forestry	SPUF	54	55
Total State & Private Forestry		**$1,045**	**$880**
National Forest System			
Collaborative Forest Landscape Rest.	CFLN	$773	$330
Land Management Planning	NFPN	506	550
Grazing Management	NFRG	895	1,100
Forest Products	NFTM	5,866	5,555
Landownership Management	NFLM	1,553	1,980
Inventory & Monitoring	NFIM	1,998	1,485
Minerals and Geology Mgmt.	NFMG	1,124	1,265
Integrated Resource Restoration	NFRR	3,587	5,500
Recreation, Heritage, & Wilderness	NFRW	5,128	3,795
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Mgmt.	NFWF	1,801	1,760
Vegetation and Watershed Mgmt.	NFVW	1,994	1,870
Subsistence Management - Alaska	SMSM	52	55
Unit Recreation Enhancement	FDDS	48	55
Total National Forest System		**$25,325**	**$25,300**
Capital Improvement & Maintenance			
Facilities	CMFC	$1,468	$1,100
Roads	CMRD	2,666	2,750
Trails	CMTL	1,377	1,320
Legacy Road Remediation	CMLG	188	220
Total Capital Improvement & Maintenance		**$5,699**	**$5,390**
Land Acquisition			
Total Land Acquisition	LALW	**$184**	**$165**
Wildland Fire Management			
Preparedness	WFPR	$12,780	$13,475
Hazardous Fuels Reduction	WFHF	4,218	3,905
National Fire Plan – State Fire Assist.	SPS2	3	0
Coop Fire Plan - State Fire Assistance	WFCF	0	110
Total Wildland Fire Management		**$17,001**	**$17,490**
Permanent Appropriations			
Brush Disposal	BDBD	$92	$110

Facilities Maintenance (CP09) Assessment by BLI
FY 2013 and FY 2014
(dollars in thousands)

BLI Description	Budget Line Item	FY 2013 Facilities Maintenance Assessment	FY 2014 Facilities Maintenance Assessment
Timber Salvage Sales	SSSS	500	550
Total Permanent Appropriations		**$592**	**$660**
Trust Fund Appropriations			
Cooperative Work - KV	CWKV	$659	$770
Reforestation Trust Fund	RTRT	377	385
Total Trust Fund Appropriations		**1,036**	**1,155**
TOTAL		**$54,999**	**$55,000**

FY 2014 Facilities Maintenance Initial Assessment and Allocation by Unit
Based on FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act

Unit Name	Total Gross Square Feet (GSF) as of 11/30/12	Dollars per GSF	Total Initial Assessment & Allocation (*dollars in thousands*)
Northern Region	2,165,192	2.52	$5,453
Rocky Mountain Region	1,261,144	2.68	3,381
Southwestern Region	1,515,175	4.09	6,200
Intermountain Region	1,968,471	2.36	4,637
Pacific Southwest Region	3,633,160	2.37	8,600
Pacific Northwest Region	3,437,891	2.65	9,113
Southern Region	1,845,765	2.71	5,000
Eastern Region	2,566,087	2.34	6,000
Alaska Region	521,726	4.27	2,229
Region Subtotal	**18,914,611**	**2.68**	**$50,613**
Forest Products Lab	346,937	1.69	$588
Int'l Inst. of Tropical Forestry	27,012	2.33	63
Rocky Mountain Station	429,649	1.92	824
Northern Station	484,133	1.45	700
Pacific Northwest Station	268,096	2.12	568
Pacific Southwest Station	240,106	1.47	353
Southern Research Station	445,189	1.99	888
Research Station Subtotal	**2,241,122**	**1.78**	**$3,984**
San Dimas Tech. Dev. Center	32,495	2.31	$75
Missoula Tech. Dev. Center	71,715	1.34	96
Grey Towers	34,375	3.93	135
Wood Education	66,691	1.45	97
Other Units Subtotal	**205,276**	**1.96**	**$403**
TOTAL	**21,361,009**	**2.57**	**$55,000**

FY 2015 Facilities Assessment allocations by budget line item will be based on FY 2014 salary charges by budget line item. The facility maintenance assessment applies only to owned administrative space and does not include leased space or recreation space.

Fire Transfers

Background

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction; however, it is included to provide an update on the status of funds borrowed from other budget line item accounts and transferred to the Wildland Fire Management Suppression account for the purpose of emergency fire suppression.

Overview

Transfers for fire suppression occur when the agency has exhausted all available fire resources from the Suppression and FLAME accounts. Congressional appropriations currently fund the agency at around the 10-year average for wildland fire suppression costs. If wildland fire suppression costs exceed the 10-year average and any available suppression balances, the Forest Service must receive a supplemental appropriation or execute fire transfer(s) from other program accounts for fire suppression expenditures.

In FY 2014, the Forest Service did not perform a fire transfer although the costs of fighting fires exceeded the amount Congress appropriated. The Forest Service spent roughly $200 million above what was appropriated to fight wildfires this year. The transfer was only avoided by using reserve funds that allowed us to minimize the disruption to programs and important fire prevention work.

Although there was not a fire transfer in FY 2014, the financial impacts to the agency remain significant given the uncertainty around fire risk and funding. Even though many parts of the country experienced lower than normal fire activity this year, the cost of suppression exceeded the 10-year average. Our forests and grasslands lost opportunities to undertake important project work - including fire prevention work - and deferred important spending in anticipation of a very active fire season.

In the FY 2014 Continuing Appropriations Resolution passed on October 17, 2013, $600 million was appropriated for emergency fire suppression and the repayment of funds that were previously transferred to wildland fire suppression. Of the $600 million, $505 million was used to repay funds transferred in FY 2013 and an additional $33 million was used to repay Knutson-Vandenberg Trust Fund (CWKV) transfers from FY 2009. The remaining $62 million was used to supplement wildland fire management appropriations.

The following table lists the funds that have not been fully repaid from FY 2002 through FY 2014.

Funds Withdrawn for Transfer for Wildland Fire Suppression and Not Repaid from FY 2002 to FY 2014
(dollars in thousands)

Approp.	Budget Line Item	Amount
FRFR	Forest & Rangeland Research Funds: Strategic program areas of Forest & Rangeland Research	$32
SPSP	State and Private Forestry Funds: Cooperating with and providing assistance to States for forest health, cooperative forestry, and education. Also funds international programs	3,099
NFNF	National Forest System Funds: Management, protection, improvement, and utilization of the National Forest System	106,167
CMCM	Capital Improvements and Maintenance Funds: Construction or improvement of roads, trails, and facilities	35,305
LALW	Land Acquisitions Funds: Acquisition of land or waters	9,308
BDBD	Brush Disposal Receipts collected fund: Fuel reduction after timber harvest	64
FDFD	Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Fund Fees collected fund: Recreation operation, interpretation, and law enforcement	45
PEPE	Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction Funds: Construction or improvement of roads in support of timber harvest by small business operators	30,090
SFSF	Timber Salvage Sales Funds: Analysis, preparation, and offer of salvage sales	112
RIRI	Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements	20,000
WCWC	Working Capital Fund Funds: Replacement and repair of motor vehicles, nursery services, enterprise services.	86,029
WFPR	Wildland Fire Preparedness	93,786
FLEP	Forest Land Enhancement Program	40,032
	Total	**$424,069**

Fire, Preparedness, and Suppression Costs

Background

This exhibit is required by P.L. 113-76, Committee Report 113-32, Joint Explanatory Statement Division G, page 44, Wildland Fire Management, which directed:

> In FY 2015 and all future budget submissions, the Committees direct the Forest Service to include a detailed table of actual and proposed spending on fire operations, which should also include a breakout of spending on aviation resources, for both preparedness and suppression appropriations.

Overview

The following table shows a breakdown of spending for fire operations, including aviation resources, from FY 2014 to FY 2016 for both Preparedness and Suppression programs.

In FY 2014, suppression and preparedness expenditures reflect the amount of funding that was appropriated as well as the amount of previously appropriated Suppression funding that was utilized for fire suppression operations during the 2014 fire season (including funding remaining from the prior year's fire transfer repayment). In FY 2015, planned preparedness and suppression expenditures align with the amounts requested for these programs in the FY 2015 President's Budget.

In FY 2016, estimated preparedness and suppression expenditures reflect the amounts proposed for each program in this budget request. The estimated suppression expenditures are shown as a range from the 10-year average to the amount of funding requested in the cap adjustment.

Preparedness and Suppression Costs
(dollars in millions)

Preparedness	FY 2014 Expenditures	FY 2015 Planned	FY 2016 Estimate
Firefighters	$441	$365	$378
Firefighting Equipment and Support	$176	$188	$217
Aviation Contracts/Support	$161	$350	$243
Agency Cost Pools	$262	$243	$243
Total Preparedness Spending	$1,040	$1,146	$1,081

Suppression[1]	FY 2014 Expenditures	FY 2015 Planned	FY 2016 Estimate
Firefighters	$393	$320	$360 - $520
Fire Suppression Operations and Logistics	$621	$443	$518 - $711
Aviation Operations	$62	$72	$72 – $125
Interagency Fire Support[2]	$59	$73	$73 – $143
Burned Area Emergency Response	$15	$16	$16 – $43
Agency Cost Pools	$98	$87	$87
Total Suppression Spending[3]	$1,248	$1,011	$1,126 – $1,629

[1] *Includes both Suppression and FLAME funding.*
[2] *Includes costs incurred by the Forest Service while providing support to DOI and State fire operations. See paragraph below for more detail.*
[3] *Total FY 2014 Suppression obligations include $51million of prior year funds not included in the 10-year average calculation.*

The budget formulation process is informed by decision support tools as well as predicted fire activity and anticipated wildfire workloads to help determine specific resources and geographic placement to ensure timely and effective responses to wildfire incidents. Aviation assets and associated costs are managed nationally to gain maximum efficiencies and provide for strategic placement of resources.

Suppression costs are dependent on the severity of the fire season and other variables that are difficult to forecast including weather conditions and the location of fires. These factors play a critical role in determining the appropriate mix and numbers of firefighting resources required to safely and effectively manage wildfire incidents. As such, the FY 2015 and FY 2016 estimates for suppression costs are based on cost centers that tend to remain fairly proportional from year to year. However, fires will continue to be managed in accordance with risk management protocols that emphasize firefighter and public safety and determine the most appropriate and effective response to protect values at risk and manage national forest system lands.

Interagency fire support includes support for fires on both the Department of the Interior (DOI) and State lands. Per agreement with DOI, Federal agencies do not reimburse each other for costs incurred during fire operations. Thus, the Forest Service does not recover any costs incurred while providing support to DOI fire operations and the same is true for DOI when providing support to Forest Service fire operations. However, costs incurred while supporting State fire operations are reimbursable and States are billed for these costs.

Additional information on Agency Administrative Cost Pools can be found in the Cost Pool Special Exhibit.

FY 2015 National Scenic and Historic Trails

Background

This special exhibit is included to address requirements of P.L. 111-88 House Report 111-180 page 132, which directed:

> The Committee recommendation retains previous base funding for maintenance, construction, and operation of the network of national scenic and historic trails but encourages additional funding for required work of the newly authorized national trails. Future budget justifications should continue to provide specific trail operation, maintenance and construction funding and accomplishment data for the national scenic and historic trails. The Forest Service should provide full time administrators and prepare the required comprehensive management plans for the newly authorized national trails.

Overview

Volunteer Trail Maintenance on the Pacific Crest Trail

A Pacific Crest Trail Association trail maintenance volunteer installs a Pacific Crest Trail Reassurance Marker along the trail in mid-Oregon, helping to keep the trail marked and visible to hikers and equestrians alike.

Since the enactment of the National Trails System Act in 1968, the Forest Service has designated trail administrators for six National Scenic and Historic Trails (NS&HT): Arizona, Continental Divide, Florida, Nez Perce (Nee Mee Poo), Pacific Crest, and Pacific Northwest. The Forest Service manages portions of 15 additional NS&HTs on National Forest System (NFS) lands, in cooperation with the Department of the Interior (DOI), State and county governments, and private entities. Funding for administration and management of these trails is included within the Capital Improvement and Maintenance - Trails budget line item. Acquisition of trail segments is included within the Land Acquisition budget line item. In previous years, the Forest Service has had full administrative responsibility for the Appalachian Trail. Currently, the Appalachian Trail is managed in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS). The Forest Service Southern Region (Region 8) provides a liaison for trail management and activities, so accomplishments are a result of collaboration between the NPS and the Forest Service.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT)

This 2,176-mile footpath crosses along the ridgecrests and across the major valleys of the Appalachian Mountains from Mt. Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in northern Georgia. The trail traverses Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia. The trail is used by day, weekend, and other short-term hikers, section-hikers, and

through-hikers who hike the entire length of the trail in one season. The trail is currently protected along more than 99 percent of its course by Federal or State ownership or rights-of-way and is administratively managed by the National Park Service.

Arizona National Scenic Trail (ANST)

Designated on March 30, 2009, through the Omnibus Public Land Management Act (P.L. 111-11), the ANST extends 807 miles across the State of Arizona from the United States-Mexico border to the Arizona-Utah border. The national forests through which the trail runs have been working closely with the Arizona Trails Association (ATA) in addressing construction needs to fill in gaps on the trail.

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT)

Designated on November 10, 1978, the CDT is a nationally significant resource providing long distance trail opportunities primarily for hiking and horseback riding recreationists. The trail's corridor links Federal, State, and private lands from Mexico to Canada, passing through 25 national forests, three national parks, one national monument, and eight Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field office areas. When completed, the trail will be approximately 3,100 miles in length.

Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST)

Added to the national trails system in 1983, the FNST consists of a 1,300 mile planning corridor stretching from Big Cypress National Preserve in the Everglades to Gulf Islands National Seashore in the panhandle of Florida. A FY 2012 inventory shows 1,074 miles of certified FNST on the ground, leaving just under 300 miles in gaps. The majority of use on the trail consists of day use and weekend backpacking, with a small thru-hiking community that utilizes blazed road walks between gaps to hike the FNST from end-to-end. The FNST is the only national scenic trail that gives the public the opportunity to experience a wide range of subtropical environments, karst spring and riverine systems, and a beach walk on a national seashore.

Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT)

In 1986, Congress acknowledged the significance of the Nez Perce Conflict of 1877 by establishing the 1,170 mile NPNHT. The route winds through remote, rugged, and scenic terrain. With the cooperation of State Highway Department and County Commissioners in the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana, over 1,500 miles of Federal, State, and county roads are designated as the NPNHT Auto Tour Route. The route roughly parallels the course travelled by the five Nez Perce bands during their historic 1877 odyssey, beginning near Wallowa Lake, Oregon, and ending at Bear Paw Mountains south of Chinook, Montana. The route consists of three-season, all-weather roadways ranging from high-standard gravel segments to portions of Interstates 15 & 90. Motorcyclists have found the excitement of riding along a historic route enjoying the scenic beauty of the area. National designation protects the actual historic trail to foot and equestrian travel only. The diversity of this trail lies in the details, where low level roads overlay the historic trail, and opportunities for off-highway

vehicles as well as biking exist. Snowmobile use is allowed along the trail when the snow protects our historic resource.

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT)

The PCT is a 2,650-mile congressionally designated trail that follows the crest of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountain ranges from the Mexican to Canadian borders through California, Oregon, and Washington. Established in 1968, the trail was completed in 1993 and lies within publicly owned lands except for approximately 300 miles where it crosses private lands (easements have been acquired for the trail tread).

Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNNST)

Designated on March 30, 2009, through the Omnibus Public Land Management Act (P.L. 111-11) the PNNST consists of approximately 1,200 miles, extending from the Continental Divide in Glacier National Park, Montana, to the Pacific Ocean Coast in Olympic National Park, Washington. The PNNST travels through three national parks, seven national forests, six Washington State parks, three regions of the Washington Department of Natural Resources, land managed by the Idaho Department of Lands, and across land managed by a variety of other public and private land owners.

Other National Scenic and Historic Trails (NSHT)

There are an additional 15 national scenic and historic trails totaling over 6,700 miles for which the Forest Service coordinates management with other Federal public land agencies. These trails are: California, Camino Real Tejas, Camino Tierra Adentro, De Anza, Ice Age, Iditarod, Lewis and Clark, Mormon Pioneer, North Country, Old Spanish, Oregon, Overmountain Victory, Pony Express, Santa Fe, and Trail of Tears.

Funding for NSHTs
(*dollars in thousands)*

	FY 2014 Enacted			FY 2015 Estimates (subject to change)			FY 2016 President's Budget (estimates subject to change)		
Name	**Trails**	**Land Acq.**	**Subtotal**	**Trails**	**Land Acq.**	**Subtotal**	**Trails**	****Land Acq.**	**Subtotal**
Appalachian	$183	$0	$183	$183	$1,480	**$1,663**	$183	$3,505	**$3,688**
Arizona	348	0	$348	348	0	**$348**	348	0	**$348**
Continental Divide	1,688	200	$1,888	1,688	95	**$1,888**	1,688	255	**$1,943**
Florida	1,266	0	$1,266	1,266	0	**$1,266**	1,266	0	**$1,266**
Nez Perce	620	0	$620	620	0	**$620**	620	525	**$1,145**
Pacific Crest	1,688	0	$055	1,688	3,885	**$2,055**	1,688	7,348	**$ 9,036**
Pacific Northwest	148	0	$148	148	2,700	**$148**	148	0	**$148**
All-others**	693	0	$693	69	4,850	**$ 693**	693	2,320	**$3,013**
TOTAL	**$ 6,634**	**$567**	**$7,201**	**$ 6,634**	**$13,010**	**$19,644**	**$6,634**	**$13,953**	**$20,587**

*** Others for FY2015 include Bonneville Shoreline Trail, Old Spanish Trail, North Country Trail, Uwharrie National Recreation Trail*

*** Others for FY2016 proposed include Bonneville Shoreline Trail*

We will continue to foster and expand partnerships, especially with those partners that involve volunteers and youth organizations. We will maintain and operate most trails, trailheads, and campgrounds through these efforts. We will also continue to deliver interpretative and educational programs and products.

Crew working in the Sheyenne National Grasslands

Through a Volunteer Vacation organized by the American Hiking Society, this crew of volunteers joined a few Forest Service staff to help maintain part of the North Country Trail (NCT). They mowed 30 miles of the NCT, reset marker posts, installed mileage markers, and installed NCT emblem plaques on marker posts with faded brands.

FY 2014 Innovative Actions and Accomplishments (by specific Trail)

Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT)

Partners: Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Appalachian Mountain Club, National Park Service, and other Federal, State, and nongovernmental organization

- **Routine Trail Maintenance.** The AT was kept safe and enjoyable for visitors along its entire length through the Southern Region (approximately 700 miles). Nearly every mile received maintenance attention, and most received the benefits of multiple work trips. Also, every trail shelter and designated overnight site (89 shelters, 2 designated overnight sites, and one AT shelter related campsite) received routine maintenance of all facilities, including privies. These efforts were primarily accomplished by 1,367 volunteers who safely contributed 72,496 hours across the region.

- Koonford Bridge Reconstruction – Located on the AT approximately 0.8-miles north of Dennis Cove Trailhead in Pond Mountain Wilderness on the Cherokee National Forest, the Koonford Bridge structure was replaced. The project cost of $6,500 was shared by ATC and Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club. This multi-year project involved 53 individuals and a total of 2,633 hours of service.

- Rocky Fork Relocation – Approximately 3.1-miles of the AT were relocated to take advantage of a new 10,000-acre tract of land recently added to the Cherokee National Forest. Only 500 feet of the trail remains to be constructed before it is opened for public use. The

Konnarock Volunteer Trail Crew contributed approximately 42 crew volunteers and 1,680 hours of service.

- Following the donation of an easement by Celanese Corporation, and the donation of $40,000 by Columbia Gas Company for actual trail construction (see New River Area Lands Acquisition below), more than 3.0 miles of new trail were constructed including USFS personnel using mechanized trail equipment, volunteers from 3 local Trail Clubs and the Konnarock Regional A.T. Trail Crew and other groups of volunteers. The longstanding New River A.T. Trail Relocation Project is now complete and the trail is open.

Arizona National Scenic Trail

Partners: Arizona Trail Association (ATA), Tribal governments, and other Federal, State, and nongovernmental organizations.

Tonto National Forest receives 21CSC Funds

The Tonto National Forest was awarded $200,000 in 21CSC funds for youth corps services on the Arizona National Scenic Trail. The $200k buys 16 "hitches" of Arizona Conservation Corps crews. While the work of properly maintaining the ANST is critical for the preservation of the trail, the primary purpose of this organization is to connect youth to the outdoors and to employment opportunities on public lands. Many of the crews are inexperienced, and it is critical for the agency to provide adequate project planning, direction and oversight so productive work can be accomplished. The funds came with no overhead allowance so the Arizona Trail Association (ATA), following consultation with the forest, assisted by hiring a manager for the project with their own trail maintenance funds. Work was begun in FY 2014 and will continue into FY 2015.

Arizona Trail Association Publishes new trail guide

The ATA published and distributed a new trail guide for the ANST last year. This 387 page guide includes passage by passage descriptions, unique trail features, route details, support resources, information on biology and geology of the region, Gateway Community information, and color maps and photos to inspire the enjoyment of this national scenic trail by foot, bike or horseback.

ATA partners with Forest Service in kiosk and sign installation/renovation

Many types of signs have been used over the years to mark the Arizona Trail and provide information at trailheads. They are aging and outdated. The ATA has an ongoing program to replace and renovate signs and kiosks. In the last two years the Coronado National Forest has partnered with the ATA by providing $10,000 each year for new kiosk panels and signs. The ATA is also renovating the iconic steel signs found at many of the trailheads. In addition, new route markers are being placed where passages begin or end, and many directional signs were installed by ATA volunteers throughout the state in FY 2014.

Agreements Fund Seeds of Stewardship Program

A BLM assistance agreement funded the ATA's Seeds of Stewardship Program in FY 2014. The ATA is committed to protecting the Arizona National Scenic Trail in perpetuity and an important component of their strategy is to encourage youth participation through a three-tiered approach: Experience, Education, and Stewardship. By doing so, the ATA helps to empower the next generation to take an active role in the enjoyment, development, and protection of the Arizona National Scenic Trail, as well as other parks, trails, and public lands. BLM and FS personnel assist in the program by accompanying ATA led outings and providing interpretive and educational information.

Pinal County Working Group Develops Relocation Alternatives

ASARCO proposes to purchase over 7,000 acres of Arizona State Land Department land in the Ripsey Wash watershed that contains 6 miles of the ANST south of the Gila River, and subsequently use the land for a mine tailings storage facility. This project would forever change many miles of the ANST. Pinal County has convened a working group that includes the ATA, BLM, ASARCO, the ANST Administrator, and consultants working on the project, including U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) NEPA consultants. In FY 2014 the group worked to identify two alternatives for relocating the ANST outside the project area, and developed evaluation criteria

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST)

Partners: Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Montana Wilderness Association, National Park Service, and other Federal, State, and nongovernmental organizations.

- Initiated a new Challenge-Cost Share Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest Service and the Continental Divide Trail Coalition to support and enhance the protection, planning, management and education/outreach efforts related to the CDNST.
- Two Colorado Forests (Rio Grande and Grand-Mesa Uncompagre, Gunnison) held public collaborative meetings to discuss and attempt to resolve issues surrounding mountain biking use along a section of the CDNST.
- CDTC established a Gateway Community designation program, with the cities of Cuba, Silver City, and Chama, NM being designated this past summer.
- CDTC hosted 12 public events and reached over 2,347 people about the CDT throughout the FY.
- CDTC initiated a shuttle to transport through-hikers to the southern terminus of the Trail to provide an opportunity to promote awareness of the Trail and provide education messages on topics like Leave No Trace practices.
- Warrior Hikers – In 2014, six combat veterans attempted a CDT thru hike starting from the Southern Terminus. Throughout their walk, the group interacted with local communities and veterans groups to share their stories and the story of the CDT. This effort was part of the Warrior Hike Therapy Program which assists combat veterans dealing with PTSD by supporting them on long distance walks on our national trails in an effort to help them "walk off the war". The team had ups and downs. Due to injuries of varying natures, four of the six were unable to complete thru hikes, although they did hike small sections all the way to

southern Montana. The two remaining hikers, Tom Gathman and Shawn Murphy, completed their CDT thru hikes on September 27, 2014 at the Northern terminus in Glacier National Park. In 2015 a second team of six will begin journeys north.

- The Montana Wilderness Association has established several program for working with at-risk high school youth to work on the CDT and established the first ever artist in residence program along the CDT.

Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST)

Partners: Florida Trail Association, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other Federal, State, and nongovernmental organizations.

Close the Gaps Initiative

- The Forest Service and Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation "Close the Gaps" Initiative is an effort to engage state, county and local level planning entities and private landowners in completing large scale corridor level planning for the three largest and most pervasive gaps on the Florida National Scenic Trail. In FY 2014 Priority Gap Area 1 in Osceola & Orange Counties identified 4 alternative routes for 36 mile gap in the FNST. One alternative has proven viable and will be pursued for continued planning and some construction in FY 2015. The cooperative planning effort has inspired local land managers to take a larger role in championing the completion of the FNST in their region, dedicating not only time but also resources to its development, to include potential for future land acquisition where FNST and State priorities overlap.

Statewide Volunteer Capacity Study

- The intent of the Statewide Volunteer Capacity Study was to determine the outdoor stewardship needs and general volunteer program capacity to meet those needs for FNST land managers, especially those needs related to the maintenance, development and promotion of the Florida National Scenic Trail. The final product identified opportunities for capacity building across agencies including ways to reduce overlap/redundancy in program administration, improve access to, and leveraging of, funding through partnerships and provided case studies as examples of other successful collaborative efforts.

Nez Perce National Historic Trail (Nee-Mee-Poo)

We promoted the NPNHT through social media, including through Flickr, Twitter, videos on You Tube, webcams, and collaboration with our partners to post information about us on Facebook reaching thousands of visitors. We have 550 Followers on Twitter. We also created a series of four different postcards utilizing a Nez Perce Artist to tell the Trail story in another media, created a poster utilizing a Nez Perce artist and distributed 5,000 desk planners nationwide and in foreign countries to tell the 1877 story.

During the field season, 300 damaged trail markers were replaced and new trail markers were installed along the trail. 500 trail markers were maintained (aluminum nails attaching markers to trees loosened to accommodate tree growth), and 14 trail restriction travel management signs and trail placards were inspected.

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT)

Partners: Pacific Crest Trail Association, California Conservation Corps, Student Conservation Association, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Backcountry Horsemen of California, Oregon, Washington, and other Federal, State, and nongovernmental organizations.

- Continued work on a Master Title Plat review with the BLM and a pilot project for the PCT beginning at the Mexican border going north.
- Initiated a Memorandum of Agreement between the BLM and USFS on management/maintenance of the PCT which will define responsibilities and replace existing MOUs.
- Participated in planning efforts for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Okanogan-Wenatchee, Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia National Forests, Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness, and Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plans to ensure that the trail corridor is defined and trail resource values protected.
- Hosted 21 Trails Skills College training sessions for volunteers and agency partners including trail maintenance and constructions skills, crew leadership, saw training and certification, and first aid, CPR, and BBP certifications. (2 Southern California, 4 Northern Sierra, 1 Big Bend, 10 Columbia Cascades, 4 North Cascades).
- Collaborative partnership between Backcountry Horseman of California, Oregon, and Washington, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Bureau of Land Management, and the US Forest Service continues to grow in strength and depth.
- Safety: Continued development of the PCTA's volunteer saw training and certification program in Regions 5 and 6 of the Forest Service. Multiple meetings with regional saw program leads to ensure compliance with policy and to strengthen program.
- Continued planning and discussions with Tejon Ranch and Tejon Ranch Conservancy to relocate 37 miles of the PCT from the desert floor and onto the Sierra Crest.

Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail

- The PNNST Leadership Council will be developing the Comprehensive Management Plan and providing consistent policy for the PNNST across all managing agencies providing for consistent direction for Trail development and management.
- The agencies are working together and with PNTA, and utilizing the Interagency Trail Data Standards and GIS, to document the status of the PNNST and to estimate the cost to complete the Trail.
- The State of Washington, through RTP Grants, has contributed a total of over $1,186,261.00 since FY04 towards maintenance projects on the PNNST.
- The PNTAs Experience the Wild program, students 8-12 years, was again very successful with over 60 students taking part in the three-week environmental education program.
- The agencies, PNTA, and other partners continue to increase the involvement of volunteers and our SKY Youth Programs in the development and maintenance of the Trail**.**
- A Forest Service PMF is working with our FS Administrator to help establish the FACA Committee for the National Scenic Trail.

Partners: Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA), Tribal governments, and other Federal, State, and nongovernmental organizations.

FY 2014 Partner Contributions and Associated Accomplishments

Location	Volunteers						
	Hours	In-kind Contributions	Non-Cash Contributions	Miles of Trail Maintained	Miles of Trail Improved	Acres Acquired	Major Structures Constructed [1]
Appalachian	72,496	$0	$0	700	0	168*	0
Arizona	12,981	0	0	82	1	0	1
Continental Divide	17,245	0	$ 16,950	865	85	95	203
Florida	21,745	0	0	13	40	0	18
Nez Perce	15,000	0	0	90	109	0	0
Pacific Crest	71,277	0	0	1,518	46	652	2
Pacific Northwest	36,184	0	0	360	61	0	9
Other** (known)		0				228	
Total	**246,928**	**0**	**16,950**	**3,628**	**342**	**975**	**233**

** Acres Acquired: Trail of Tears NHT, Cherokee National Forest (222 acres) and Bonneville Shoreline Trail in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache NF in Utah (6 acres)

*168 acre conservation easement donation protecting the Appalachian Trail on the George Washington and Jefferson NFs in VA

Office of General Counsel Reimbursement

Background

This special exhibit is required by P.L. 110-161, page 121, Administrative Provisions, which directed:

"Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service not to exceed $500,000 may be used to reimburse the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), Department of Agriculture, for travel and related expenses incurred as a result of OGC assistance or participation requested by the Forest Service at meetings, training sessions, management reviews, land purchase negotiations and similar non-litigation related matters. Future budget justifications for both the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture should clearly display the sums previously transferred and the requested funding transfers."

Overview

The USDA Office of General Counsel bills the Forest Service quarterly for non-litigation travel and related costs. The FY 2014 actual reimbursement in the table below reflects billings received to date.

Office of General Counsel Reimbursement FY 2014 to FY 2016

FY 2014 Actual Reimbursement	FY 2015 Estimated Reimbursement	FY 2016 Planned Reimbursement
$22,549	$30,000	$30,000

Office of Tribal Relations

Background

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction; however, it is included to provide information about this program.

Overview

The Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) provides policy advice and direction in implementing agency programs and activities in a manner that honors Indian Tribes' treaty rights and recognizes the inherent sovereignty of American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes. In addition, the OTR helps the agency fulfill its trust responsibility while building, maintaining, and enhancing government-to-government relationships with federally recognized Indian Tribal governments and government-to-corporation relationships with Alaska Native Corporations. The OTR supports the mission of all agency programs and disciplines through both general and issue-specific efforts.

The OTR has responsibilities that span all of the Deputy areas within the Forest Service. The Forest Service manages National Forest System (NFS) lands and resources for the benefit of the general public, while respecting the special trust responsibility of the United States to the 566 federally recognized Indian Tribes. Many NFS lands are adjacent to American Indian or Alaska Native lands. In some cases, Tribal governments retained rights on what are present-day national forests or grasslands when the Tribes relinquished lands to the United States Government. Additionally, State and Private Forestry (S&PF) programs provide assistance to non-Federal landowners, including Tribal governments and American Indians and Alaska Natives; Research and Development (R&D) programs include a variety of programs and projects that incorporate tribal perspectives and include Indian Tribes in development of research projects; and Forest Service Business Operations (BusOps) authorities include responsibilities and processes to work with Indian Tribes.

The OTR supports and integrates Tribal Relations components of policy analysis and development, technical, and administrative assistance, training, and oversight. The program also advises national Forest Service leadership in matters pertaining to interactions with Indian Tribes and tribal representatives. The OTR also helps develop regulations for and tracks implementation of the Tribal Relations components of specific legislation, for example, the Farm Bill and the Tribal Forest Protection Act.

Allocation and Integration

The OTR is funded by a direct cost pool (Cost Pool 2), using all of the funds available to the Forest Service. Specific projects are funded accorded to the purpose of the projects.

Partnerships

The OTR collaborates closely with internal staff areas through the Forest Service OTR Liaison group convened at the Washington Office. The OTR Liaisons represent 20 different staff areas from NFS, S&PF, R&D, and BusOps. The OTR convenes quarterly meetings with these representatives to coordinate and collaborate on Tribal Relations components. The OTR also convenes an internal monthly teleconference with regional Tribal Relations staff to coordinate outreach efforts and collaborate on national policies and projects.

Additionally, the OTR maintains external partnerships with Tribal governments, intertribal organizations, other Federal and State agencies, and other organizations. The Strategic Plan for the National Tribal Relations program includes three goals and guides OTR's interactions both internally and externally. These goals are:

- ensure the agency redeems its trust responsibility and protects American Indian and Alaska Native reserved rights as they pertain to Forest Service programs, projects, and policies;
- leverage partnerships to maximize mutual success; and
- promote integration and utility of the Tribal Relations Program throughout the agency.

Partnerships

Background

This exhibit is included to provide information requested in P.L. 110-5 House Report 109-465 page 151, P.L. 108-108 House Report 108-195 page 99, and P.L. 108-7 House Report 107-564 page 107.

Overview

Since its inception, the Forest Service has maintained a commitment to working with a variety of organizations and interests while fulfilling our motto of "caring for the land and serving people." As such, we accomplish much of our work through collaboration with diverse partners – leveraging significant energy and support to meet critical Forest Service mission activities. Strategic investments in partner-focused efforts represent a growing percentage of the Forest Service budget and, with community support, it allows the Forest Service to accomplish more work across broad landscapes and even broader constituencies.

In FY 2014, the Forest Service entered into more than 9,300 grants and agreements with partners, who contributed $613 million. When leveraged by the agency's nearly $700 million contribution, the total value of these partnerships was over $1.3 billion. The growing value of grants and agreements transactions demonstrates the increasing importance of partnerships to the Forest Service. In FY 2014, more than 101,000 volunteers and service participants contributed 3,855,000 service hours valued at $85 million; representing an 8 percent decrease below FY 2012 levels. Their hourly contributions were equal to 2,141 full-time equivalents.

These partnerships do more than just bring joint money and resources to bear. Partnerships enhance "on-the-ground" accomplishments and create immense good will by fostering relationships with public, private, and civic entities. In turn, these relationships help build and support communities of interest, place, and culture. At its core, the Forest Service fulfills its mission by creating and sustaining healthy, vibrant relationships across constituencies, communities, and generations.

The Forest Service could not realize its mission without these relationships, including strategic alliances with its Congressionally-chartered nonprofit partners: the National Forest Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The Forest Service employs many creative and innovative partnership approaches to accomplish its high-priority goals in the areas of youth, restoration, recreation, water, and urban environments. Opportunities for partner engagement in these arenas include not only funding support, but significant volunteerism and in-kind contributions across the country in areas where partner and Forest Service interests intersect. Through our comprehensive partnership program, we strive to:

- Strengthen connections with communities through restoration of ecosystems and sharing resources and expertise to achieve sustainable solutions to current and future resource challenges.

- Empower employees and partners by improving the art of collaboration with others, leveraging and sharing information and skills, fostering continued learning, which ultimately deepen connections between people and the land.
- Create a more effective and efficient organization through working together and securing or leveraging new and existing sources of support.

Public-Private Partnerships

The Forest Service continues to achieve success within its Public-Private Partnership Strategy. This Strategy, established in 2011, is a bold plan that invites partners and beneficiaries to share in the care of our Nation's forests and grasslands. Such partnerships and alliances are essential to carrying out today's conservation mission and are designed to capitalize on the mutually beneficial interests of both the Forest Service and its partners.

The Forest Service and its partners are inextricably linked through a mutual dependence on healthy forests, waterways, and other natural environments. In recognition of this, we continue to actively cultivate collaboration between our more traditional partners (e.g., ski areas, recreation service providers, and non-governmental organizations) and contemporary and non-traditional partners (e.g., water and power utilities, municipal governments, and regulatory authorities), to share in the stewardship of our natural resources. The congressionally-established foundations we work with, the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) play critical roles in facilitating on-the-ground work and further expanding our partner base. These new public-private ventures are concentrated in five key focal areas for the Forest Service: youth, restoration, recreation, water, and urban environments. Examples of some innovative, effective, and mutually-beneficial partnerships are described in more detail below.

America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative

The longleaf pine ecosystem once covered approximately 90 million acres in the Southern United States – but, by the early 1990s, 97 percent of this ecosystem had been lost. In 2007, the Forest Service, Department of Defense (DOD), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) harnessed a growing, multi-state interest in longleaf restoration to form the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI). The range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine sets a 15-year goal to increase longleaf coverage from 3.4 to 8.0 million acres. 2014 marked the 5-year anniversary of the release of the ALRI Range-wide Conservation Plan. National anniversary events took place in Washington DC on July 22-23. On July 22, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced 2014 Longleaf Stewardship Fund grant awards totaling nearly $3.4 million to fund 15 projects that support longleaf restoration across eight states. The USFS and NRCS are taking the lead on coordinating longleaf restoration project proposals linked to Gulf Coast Recovery.

21st Century Conservation Service Corps

The 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) engages young Americans in public lands, community green spaces, and water restoration. The 21CSC seeks to engage participants in hands-on service and job training experiences to develop a generation of skilled workers,

educated and active citizens, and future leaders and stewards of natural and cultural resources. The 21CSC goals are to:

- *Build America's future* - develop natural and cultural resources stewards
- *Put Americans to work* - provide training and employment opportunities
- Preserve, protect and promote America's greatest gifts - increase public access and use to public lands

In FY 2014, the Forest Service exceeded our goal of 10,000 youth and veterans employed by 7 percent, for a total of 10,678 hires (10,101 youth; 577 veterans). The Forest Service established and led an interagency effort to promote 21CSC opportunities to partner organizations, and coordinated the review and approval process. We exceeded the goal of approving 120 organizations by 19 percent, approving 151 organizations. In FY 2014, the Forest Service spent $21,069,933, which resulted in leveraged funding of $18,760,696 from partners.

Rocky Mountain Watershed Protection Partnership

The Rocky Mountain Region of the Forest Service has committed significant effort to establishing partnerships with municipal water providers and water-related corporations over the last five years, and is now expanding to include energy utilities as well. These public/private ventures are helping to achieve accelerated forest and watershed restoration across the landscape. The higher profile (larger) partners include: Denver Water, Aurora Water, Colorado Springs Utilities, Northern Water Conservancy, Pueblo Board of Water Works, The Bureau of Reclamation, Vail Resorts, MillerCoors, the Coca-Cola Company, and Xcel Energy. Since 2009, our water and energy partners have contributed $15 million in funds for projects on National Forest System (NFS) lands and plan to invest approximately $11 million more by 2018. Partner funds are being leveraged with Federal appropriations for an anticipated total 10-year investment (2009-2018) of approximately $58 million. The results to date include 24,520 acres of hazardous fuels treatments; 364,000 trees planted; 355 acres of wetlands and riparian areas restored; and 80 miles of recreation trails and roads restored, constructed, or decommissioned. This work was assisted by 2,685 volunteers and included 1,065 youth.

Forest Service Research and Development Partnerships

Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC)

The SUFC is an assembly of national organizations working to advance a unified urban forest agenda for our nation's communities. SUFC is composed of city planners, educators, landscape architects, non-profit leaders, arborists, foresters, and many other professionals who care for, monitor, and advocate for trees and our urban forests as a whole. The SUFC has a sustained commitment to urban forest research. Their new Research & Development Platform serves as a foundation for their urban research advocacy.

P^3Nano: Public-Private Partnership for Advanced Woody Biomaterials and Nanotechnology

Forest Service and the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities launched the Public-Private Partnership for Advanced Woody Biomaterials and Nanotechnology named

P^3Nano. This is a public-private partnership designed to help keep America's forests and forest-based economy healthy and sustainable through the development and use of wood-based nanomaterial for a wide-range of commercial products. P^3Nano will help diversify the economy; create new family-supporting jobs; provide materials for a future bioeconomy, and contribute to critical forest restoration needs of working forests across all ownerships.

The National Wildlife Federation Partnership

Forest Service Research & Development is collaborating with the National Wildlife Federation to help urban gardeners, conservation organizations, community leaders, and residents across the United States access information on the best native plants to support wildlife and improve urban biodiversity. Urbanization is changing the landscape for biodiversity but if society provides native plants for animals within these areas, we can lessen the impacts to wildlife and provide a higher quality of life for people. Together with the University of Delaware, we are producing an interactive website and mobile browser to help consumers determine which native trees and plants in their zip code provide the most value to wildlife.

Congressionally Authorized Foundations

National Forest Foundation

Founded by Congressional charter in 1991, the National Forest Foundation (NFF) engages America in community-based and national programs that promote the health and public enjoyment of all 193 million acres of NFS lands. The NFF accepts and administers gifts of funds and lands and provides financial and technical support to facilitate community-based conservation benefiting the NFS.

Working through a combination of direct restoration initiatives, award programs, and technical assistance, the National Forest Foundation empowers communities in caring for their local forests and watersheds.

Treasured Landscapes, Unforgettable Experiences - In FY 2009, the NFF and the Forest Service embarked on a $100 million national conservation campaign known as "Treasured Landscapes, Unforgettable Experiences." Recognizing the tremendous forest restoration needs and increasingly urbanized constituency of the Forest Service, the NFF aims to revitalize our forests and strengthen Americans' connection to their public lands through this targeted campaign. Working in keystone sites from Alaska to Florida, this campaign unites diverse partners and communities to promote the health of their public lands and their own enjoyment of them. In the fall of 2014, the NFF crossed the $100 million mark in the fundraising effort. Realizing there was still work to do, the goal was increased to $125 million to help have greater conservation impact.

Forest Health and Outdoor Experiences - In FY 2015, with input from Forest Service leadership, the NFF launched a new strategic emphasis, focusing on the pillars of Forest Health and Outdoor Experiences. This new focus is a sustained effort to improve forest health and outdoor experiences by engaging key sectors of the American public, partner organizations, and the private sector. An emphasis is placed on enhancing visitor use, enjoyment, volunteer

engagement, and enhancing the resilience of NFS ecosystems through work at key sites and through key initiatives.

Tree-Planting and the Carbon Capital Fund - The Carbon Capital Fund was developed to educate the public about the role that National Forests play in greenhouse gas reduction while providing a way for Americans to reduce their impact on climate change. Through this pilot program, the NFF invests in reforestation projects on national forests that have suffered a natural degradation of forest cover. These reforestation projects provide third-party validated and verified carbon offsets for the voluntary market, currently solely offered by the NFF. To date, the NFF has established a total of three registered and five unregistered carbon demonstration projects on five national forests throughout the western United States. Over the life of these projects 1,329,500 trees will be planted and 5,239 acres will be reforested, which will sequester an estimated 706,889 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Trees for US - The NFF also administers the *Trees for US* program, which addresses the large-scale need for reforestation across NFS lands. Through the *Trees for US* program, the NFF works with private contributors and the Forest Service to reforest high-priority areas of the NFS. To date, the NFF has planted nearly 5 million trees through this program.

Restoring America's Headwaters - The NFF has also recently built out its Restoring America's Headwaters program, which focuses on restoring high priority National Forest watersheds with support from corporations and foundations. By engaging high profile partners like the Coca-Cola Company and Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, the NFF is addressing the most pressing watershed restoration needs across the National Forest System.

Granting Programs - Through its grant programs, NFF has provided conservation awards to more than 500 nonprofit organizations since 2001 to complete more than 1,700 projects. The NFF and its partners have invested nearly $150 million of Federal and non-Federal funds in these projects, leveraging Federal award funds at a ratio of 4:1. These granting programs include:

- Matching Awards Program - This is the NFF's flagship awards program, offering challenge grants to nonprofits to complete on-the-ground conservation and citizen-based monitoring projects that benefit National Forest System lands.
- Ski Conservation Fund & Forest Stewardship Fund - This program supports unique partnerships with ski areas, lodges, outfitters, and campground operators. Visitors to these businesses on or near NFS lands can make voluntary contributions to support conservation and restoration projects on that forest. The NFF then awards the collected funds to local nonprofit organizations who implement the projects.

Conservation Connect: A Learning Network for Collaboration - In addition to its grant programs, the NFF supports community-based collaborative groups through technical assistance and peer learning to meet organizational needs at various stages of growth and capacity, from start-up to self-sustaining organizations. As a learning network for collaboration, the program seeks to broaden and connect the community of people working to steward NFS lands, prevent repetition of common mistakes, and promote successful strategies. We strive to assist diverse interest groups in working more efficiently and effectively to achieve long-lasting, on-the-ground results that benefit the NFS. The program fosters community-to-agency connections and helps

groups identify common challenges and implement team problem-solving strategies. Conservation Connect provides access to peer learning sessions; networking opportunities; and an extensive online library of tools, best practices, and lessons learned regarding collaboration, partnerships, landscape restoration, multiparty monitoring, and stewardship authorities.

Public Engagement and Constituency Building - To help build a constituency of supporters, the NFF conducts public outreach and volunteer activities. The NFF helps people learn about the issues and values surrounding the NFS through publications, the NFF website (www.nationalforests.org), social media, a monthly electronic newsletter (tree-mail™), and hands-on stewardship events. The NFF's social media presence has grown to more than 180,000 Friends of the Forest and an additional 120,000 Friends receive its semi-annual magazine or electronic newsletter.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

The Forest Service's partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is one of our most important, largest, and longest-standing affiliations. Since the beginning of the partnership in 1988, NFWF has undertaken more than 1,300 joint projects with the Forest Service and has leveraged more than $47.3 million in Forest Service funds with more than $207.2 million in partnership funding for targeted, on-the-ground conservation. Foundation grants have been made to more than 125 national forests and Research Stations in all nine regions of the Forest Service. Congress' FY 2014 appropriation to NFWF, through the Forest Service, was $3 million. These funds will be matched at least 1:1 with non-Federal funds, and will be allocated to on-the-ground, high-priority conservation projects over the next five years.

Strategic Keystone Initiatives - Starting in 2008, NFWF realigned its grant-making procedures to be more targeted and outcome-based. "Keystone Initiatives" were designed to achieve a measurable conservation outcome in a five-to-ten year timeframe. Specific goals and strategies are now identified for each initiative through the development of business plans that serve as guides for the types of projects that will be considered for funding by NFWF ($1.60 million in FY 2013).

Wildlife and Landscape Scale Habitat Keystone - This project addresses conservation needs for mammals, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and native plants. The Foundation is currently working with the Forest Service on Sierra Nevada Wet Meadow restoration and Northern Rockies Wildlife Corridors (eastern Idaho and western Montana).

Freshwater Fish and Habitat Keystone - This project focuses on high-priority species and habitat for freshwater fish and associated aquatic life such as mussels, crayfish, and invertebrates. The Foundation is currently working with the Forest Service on Eastern Brook Trout (Virginia and West Virginia) and Apache Trout (Arizona).

Bird and Habitat Keystone - This project focuses on migratory and resident bird species and their habitats. The Foundation is currently working with the Forest Service to promote the conservation of Gunnison Sage Grouse (Colorado and Utah) and a wide variety of Southeastern grassland birds such as bobwhite quail and Bachman's sparrow.

Charter Grant Programs - In FY 2013, $1.25 million in funds were also awarded through targeted Charter Grant Programs that include:

- Bring Back the Natives - Seeks to implement the National Fish Habitat Initiative Action Plan by supporting on-the-ground watershed restoration and native fish projects ($600,000 in FY 2013).
- Pulling Together Initiative - A unified effort by NFWF and the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior to fund and implement effective, long-term invasive plant management at the local level ($200,000 in FY 2013).
- The Great Lakes Watershed Restoration Program - Funds organizations working to protect, restore, or enhance habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants of the Great Lakes watershed ($300,000 in FY 2013).
- Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant Program - Provides grants to organizations and local governments working on a community level to protect and improve watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay basin ($100,000 in FY 2013).
- Alaska Fund - A partnership with FWS, BLM, and corporate entities to support wildlife-focused projects in Alaska ($50,000 in FY 2013).

New Initiatives with NFWF - In the last three years, in addition to the Congressionally-appropriated funds, we have collaborated on a number of new initiatives that address strategic Forest Service priorities:

- Longleaf Stewardship Fund - Developed in partnership with the Forest Service's Southeast Region, this initiative brings together Federal and corporate partners (Forest Service, NRCS, DoD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and Southern Company) to accelerate the restoration and conservation of the historic longleaf pine ecosystem and implementation of the *Range-Wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine*. In 2013, NFWF awarded $3.1 million to 15 projects in 7 states for longleaf restoration. Forest Service funds have been committed to this successful collaboration for a third year of competitive funding in FY 2014.
- Youth Engagement in Conservation Initiative - As part of America's Great Outdoors (AGO), NFWF, Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation (BLM) and FWS collaborated on the launch of the third year (FY 2014) of the successful Youth Engagement in Conservation Initiative. This collaboration supports innovative partnerships that provide meaningful employment opportunities for youth in service to their public lands. Launched in FY 2012, the initiative has provided more than $1 million, matched at least 1:1 by non-Federal funds, to youth employment projects that benefit NFS lands and Forest Service programs. In FY 2014, more than $1.75 million in Federal funds will be granted to youth employment projects.
- Re-Wetting of Indian Valley High Meadow in California - NFWF has played a key role in a new public-private partnership (PPP) with the Coca-Cola Company (Coca-Cola) to restore the degraded high-meadow Indian Valley on the Eldorado National Forest. The project objectives are to restore floodplain connectivity, groundwater recharge, and flood attenuation; restore wet meadow habitat; and provide a clean and consistent water supply for human use. Through this new partnership, more than 80.5 million gallons of water will be replenished each year; a key consideration for Coca-Cola's engagement. Although

facilitated at the Forest Service Washington Office, project implementation is led by the Southwest Region. This pilot program establishes an important new PPP for the Forest Service and may lead to other partnership projects in the future

FY 2014 National Grants and Agreements (G&A)
Summary by Instrument Type[1]
(dollars in thousands)

Instrument Type	Instrument Description	Partner	Forest Service	Total	Number of unique instruments
Challenge Cost Share Agreement	A mutual interest/mutual benefit agreement citing one of multiple partnership authorities.	$58,380,106	$66,888,703	$125,268,809	1207
Collection Agreement	Partnership instrument used for the acceptance of money by the Forest Service from a non-Federal source to carry out a mutually beneficial project on NFS lands.	$80,483,835	$26,883,090	$107,366,925	1137
Cooperative Agreement	A legal financial assistance instrument utilized by the Forest Service to document a transaction for the public good where the Forest Service is substantially involved in the performance of the project.	$13,073,626	$43,336,902	$56,410,527	308
Cooperative Research and Development Agreement	A partnership agreement in which the Forest Service and other public and private entities pool resources in support of scientific research and development for mutual interest and benefit of the parties to the agreement.	$599,697	$0	$599,697	20

Instrument Type	Instrument Description	Partner	Forest Service	Total	Number of unique instruments
Cost Reimbursable Agreement	An agreement used when the primary purpose of the agreement is to procure goods and/or services to carry out research and teaching activities from authorized partners.	$298,393	$11,715,851	$12,014,244	165
Domestic Grant	A legal financial assistance instrument utilized by the Forest Service to document a transaction for the public good where the Forest Service is not substantially involved with the project.	$176,129,042	$261,874,445	$438,003,487	1020
Fire Agreement	An agreement in which the Forest Service works with other Federal and State agencies to provide wildland fire protection, perform approved severity activities, and respond to states of emergency or disaster under Federal Emergency Management Agency authorities.	$3,518,750	$4,262,074	$7,780,824	260

Instrument Type	Instrument Description	Partner	Forest Service	Total	Number of unique instruments
Interagency Agreement	Interagency agreements are used when one Federal agency is in a position to provide materials, supplies, equipment, work or services of any kind that another agency needs to accomplish its mission.	$179,897,030	$118,320,732	$298,217,762	1976
International Cooperative Agreement	Federal Financial Assistance instruments entered into between the Forest Service and a foreign recipient located, chartered to do business, and operating outside of the United States and its territories, regardless of whether it is performed domestically or internationally. An International Cooperative Agreement would include substantial involvement on the part of the Forest Service in carrying out the project.	$309,878	$1,417,767	$1,727,645	14

Instrument Type	Instrument Description	Partner	Forest Service	Total	Number of unique instruments
International Grant	Federal Financial Assistance instruments entered into between the Forest Service and a foreign recipient located, chartered to do business, and operating outside of the United States and its territories, regardless of whether it is performed domestically or internationally. An International Grant would not include substantial involvement on the part of the Forest Service in carrying out the project.	$82,100	$2,018,226	$2,100,326	17
International Joint Venture Agreement	A mutual interest/mutual benefit agreement entered into with a foreign partner for the purposes of conducting agricultural research activities and agricultural teaching activities.	$708,614	$1,812,839	$2,521,452	21
Joint Venture Agreement	A mutual interest/mutual benefit agreement entered into for the purposes of conducting agricultural research activities and agricultural teaching activities.	$21,323,462	$54,848,757	$76,172,219	666

Law Enforcement Agreement	An agreement in which the Forest Service works cooperatively with State and local law enforcement agencies to enhance enforcement and/or supervision of their laws and ordinances on lands within or part of any unit of the National Forest System.	$0	$5,029,164	$5,029,164	400
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	An MOU is a non-obligating document entered into by interested parties to document a framework for cooperation. Each party carries out separate activities in a mutually beneficial manner and nothing of financial value transfers between parties.	$0	$0	$0	240
Participating Agreement	A mutual interest/mutual benefit agreement citing one of multiple partnership authorities.	$71,457,832	$78,315,045	$149,772,877	1599
Roads Agreement	An agreement in which the Forest Service works cooperatively with State, county, or local public road authorities for the cooperative planning, survey, design, construction, reconstruction, improvement and maintenance of forest roads.	$3,721,895	$13,525,111	$17,247,006	228

Interagency Agreement	Interagency agreements are used when one Federal agency is in a position to provide materials, supplies, equipment, work or services of any kind that another agency needs to accomplish its mission.	$179,897,030	$118,320,732	$298,217,762	1976
Grand Total		**$613,294,465**	**$697,283,879**	**$1,310,578,344**	**9321**

1. Data are compiled from the Forest Service Grants & Agreements (G&A) database. These include all G&A instruments active in FY14 except "direct payments" and "letter of intent agreements".

Reforestation

Background

This exhibit is included to address requirements of P.L. 109-54 House Report 109-80 page 138, which directed the Forest Service:

…[T]o provide clear presentations of reforestation needs and accomplishments in future budget justifications, including the specific use and distribution of the mandatory funding from the Reforestation Fund, as well as partner efforts, such as the new American Forests initiative.

Overview

The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (RPA) (P.L. 93-378), as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA) Section 3(d)1, directs that all forested lands in the National Forest System (NFS) be maintained in appropriate forest cover with regard to species of trees, degree of stocking, rate of growth, and conditions of stand to secure the maximum benefits of multiple use sustained yield management in accordance with land management plans. The Act further requires the Secretary of Agriculture to identify and report the amount, location (by national forest and State), and productivity class (where applicable) of areas that have been cut-over or otherwise denuded or deforested and need to be reforested to Congress at the time of submission of the President's Budget together with the annual report provided under section 8(c) of the Act.

The Forest Service reforestation program has four major goals:

- maintain all forest lands within the NFS in appropriate forest cover,
- improve the quality and yield of new timber stands,
- promptly achieve desired stocking levels in a cost-efficient manner, and
- develop and demonstrate successful reforestation methods and techniques and encourage their use by private landowners.

Prompt reforestation is desirable to prevent soil erosion and protect water quality in streams and lakes. Through species and seed source selection, reforestation may increase the resilience of forest vegetation communities to the effects of global climate change and provide effective long-term carbon sequestration. Reforestation benefits wildlife and fish species and improves scenic quality and recreational experiences.

There are a variety of activities associated with the reforestation program including planting, seeding, and site preparation. Site preparation may be done to prepare the site for planting, for seeding, or to facilitate natural regeneration. Forest and stand level management objectives may be jeopardized without appropriate reforestation treatments.

Reforestation work is time-sensitive. Without timely reforestation efforts, undesirable species may dominate forest vegetation communities, making the establishment of desired tree species difficult. Once undesirable species become established, decades may pass before sufficient numbers of desired tree seedlings occupy the site and the opportunity to facilitate adaptation to

the effects of climate variability or other stressors may be lost. Delays increase the cost of reforestation work by necessitating expensive site preparation, reducing timber yields, and adversely affecting the Forest Service's ability to meet other resource objectives. In addition, these areas may be less resilient to wildfire and create increased risk to adjacent communities.

Program Plans and Accomplishments

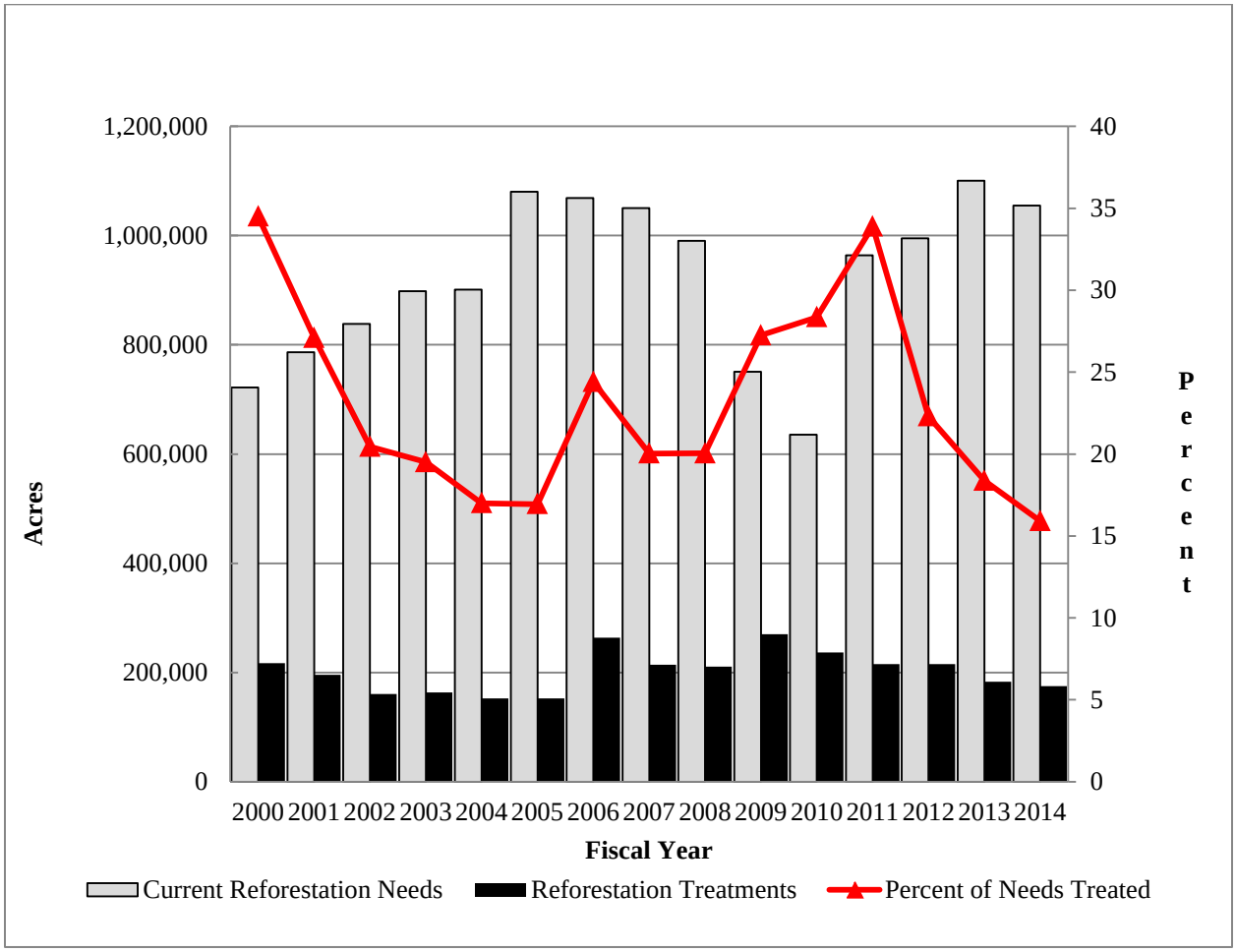
The agency's reforestation capacity is dependent on several program areas, as well as numerous partnerships and cooperative agreements. Reforestation needs generated through timber harvest activities are generally met through funds collected under the Knutson-Vandenberg (K-V) Act authority. Reforestation needs for areas outside of timber sale areas are primarily funded by the proposed Integrated Resource Restoration budget line item (BLI) and the Reforestation Trust Fund. Non-profit partners and civic groups also contribute to the agency's capacity for reforestation through partnerships and matching fund agreements.

In FY 2014, the agency reforested a total of 175,061 acres. Of this total, the agency accomplished 75,116 acres through certification of natural regeneration of sites not requiring preparation. At the start of FY 2015, the agency has identified 1,055,109 acres of NFS lands that can benefit from reforestation. The identified acres are the result of completed silviculture diagnoses and prescriptions. The on-going assessments of areas impacted by wildfire in prior years result in additional acres that would benefit from reforestation.

The agency's total reforestation target for FY 2015 is 187,866 acres, which will be funded from multiple sources. This includes 122,000 acres utilizing the Reforestation Trust Fund and K-V Trust Fund, and 8,000 acres through partnerships. Actual accomplishments may vary significantly depending on the type of treatment necessary to meet restoration objectives and the cost of that treatment.

The graph below shows reforestation needs and accomplishments for FY 2000 through FY 2014. Since FY 2000, reforestation needs have grown. This is due to large wildfires affecting NFS lands in the West and insect epidemics in the East. From FY 2000 through FY 2014, the agency has addressed about 23 percent of the reforestation needs nationally. Reforestation capacity and the projected accomplishments for FY 2015 will continue to reflect the agency's restoration objectives.

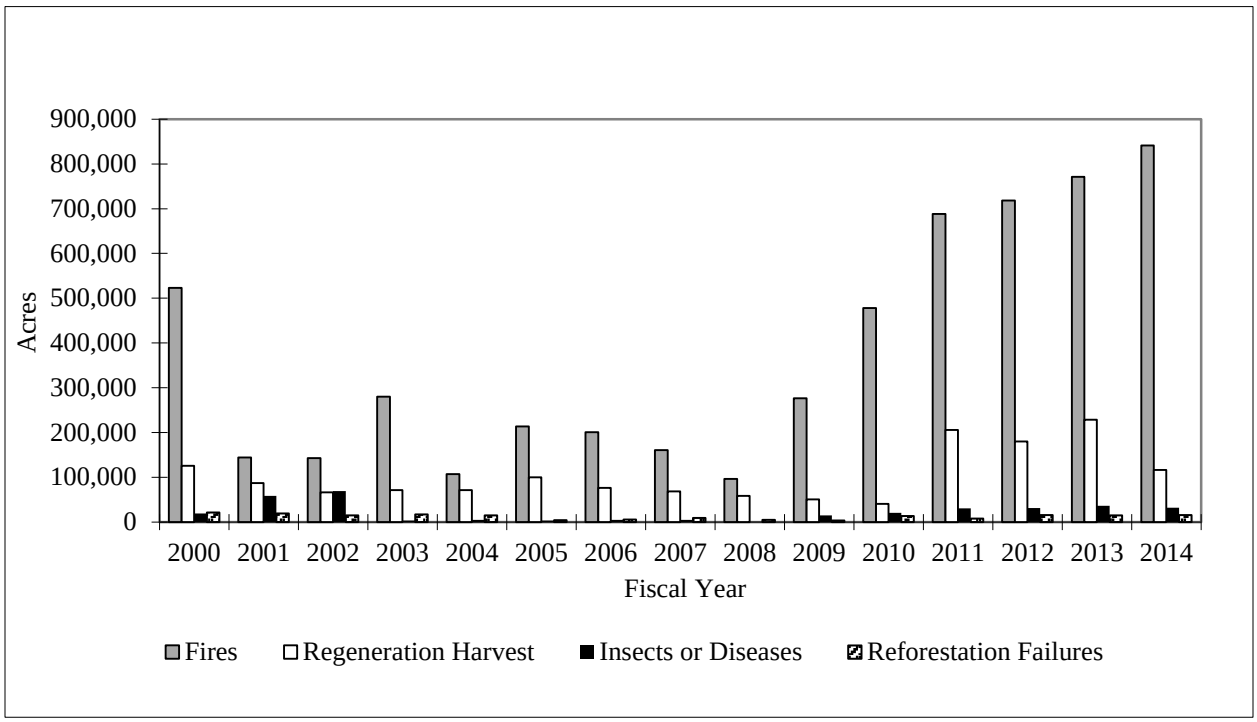
Trends in Reforestation to FY 2000-2014



[1/]*This graph displays the current reforestation needs as of the end of FY 2014.*
[2/]*The percent accomplishment is calculated by dividing the current year's accomplishment by the prior fiscal year need.*

The graph of reforestation needs below shows the relative significance of various contributing factors on reforestion needs. The majority of the new reforestation areas are the result of wildfires, particularly in the western regions. These areas are identified based on the opportunity to re-establish desired vegetation through sequenced silviculture prescriptions. This includes artificial regeneration either by planting or seeding as well as certification of natural regeneration when there are sufficient seed-producing trees on the site. To assure that successful regeneration is taking place, reforestation areas are scheduled for periodic stocking surveys. The increase in reforestation need created by wildfires reported in FY 2012, compared with the number of acres affected by fires, is the result of continued assessments of fires in prior years and the development of detailed silviculture prescriptions and treatment plans for re-establishing forest vegetation.

Causal Agent for Reforestation Needs
FY 2000-2014



Region, Station, and Area Allocations

Background

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction; however, it is included to provide historical information on allocations of appropriations at the Fund and Budget Line Item levels to Forest Service Regions, Stations and Areas.

Overview

The Office of Management and Budget apportions all funds available to the Forest Service prior to obligation or disbursement. Once funds are apportioned to the Forest Service at the fund level, they are allocated throughout the agency to Budget Line Items in the Regions, Stations, and Areas.

The Forest Service operates through nine geographical regions, seven research stations, the Northeastern Area - State and Private Forestry, the Albuquerque Service Center in Albuquerque, NM, and the national headquarters in Washington, DC. Allocations are determined by balancing the priorities of Congress, the Administration, agency leadership, and Region/Station/Area capabilities. They act as agency administrative divisions of apportionments and are used to monitor financial status and prevent deficiency.

Region, Station, and Area Allocations FY 2012 to FY 2014

Includes direct program + cost pool funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2012 to FY 2014	Region 1 - Northern Region			Region 2 - Rocky Mountain Region		
(dollars in thousands)	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**
Forest and Rangeland Research	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$63**	**$48**	**$86**
State & Private Forestry						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	$2,015	$1,350	$3,685	$1,331	$1,217	$3,307
State Fire Assistance	1,297	1,354	0	1,954	2,056	0
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	435	1,637	1,870	1,623	2,091	3,077
Volunteer Fire Assistance	425	403	0	740	701	0
Forest Stewardship	700	896	581	1,240	1,308	1,118
Forest Legacy Program	9,709	4,298	5,441	1,789	9,502	320
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	367	0	0	0	0
Urban and Community Forestry	748	1,205	746	1,745	2,341	1,751
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	0	0	0	0	47	0
Landscape Scale Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total State & Private Forestry	**$15,329**	**$11,511**	**$12,323**	**$10,423**	**$19,263**	**$9,573**
National Forest System						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	$6,503	$5,961	$6,166	$4,149	$3,744	$3,368
Land Management Planning	2,314	3,002	3,322	2,518	2,564	1,766
Inventory and Monitoring	11,278	10,387	11,268	9,076	8,382	9,483
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	15,578	14,853	15,529	25,757	23,754	24,015
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	0	0	0	9,289	8,629	9,938
Grazing Management	6,216	5,887	6,270	8,946	8,405	8,945
Forest Products	0	0	0	25,707	23,842	30,217
Vegetation and Watershed Management	0	0	0	13,494	12,913	14,217
Minerals and Geology Management	9,232	9,922	9,856	8,539	7,594	8,386
Landownership Management	6,167	5,659	5,786	6,705	6,406	6,533
Law Enforcement Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration Partnerships	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrated Resource Restoration	58,698	68,221	69,274	0	0	0
Total National Forest System	**$115,986**	**$123,892**	**$127,471**	**$114,180**	**$106,234**	**$116,867**
Wildland Fire Management						
Fire Preparedness	$58,941	$58,786	$62,146	$30,919	$30,753	$30,713
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Fuels	17,325	15,723	14,043	27,327	25,991	23,832
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joint Fire Sciences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	1,993	2,142	0	1,919	1,879	0
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	1,590	1,013	0	1,164	955	0
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	722	3,259	0	1,422	6,089	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	500	474	0	593	563	0
Coop Fire Protection-State Fire Assistance	0	0	2,059	0	0	3,441
Coop Fire Protection-Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	933	0	0	1,323
Total Wildland Fire Management	**$81,070**	**$81,397**	**$79,181**	**$63,345**	**$66,230**	**$59,309**
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Capital Improvement & Maintenance						
Facilities	$3,324	$2,432	$3,672	$6,238	$6,209	$6,898
Roads	15,289	14,855	14,721	19,081	17,897	15,864
Trails	11,415	10,187	10,656	8,734	7,814	8,040
Infrastructure Improvement	1,869	969	1,009	1,337	0	280
Legacy Roads and Trails	0	0	0	3,644	3,437	2,782
Total Capital Improvement & Maintenance	**$31,897**	**$28,444**	**$30,058**	**$39,035**	**$35,356**	**$33,864**
Land Acquisition						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	$831	$854	$797	$541	$450	$485
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Land Acquisition	**$831**	**$854**	**$797**	**$541**	**$450**	**$485**
Range Betterment Fund	**$0**	**$239**	**$0**	**$0**	**$448**	**$0**
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)	**$245,113**	**$246,336**	**$249,830**	**$227,587**	**$228,030**	**$220,184**
Permanent Working Funds	**$14,383**	**$14,492**	**$14,858**	**$16,432**	**$11,279**	**$12,011**
Trust Funds	**$13,377**	**$12,073**	**$11,861**	**$13,689**	**$10,103**	**$11,230**
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	**$272,872**	**$272,901**	**$276,550**	**$257,708**	**$249,412**	**$243,425**

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3/ FLAME, Law Enforcement, and Land Acquisition Funds managed at the National level
4/ Wildland Fire Management, Fire Operations - Suppression includes $240 million in carryover emergency fire suppression funds in FY12
5/ Integration Resource Restoration was not assessed for cost pools in FY13 so allocations were adjusted

Region, Station, and Area Allocations FY 2012 to FY 2014

Includes direct program + cost pool funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2012 to FY 2014	Region 3 - Southwestern Region			Region 4 - Intermountain Region		
(dollars in thousands)	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**
Forest and Rangeland Research	**$0**	**$3**	**$12**	**$0**	**$5**	**$0**
State & Private Forestry						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	$1,384	$422	$1,620	$1,410	942	3,055
State Fire Assistance	589	606	0	602	620	0
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	272	819	1,075	1,309	1,161	1,365
Volunteer Fire Assistance	177	168	0	137	130	0
Forest Stewardship	719	709	521	454	814	398
Forest Legacy Program	147	143	3,117	4,092	175	180
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation		0	0	0	0	0
Urban and Community Forestry	692	722	724	642	1,330	671
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landscape Scale Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total State & Private Forestry	**$3,980**	**$3,589**	**$7,059**	**$8,646**	**$5,171**	**$5,669**
National Forest System						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	$6,243	$5,989	$6,136	$190	$2,592	$2,691
Land Management Planning	4,100	3,865	3,939	1,395	1,411	1,472
Inventory and Monitoring	9,248	8,805	10,648	12,021	10,946	11,314
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	23,820	23,356	22,703	26,554	25,549	25,142
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grazing Management	10,016	9,568	10,274	10,493	10,047	10,530
Forest Products	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vegetation and Watershed Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minerals and Geology Management	7,019	6,848	7,572	10,908	10,307	9,716
Landownership Management	4,975	4,906	4,995	7,036	6,689	6,416
Law Enforcement Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration Partnerships	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrated Resource Restoration	37,818	44,022	46,186	41,127	48,999	51,209
Total National Forest System	**$103,239**	**$107,359**	**$112,452**	**$109,724**	**$116,539**	**$118,491**
Wildland Fire Management						
Fire Preparedness	$62,949	$62,410	$66,118	$61,144	$60,753	$59,337
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Fuels	30,066	26,951	26,545	21,059	20,210	20,409
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joint Fire Sciences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	719	1,257	0	1,829	1,627	0
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	324	194	0	218	938	0
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	342	1,077	0	355	3,037	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	406	386	0	219	208	0
Coop Fire Protection-State Fire Assistance	0	0	962	0	0	977
Coop Fire Protection-Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	605	0	0	364
Total Wildland Fire Management	**$94,806**	**$92,274**	**$94,230**	**$84,825**	**$86,773**	**$81,088**
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Capital Improvement & Maintenance						
Facilities	$5,093	$4,214	$5,061	$4,995	$4,559	$4,982
Roads	14,623	14,304	14,728	15,722	15,374	15,403
Trails	4,037	3,730	3,790	8,236	7,623	7,695
Infrastructure Improvement	919	767	511	1,456	0	0
Legacy Roads and Trails	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Capital Improvement & Maintenance	**$24,672**	**$23,016**	**$24,090**	**$30,408**	**$27,557**	**$28,080**
Land Acquisition						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	$298	$246	$219	$747	$706	$616
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts	0	0	0	0	0	46
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Land Acquisition	**$298**	**$246**	**$219**	**$747**	**$706**	**$662**
Range Betterment Fund	**$0**	**$617**	**$0**	**$0**	**$692**	**$0**
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)	**$226,996**	**$227,104**	**$238,062**	**$234,350**	**$237,444**	**$233,990**
Permanent Working Funds	**$12,114**	**$13,760**	**$13,402**	**$39,462**	**$32,538**	**$35,012**
Trust Funds	**$3,636**	**$4,569**	**$3,651**	**$5,307**	**$4,717**	**$5,869**
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	**$242,747**	**$245,433**	**$255,115**	**$279,118**	**$274,699**	**$274,870**

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3/ FLAME, Law Enforcement, and Land Acquisition Funds managed at the National level
4/ Wildland Fire Management, Fire Operations - Suppression includes $240 million in carryover emergency fire suppression funds in FY12
5/ Integration Resource Restoration was not assessed for cost pools in FY13 so allocations were adjusted

Region, Station, and Area Allocations FY 2012 to FY 2014

Includes direct program + cost pool funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2012 to FY 2014	Region 5 - Pacific Southwest Region			Region 6 - Pacific Northwest Region		
(dollars in thousands)	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**
Forest and Rangeland Research	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$151**	**$3**	**$88**
State & Private Forestry						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	$1,178	$565	$3,567	$2,358	$2,307	$6,387
State Fire Assistance	1,487	1,539	0	4,181	1,794	0
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	2,562	1,979	2,683	2,413	1,640	2,989
Volunteer Fire Assistance	356	338	0	219	208	0
Forest Stewardship	1,053	1,176	1,063	820	832	714
Forest Legacy Program	9,854	3,543	4,587	165	4,748	7,252
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	0	0	0	1,110	0
Urban and Community Forestry	2,379	2,699	2,572	791	836	815
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	0	2	0	0	478	0
Landscape Scale Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total State & Private Forestry	**$18,869**	**$11,841**	**$14,472**	**$10,947**	**$13,953**	**$18,157**
National Forest System						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	$1,639	$2,249	$3,201	$3,395	$9,148	$7,947
Land Management Planning	2,625	3,214	3,362	4,476	3,871	4,029
Inventory and Monitoring	13,459	11,297	11,680	12,708	12,054	12,452
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	29,238	26,560	26,307	27,634	26,081	26,559
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	14,325	13,372	14,142	17,671	17,741	17,393
Grazing Management	3,779	3,510	3,668	4,578	4,047	4,643
Forest Products	35,516	32,924	42,397	59,421	60,575	60,087
Vegetation and Watershed Management	17,725	16,961	18,485	23,501	24,302	24,316
Minerals and Geology Management	6,891	5,943	4,999	4,929	4,223	4,523
Landownership Management	8,677	8,069	8,142	7,702	7,104	7,048
Law Enforcement Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration Partnerships	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total National Forest System	**$133,874**	**$124,098**	**$136,384**	**$166,015**	**$169,147**	**$168,998**
Wildland Fire Management						
Fire Preparedness	$234,499	$234,969	$248,593	$85,291	$78,832	$83,996
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Fuels	50,099	49,348	51,128	32,551	30,689	29,442
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joint Fire Sciences	0	0	0	0	34	0
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	1,430	2,587	0	2,787	3,519	0
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	1,330	1,585	0	1,386	2,077	0
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	6,280	6,384	0	972	7,141	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	687	653	0	500	474	0
Coop Fire Protection-State Fire Assistance	0	0	6,887	0	0	5,251
Coop Fire Protection-Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	1,075	0	0	745
Total Wildland Fire Management	**$294,326**	**$295,525**	**$307,683**	**$123,488**	**$122,766**	**$119,434**
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Capital Improvement & Maintenance						
Facilities	$5,724	$5,606	$6,192	$9,121	$7,330	$5,625
Roads	16,482	15,984	16,148	22,832	20,957	21,887
Trails	7,336	6,258	6,533	7,839	6,884	7,101
Infrastructure Improvement	1,224	0	0	1,011	601	0
Legacy Roads and Trails	6,780	6,372	4,914	8,740	7,732	6,429
Total Capital Improvement & Maintenance	**$37,547**	**$34,220**	**$33,787**	**$49,543**	**$43,504**	**$41,043**
Land Acquisition						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	$1,168	$631	$687	$767	$626	$687
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts	0	0	866	0	0	0
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Land Acquisition	**$1,168**	**$631**	**$1,553**	**$767**	**$626**	**$687**
Range Betterment Fund	**$0**	**$141**	**$0**	**$0**	**$199**	**$0**
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)	**$485,784**	**$466,457**	**$493,879**	**$350,910**	**$350,197**	**$348,406**
Permanent Working Funds	**$42,539**	**$45,001**	**$42,133**	**$36,402**	**$42,302**	**$46,536**
Trust Funds	**$22,126**	**$60,006**	**$52,635**	**$28,406**	**$29,133**	**$35,902**
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	**$550,449**	**$571,464**	**$588,647**	**$415,719**	**$421,632**	**$430,844**

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Region, Station, and Area Allocations FY 2012 to FY 2014

Includes direct program + cost pool funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2012 to FY 2014	Region 8 - Southern Regions			Region 9 - Eastern Region		
(dollars in thousands)	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**
Forest and Rangeland Research	**$123**	**$104**	**$125**	**$1**	**$3**	**$0**
State & Private Forestry						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	$8,487	$8,957	$7,600	$18	$86	$23
State Fire Assistance	5,982	6,228	0	75	75	0
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	7,127	7,593	8,278	0	110	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance	1,837	1,740	0	0	0	0
Forest Stewardship	6,221	7,780	5,116	0	3	0
Forest Legacy Program	12,834	7,121	5,789	0	21	0
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	25	0	0	0	0
Urban and Community Forestry	5,542	6,336	5,821	0	18	0
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	0	0	0	0	34	0
Landscape Scale Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total State & Private Forestry	**$48,030**	**$45,779**	**$32,604**	**$93**	**$346**	**$23**
National Forest System						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	$1,529	$6,878	$6,259	$392	$1,293	$917
Land Management Planning	3,413	3,111	3,903	1,689	1,640	1,484
Inventory and Monitoring	10,014	10,642	9,613	10,218	9,237	9,530
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	29,716	27,740	27,664	23,769	22,320	22,025
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	17,985	16,729	19,190	15,452	14,375	16,277
Grazing Management	603	551	618	600	545	596
Forest Products	32,002	29,999	33,911	36,997	34,750	40,990
Vegetation and Watershed Management	14,286	14,504	16,004	16,571	16,320	17,586
Minerals and Geology Management	4,649	4,713	4,884	6,543	5,554	5,780
Landownership Management	8,410	7,721	7,612	8,517	7,681	7,502
Law Enforcement Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration Partnerships	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total National Forest System	**$122,606**	**$122,588**	**$129,660**	**$120,747**	**$113,715**	**$122,687**
Wildland Fire Management						
Fire Preparedness	$36,316	$36,163	$38,416	$23,333	$23,025	$24,472
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Fuels	41,967	40,979	39,523	13,430	12,988	12,020
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joint Fire Sciences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	134	41	0	2	0	0
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	191	51	0	0	0	0
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	10,731	12,668	0	0	0	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	1,589	1,509	0	0	0	0
Coop Fire Protection-State Fire Assistance	0	0	16,737	0	0	75
Coop Fire Protection-Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	3,411	0	0	0
Total Wildland Fire Management	**$90,928**	**$91,411**	**$98,088**	**$36,765**	**$36,013**	**$36,567**
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Capital Improvement & Maintenance						
Facilities	$10,183	$9,234	$7,970	$5,780	$5,441	$8,354
Roads	17,997	17,415	17,713	14,569	14,007	14,031
Trails	8,377	7,351	7,542	7,043	6,350	6,481
Infrastructure Improvement	32	293	700	918	0	437
Legacy Roads and Trails	4,803	4,542	3,612	3,787	3,428	2,617
Total Capital Improvement & Maintenance	**$41,392**	**$38,834**	**$37,537**	**$32,097**	**$29,225**	**$31,920**
Land Acquisition						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	$1,227	$998	$1,119	$1,575	$1,041	$1,255
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Land Acquisition	**$1,227**	**$998**	**$1,119**	**$1,575**	**$1,041**	**$1,255**
Range Betterment Fund	**$0**	**$1**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)	**$304,305**	**$299,715**	**$299,133**	**$191,279**	**$180,345**	**$192,452**
Permanent Working Funds	**$26,097**	**$24,798**	**$30,629**	**$20,820**	**$20,561**	**$22,240**
Trust Funds	**$38,653**	**$40,494**	**$56,340**	**$17,730**	**$20,729**	**$16,733**
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	**$369,056**	**$365,007**	**$386,103**	**$229,829**	**$221,635**	**$231,425**

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4/ Wildland Fire Management, Fire Operations - Suppression includes $240 million in carryover emergency fire suppression funds in FY12
5/ Integration Resource Restoration was not assessed for cost pools in FY13 so allocations were adjusted

Region, Station, and Area Allocations FY 2012 to FY 2014

Includes direct program + cost pool funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2012 to FY 2014	Region 10 - Alaska Region			Forest Products Lab		
(dollars in thousands)	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY12	FY13	FY14
Forest and Rangeland Research	**$33**	**$0**	**$47**	**$21,001**	**$17,816**	**$19,722**
State & Private Forestry						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	$962	$745	$1,569	$0	$0	$0
State Fire Assistance	644	667	0	0	0	0
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	334	1,060	2,305	0	0	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance	147	139	0	0	0	0
Forest Stewardship	666	639	538	0	0	0
Forest Legacy Program	67	57	60	0	0	0
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban and Community Forestry	245	250	248	0	0	0
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landscape Scale Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total State & Private Forestry	**$3,065**	**$3,557**	**$4,720**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
National Forest System						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	$188	$31	$0	$0	$0	$0
Land Management Planning	580	663	977	0	0	0
Inventory and Monitoring	6,665	6,372	6,314	0	0	0
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	10,349	9,568	9,414	0	0	0
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	10,051	9,445	10,504	0	0	0
Grazing Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Products	17,542	16,459	17,927	0	0	0
Vegetation and Watershed Management	4,908	4,835	5,327	0	0	0
Minerals and Geology Management	3,417	3,301	3,159	0	0	0
Landownership Management	4,314	4,049	4,098	0	0	0
Law Enforcement Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration Partnerships	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total National Forest System	**$58,015**	**$54,722**	**$57,720**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Wildland Fire Management						
Fire Preparedness	$2,859	$2,873	$2,946	$0	$0	$0
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Fuels	1,051	985	999	3,826	800	650
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	0	0	0	616	651	651
Joint Fire Sciences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	1,467	1,048	0	0	0	0
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	474	598	0	0	0	0
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	407	1,683	0	0	0	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	218	207	0	0	0	0
Coop Fire Protection-State Fire Assistance	0	0	1,075	0	0	0
Coop Fire Protection-Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	372	0	0	0
Total Wildland Fire Management	**$6,476**	**$7,394**	**$5,392**	**$4,442**	**$1,451**	**$1,301**
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Capital Improvement & Maintenance						
Facilities	$5,100	$4,952	$4,845	$351	$0	$1,165
Roads	7,609	7,424	7,642	0	0	0
Trails	4,690	4,173	4,255	0	0	0
Infrastructure Improvement	11	0	0	0	0	0
Legacy Roads and Trails	668	613	478	0	0	0
Total Capital Improvement & Maintenance	**$18,078**	**$17,162**	**$17,220**	**$351**	**$0**	**$1,165**
Land Acquisition						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	$292	$304	$131	$0	$0	$0
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Land Acquisition	**$292**	**$304**	**$131**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Range Betterment Fund	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$25**
Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses	**$2,252**	**$1,968**	**$2,076**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)	**$88,212**	**$85,107**	**$87,306**	**$25,794**	**$19,267**	**$22,213**
Permanent Working Funds	**$7,198**	**$6,806**	**$7,205**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Trust Funds	**$6,722**	**$6,509**	**$6,062**	**$418**	**$450**	**$450**
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	**$102,132**	**$98,422**	**$100,572**	**$26,212**	**$19,717**	**$22,663**

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Region, Station, and Area Allocations FY 2012 to FY 2014

Includes direct program + cost pool funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2012 to FY 2014	Rocky Mountain Research Station			Northern Research Station		
(dollars in thousands)	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**
Forest and Rangeland Research	**$40,500**	**$37,799**	**$40,725**	**$54,484**	**$51,538**	**$54,621**
State & Private Forestry						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	$140	$160	$0	$1,049	$169	$80
State Fire Assistance	0	0	0	251	0	0
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	115	105	946	217	212	112
Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Stewardship	188	197	182	341	0	0
Forest Legacy Program	0	10	0	136	65	85
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	0	0		0	0
Urban and Community Forestry	0	0	0	201	25	25
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	1,026	828	0	1,145	1,021	0
Landscape Scale Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total State & Private Forestry	**$1,469**	**$1,300**	**$1,128**	**$3,340**	**$1,492**	**$302**
National Forest System						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Land Management Planning	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inventory and Monitoring	3	0	0	0	0	0
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	29	29	29	26	26	26
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	2	0	0	0	0	0
Grazing Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Products	1	0	0	0	0	0
Vegetation and Watershed Management	45	0	42	0	0	0
Minerals and Geology Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landownership Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration Partnerships	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total National Forest System	**$80**	**$29**	**$71**	**$26**	**$26**	**$26**
Wildland Fire Management						
Fire Preparedness	$1,240	$1,140	$937	$0	$0	$0
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Fuels	1,118	1,118	1,045	48	48	48
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	7,161	7,278	6,911	2,895	3,120	2,944
Joint Fire Sciences	0	762	0	0	75	0
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	173	16	0	1	0	0
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	2	0	0	36	46	0
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coop Fire Protection-State Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coop Fire Protection-Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Wildland Fire Management	**$9,694**	**$10,314**	**$8,893**	**$2,980**	**$3,289**	**$2,992**
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Capital Improvement & Maintenance						
Facilities	$1,239	$2,781	$985	$0	$470	$506
Roads	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infrastructure Improvement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legacy Roads and Trails	4	0	0	0	0	0
Total Capital Improvement & Maintenance	**$1,243**	**$2,781**	**$985**	**$0**	**$470**	**$506**
Land Acquisition						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Land Acquisition	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Range Betterment Fund	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)	**$52,986**	**$52,223**	**$51,802**	**$60,830**	**$56,815**	**$58,447**
Permanent Working Funds	**$100**	**$100**	**$100**	**$10**	**$5**	**$5**
Trust Funds	**$800**	**$800**	**$700**	**$300**	**$650**	**$500**
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	**$53,886**	**$53,123**	**$52,602**	**$61,140**	**$57,470**	**$58,952**

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Region, Station, and Area Allocations FY 2012 to FY 2014

Includes direct program + cost pool funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2012 to FY 2014	Pacific Northwest Research Station			Pacific Southwest Research Station		
(dollars in thousands)	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY12	FY13	FY14
Forest and Rangeland Research	**$40,258**	**$38,152**	**$40,287**	**$19,674**	**$18,579**	**$20,090**
State & Private Forestry						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	$24	$15	$349	$121	$10	$49
State Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	404	380	312	1	60	50
Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Stewardship	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Legacy Program	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban and Community Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	975	827	0	0	0	0
Landscape Scale Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total State & Private Forestry	**$1,403**	**$1,222**	**$661**	**$122**	**$70**	**$99**
National Forest System						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Land Management Planning	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inventory and Monitoring	609	564	452	600	0	0
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grazing Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Products	1	0	0	0	0	0
Vegetation and Watershed Management	2	188	151	7	0	0
Minerals and Geology Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landownership Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration Partnerships	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total National Forest System	**$612**	**$752**	**$603**	**$607**	**$0**	**$0**
Wildland Fire Management						
Fire Preparedness	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Fuels	268	346	239	48	198	0
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	3,699	4,242	4,082	2,591	2,824	2,690
Joint Fire Sciences	0	316	0	0	4	0
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	401	380	0	2	21	0
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	1	0	0	77	0	0
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coop Fire Protection-State Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coop Fire Protection-Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Wildland Fire Management	**$4,369**	**$5,284**	**$4,321**	**$2,718**	**$3,047**	**$2,690**
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Capital Improvement & Maintenance						
Facilities	$1	$0	$830	$501	$500	$689
Roads	1	0	0	0	0	0
Trails	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infrastructure Improvement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legacy Roads and Trails	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Capital Improvement & Maintenance	**$2**	**$0**	**$830**	**$501**	**$500**	**$689**
Land Acquisition						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Land Acquisition	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Range Betterment Fund	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)	**$46,644**	**$45,410**	**$46,702**	**$23,622**	**$22,196**	**$23,568**
Permanent Working Funds	**$35**	**$1,435**	**$35**	**$1,670**	**$347**	**$1,120**
Trust Funds	**$300**	**$350**	**$500**	**$1,053**	**$1,006**	**$1,051**
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	**$46,979**	**$47,195**	**$47,237**	**$26,345**	**$23,549**	**$25,739**

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Region, Station, and Area Allocations FY 2012 to FY 2014

Includes direct program + cost pool funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2012 to FY 2014	Southern Research Station			International Institute of Tropical Forestry		
(dollars in thousands)	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**
Forest and Rangeland Research	**$48,242**	**$45,097**	**$48,278**	**$3,457**	**$3,586**	**$3,582**
State & Private Forestry						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	$0	$125	$322	$29	$36	$180
State Fire Assistance	0	0	0	300	353	0
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	586	530	513	182	144	258
Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	0	57	54	0
Forest Stewardship	6	0	0	463	327	387
Forest Legacy Program	40	10	2	87	85	85
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban and Community Forestry	0	0	0	404	389	416
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	1,217	988	0	6	0	0
Landscape Scale Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total State & Private Forestry	**$1,849**	**$1,653**	**$837**	**$1,529**	**$1,388**	**$1,326**
National Forest System						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	$0	$0	$0	$1	$0	$0
Land Management Planning	0	0	0	13	0	23
Inventory and Monitoring	10	564	452	0	0	0
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	2	0	0	0	0	0
Grazing Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Products	0	0	0	0	3	0
Vegetation and Watershed Management	7	188	151	32	0	35
Minerals and Geology Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landownership Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration Partnerships	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total National Forest System	**$19**	**$752**	**$603**	**$46**	**$3**	**$58**
Wildland Fire Management						
Fire Preparedness	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Fuels	198	0	191	0	0	0
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	2,195	2,397	2,282	0	50	100
Joint Fire Sciences	0	42	0	0	0	0
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	405	380	0	0	0	0
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	61	0	0	0	0	0
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	0	0	0	106	108	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	0	0	0	55	52	0
Coop Fire Protection-State Fire Assistance	0	0	0			433
Coop Fire Protection-Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	112
Total Wildland Fire Management	**$2,859**	**$2,819**	**$2,473**	**$161**	**$210**	**$645**
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Capital Improvement & Maintenance						
Facilities	$2,071	$0	$39	$22	$0	$129
Roads	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trails	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infrastructure Improvement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legacy Roads and Trails	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Capital Improvement & Maintenance	**$2,071**	**$0**	**$39**	**$22**	**$0**	**$129**
Land Acquisition						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Land Acquisition	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Range Betterment Fund	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)	**$55,040**	**$50,321**	**$52,230**	**$5,215**	**$5,187**	**$5,741**
Permanent Working Funds	**$8**	**$5**	**$90**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Trust Funds	**$1,515**	**$1,005**	**$1,005**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	**$56,563**	**$51,331**	**$53,325**	**$5,215**	**$5,187**	**$5,741**

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Region, Station, and Area Allocations FY 2012 to FY 2014

Includes direct program + cost pool funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2012 to FY 2014	Northeastern Area - State & Private Forestry			Albuquerque Service Center		
(dollars in thousands)	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY12**	**FY13**	FY14
Forest and Rangeland Research	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$30,427**	**$32,448**	**$29,438**
State & Private Forestry						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	$10,015	$11,008	$10,568	$4,800	$5,947	$4,796
State Fire Assistance	5,535	5,967	0	756	827	0
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	13,178	13,245	14,967	571	1,269	1,664
Volunteer Fire Assistance	2,574	2,439	0	0	0	0
Forest Stewardship	8,101	10,391	6,618	863	896	839
Forest Legacy Program	12,248	18,748	21,870	455	473	488
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	390	0	0	0	0
Urban and Community Forestry	8,440	9,452	8,925	757	852	854
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	0	0	0	385	294	0
Landscape Scale Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Forestry	0	0	0	509	647	629
Total State & Private Forestry	**$60,091**	**$71,639**	**$62,949**	**$9,094**	**$11,207**	**$9,269**
National Forest System						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	$0	$0	$0	$2,519	$0	$2,313
Land Management Planning	0	0	0	4,801	4,021	3,744
Inventory and Monitoring	0	0	0	15,520	14,608	13,707
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	0	0	0	38,618	36,145	35,221
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	0	0	0	16,495	10,437	9,910
Grazing Management	0	0	0	6,232	5,413	6,082
Forest Products	0	0	0	45,835	35,033	33,413
Vegetation and Watershed Management	0	0	0	22,446	13,188	12,408
Minerals and Geology Management	0	0	0	8,931	7,571	7,066
Landownership Management	0	0	0	11,351	9,633	8,402
Law Enforcement Operations	0	0	0	14,661	14,606	12,919
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restoration Partnerships	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total National Forest System	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$187,409**	**$150,656**	**$145,185**
Wildland Fire Management						
Fire Preparedness	$0	$21	$0	$112,482	$104,300	$100,723
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	11,176	41,522	58,810
Hazardous Fuels	105	105	254	36,066	27,657	23,852
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	0	0	0	1,795	0	0
Joint Fire Sciences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	4	4	0	1,861	0	0
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	81	367	0	357	0	0
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	7,484	7,573	0	0	0	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	1,589	1,509	0	0	0	0
Coop Fire Protection-State Fire Assistance	0	0	13,316	0	0	784
Coop Fire Protection-Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	4,085	0	0	0
Total Wildland Fire Management	**$9,263**	**$9,579**	**$17,655**	**$163,737**	**$173,479**	**$184,170**
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Capital Improvement & Maintenance						
Facilities	$0	$1	$0	$9,894	$9,496	$6,459
Roads	0	0	0	21,569	16,635	15,486
Trails	0	0	0	9,569	9,327	8,205
Infrastructure Improvement	0	0	0	186	0	0
Legacy Roads and Trails	0	0	0	3,953	1,395	1,372
Total Capital Improvement & Maintenance	**$0**	**$1**	**$0**	**$45,171**	**$36,853**	**$31,521**
Land Acquisition						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	$0	$0	$0	$623	$1,088	$1,019
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Land Acquisition	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$623**	**$1,088**	**$1,019**
Range Betterment Fund	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$236**	**$313**	**$286**
TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)	**$69,354**	**$81,219**	**$80,604**	**$436,697**	**$406,043**	**$400,888**
Permanent Working Funds	**$11**	**$100**	**$42**	**$4,651**	**$3,815**	**$3,307**
Trust Funds	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$8,580**	**$6,381**	**$6,382**
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	**$69,365**	**$81,319**	**$80,646**	**$449,928**	**$416,239**	**$410,577**

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Region, Station, and Area Allocations FY 2012 to FY 2014

Includes direct program + cost pool funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2012 to FY 2014	National Headquarters in Washington, DC (WO)			National		
(dollars in thousands)	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY12	FY13	FY14
Forest and Rangeland Research	**$24,474**	**$25,516**	**$22,728**	**$12,412**	**$9,156**	**$12,976**
State & Private Forestry						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	$6,876	$6,979	$7,378	$5,228	$3,902	$4,387
State Fire Assistance	3,060	3,062	0	3,775	611	0
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	2,193	2,269	1,592	6,477	592	1,598
Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Stewardship	3,200	3,376	3,161	3,780	1,100	1,163
Forest Legacy Program	1,401	1,348	1,306	281	169	382
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	0	0	1,997	0	2,000
Urban and Community Forestry	1,943	2,258	2,367	6,798	1,987	2,103
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	70	73	0	93	68	0
Landscape Scale Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	14,000
International Forestry	7,354	6,612	7,191	124	309	180
Total State & Private Forestry	**$26,096**	**$25,976**	**$22,995**	**$28,552**	**$8,738**	**$25,815**
National Forest System						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	$496	$0	$468	$12,692	$0	$533
Land Management Planning	10,259	8,758	8,598	1,753	1,083	1,135
Inventory and Monitoring	46,625	43,288	39,310	3,668	3,506	4,796
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	19,763	18,299	18,516	10,324	7,652	8,569
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	9,149	8,182	7,408	4,663	7,779	4,704
Grazing Management	2,090	2,267	2,084	1,804	1,327	1,647
Forest Products	24,790	19,894	17,622	15,258	22,570	9,567
Vegetation and Watershed Management	23,526	19,845	18,134	8,199	8,723	7,859
Minerals and Geology Management	10,603	9,834	8,482	1,764	1,906	2,001
Landownership Management	9,681	9,547	8,629	2,203	2,405	2,566
Law Enforcement Operations	8,223	9,020	8,024	120,945	110,358	105,710
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	3,427	3,192	3,364
Restoration Partnerships	0	0	0	0	0	2,000
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	289	289	0	-24,900	3,042
Total National Forest System	**$165,206**	**$149,224**	**$137,564**	**$186,700**	**$145,600**	**$157,492**
Wildland Fire Management						
Fire Preparedness	$260,070	$202,624	$258,688	$34,398	$52,002	$80,494
Fire Operations -- Suppression	15,746	152,224	78,631	271,319	316,066	543,047
Hazardous Fuels	15,997	15,640	13,714	8,673	12,783	24,567
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	293	0	0	454	41	135
Joint Fire Sciences	0	0	0	7,250	5,651	6,914
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	440	0	0	389	250	0
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	78	50	0	982	57	0
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	152	130	0	26,502	3,523	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coop Fire Protection-State Fire Assistance	0	0	2,911	0	0	23,090
Coop Fire Protection-Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Wildland Fire Management	**$292,777**	**$370,669**	**$353,944**	**$349,967**	**$390,373**	**$678,247**
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$315,381**	**$298,967**	**$315,000**
Capital Improvement & Maintenance						
Facilities	$4,388	$4,883	$3,777	$1,638	$2,465	$2,822
Roads	7,765	7,264	5,266	8,987	3,844	7,109
Trails	3,209	3,357	2,526	1,366	1,946	2,177
Infrastructure Improvement	105	67	63	51	289	0
Legacy Roads and Trails	882	494	387	801	298	409
Total Capital Improvement & Maintenance	**$16,349**	**$16,065**	**$12,020**	**$12,843**	**$8,842**	**$12,517**
Land Acquisition						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	$223	$265	$195	$44,228	$42,553	$36,315
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts	0	0	0	953	903	0
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges	0	0	0	227	0	217
Total Land Acquisition	**$223**	**$265**	**$195**	**$45,408**	**$43,456**	**$36,532**
Range Betterment Fund	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$2,569**	**$0**	**$3,000**
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$45**	**$45**	**$15**
Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses	**$42**	**$78**	**$56**	**$43**	**$79**	**$81**
TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)	**$525,168**	**$587,793**	**$549,502**	**$953,920**	**$905,256**	**$1,241,675**
Permanent Working Funds	**$2,049**	**$16,193**	**$18,028**	**$25,683**	**$5,136**	**$1,847**
Trust Funds	**$1,783**	**$2,166**	**$2,397**	**$7,760**	**$1,489**	**$2,197**
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	**$529,000**	**$606,152**	**$569,927**	**$987,363**	**$911,881**	**$1,245,719**

1/ Totals do not include payment to states
2/ Permanent & Trust funds amounts = allocations for current year operations, not total receipts
3/ FLAME, Law Enforcement, and Land Acquisition Funds managed at the National level
4/ Wildland Fire Management, Fire Operations - Suppression includes $240 million in carryover emergency fire suppression funds in FY12
5/ Integration Resource Restoration was not assessed for cost pools in FY13 so allocations were adjusted

Region, Station and Area Allocations FY 2012 to FY 2014

Includes direct program + cost pool funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2012 to FY 2014	FOREST SERVICE TOTAL		
(dollars in thousands)	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**
Forest and Rangeland Research	**$295,300**	**$279,853**	**$292,805**
State & Private Forestry			
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	$47,425	$44,944	$58,922
State Fire Assistance	30,488	25,759	$0
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	39,999	36,894	$45,655
Volunteer Fire Assistance	6,669	6,320	$0
Forest Stewardship	28,814	30,441	$22,398
Forest Legacy Program	53,303	50,515	$50,965
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	1,997	1,892	$2,000
Urban and Community Forestry	31,327	30,701	$28,040
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	4,918	4,660	$0
Landscape Scale Restoration	0	0	$14,000
International Forestry	7,987	7,569	$8,000
Total State & Private Forestry	**$252,926**	**$239,695**	**$229,980**
National Forest System			
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	$39,936	$37,885	$40,000
Land Management Planning	39,936	37,203	37,754
Inventory and Monitoring	161,721	150,652	151,019
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	281,176	261,932	261,719
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	140,036	106,689	109,466
Grazing Management	55,356	51,568	55,356
Forest Products	335,511	276,051	286,130
Vegetation and Watershed Management	184,046	131,967	134,716
Minerals and Geology Management	83,426	77,716	76,423
Landownership Management	85,738	79,869	77,730
Law Enforcement Operations	143,829	133,984	126,653
Valles Caldera National Preserve	3,426	3,192	3,364
Restoration Partnerships	0	0	2,000
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	136,631	170,000
Total National Forest System	**$1,554,137**	**$1,485,338**	**$1,532,330**
Wildland Fire Management			
Fire Preparedness	$1,004,442	$948,651	$1,057,580
Fire Operations -- Suppression	537,858	509,812	$680,488
Hazardous Fuels	317,076	282,558	$282,500
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	21,699	20,603	$19,795
Joint Fire Sciences	7,250	6,884	$6,914
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	15,958	15,151	$0
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	8,353	7,931	$0
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	55,475	52,672	$0
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	6,356	6,035	$0
Coop Fire Protection-State Fire Assistance	0	0	$78,000
Coop Fire Protection-Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	$13,025
Total Wildland Fire Management	**$1,974,467**	**$1,850,298**	**$2,138,302**
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund	**$315,381**	**$298,967**	**$315,000**
Capital Improvement & Maintenance			
Facilities	$75,664	$70,572	$71,000
Roads	182,525	165,959	166,000
Trails	81,851	74,999	75,000
Infrastructure Improvement	9,121	2,986	3,000
Legacy Roads and Trails	44,928	28,312	23,000
Total Capital Improvement & Maintenance	**$394,089**	**$342,829**	**$338,000**
Land Acquisition			
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	$52,521	$49,762	$43,525
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts	953	903	912
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges	227	0	217
Total Land Acquisition	**$53,701**	**$50,665**	**$44,654**
Range Betterment Fund	**$2,569**	**$2,337**	**$3,000**
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research	**$45**	**$45**	**$40**
Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses	**$2,573**	**$2,438**	**$2,500**
TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)	**$4,845,189**	**$4,552,465**	**$4,896,611**
Permanent Working Funds	**$249,665**	**$238,673**	**$248,600**
Trust Funds	**$172,155**	**$202,630**	**$215,466**
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	**$5,267,008**	**$4,993,768**	**$5,360,677**

1/ Totals do not include payment to states
2/ Permanent & Trust funds amounts = allocations for current year operations, not total receipts
3/ FLAME, Law Enforcement, and Land Acquisition Funds managed at the National level
4/ Wildland Fire Management, Fire Operations - Suppression includes $240 million in carryover emergency fire suppression funds in FY12
5/ Integration Resource Restoration was not assessed for cost pools in FY13 so allocations were adjusted

Research and Development Threat Assessment Centers

Background

This exhibit addresses requirements of P.L. 109-80, H.R. 2361 House Report 109-80, page 129 which directed:

The Committee expects to see detailed work plans, including costs and staffing, for the new Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center in Oregon and the Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center in North Carolina, before funding from any appropriation for these new centers is distributed in fiscal year 2006. The Committee also directs the Forest Service to include explicit funding amounts for these two centers in future budget requests, regardless of the accounts involved. The Committee notes that these centers should, as provided in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, focus primarily on hardwood forests and the threats from insects and disease which could destroy thousands of valuable acres of timberland and alter landscapes throughout surrounding areas. The centers should rely on emerging remote sensing technology and geospatial modeling.

Overview

The Eastern Forest and Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Centers (EFETAC and WWETAC or Centers) are national leaders in developing knowledge and tools to protect and sustain the Nation's forests and rangelands. The Centers partner with government agencies, universities, and nongovernmental organizations to improve the collective national capacity to predict, detect, and assess threats to forests and wildlands. The mission of the Centers requires them to be responsive to emerging issues and high-priority policy initiatives such as invasive species, climate change, carbon sequestration, fuels management, and wildland fire. The work of the Centers is essential to ensuring that resource managers and the public are equipped with the latest information and state-of-the-art technology.

The Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

The EFETAC engages in multiple projects at the forefront of technology development, application, and transfer in forest threat detection and assessment. EFETAC scientists and collaborators use satellite imagery to monitor natural vegetation conditions across the United States and to characterize and track changes across broad landscapes. These data along with specialized indicators of landscape change provide land managers and policy makers with new tools and information for strategic planning. Additionally, Center scientists and partners address emerging issues and collaborate to create tools and resources related to forest ecosystems, water quality, biodiversity, and wildfires—all within the context of changing climate, increasing human populations, and dynamic socioeconomic constraints.

FY 2014-FY 2016 EFETAC Allocation
(dollars in thousands)

Expenditures	FY 2014 Enacted*	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget
Personnel	$1,451	$1,492	$1,492
Partnerships, Technology Acquisitions, and Grants & Agreements	258	285	285
Equipment & Supplies	7	7	7
Communications	16	16	16
Travel	48	48	48
Rent & Utilities	50	50	50
Indirect Costs	261	268	268
Total	**$2,091**	**$2,166**	**$2,166**

*As a result of consolidating 3 Research Work Unit during the Southern Research Station's 2007 reorganization, EFETAC's received a total consolidated budget in FY2014 of $4.3 million.

FY 2014 EFETAC Accomplishments

In FY 2014, the EFETAC collaborated with multiple internal and external partners to develop and share information, tools, and technology regarding threats to eastern forests and beyond. Public and private land managers used Center products to detect, assess, and respond to current and emerging environmental threats throughout the U.S. The Center's cost-effective products and tools are web-based and accessed at no charge by public and private individuals, organizations, and agencies. On-site, virtual, and on-demand training is available to help users benefit from tool features. Several FY 2014 products led to increased involvement with partners within and outside the Forest Service, broadened awareness of the Center's role in threat assessment, and provided land managers and decision makers' tools to streamline detection of and response to forest health issues.

- **National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy -** Wildland fire is a major threat throughout the United States, negatively affecting both ecological and social values, and requiring major investments from both private and public sectors. The EFETAC led the science and analysis team commissioned to provide analytical support to the development of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The team worked with partners to better understand the biophysical and socioeconomic dimensions of wildfire and explore opportunities for reducing the consequences and costs of wildland fire management. The work of the science team played prominently in the final report delivered to Congress in early 2014.

- **Water Supply Stress Index Model -** Natural resource managers are evaluating future water resources using the Water Supply Stress Index (WaSSI) ecosystem services model. The model simulates water availability at the watershed level and is used to understand the role of the National Forest System and other forested lands in providing clean, reliable water supplies. Scientists are also addressing climate change and sediment and stream water temperature—priority water quality concerns in the U.S.

ForWarn* Forest Disturbance Monitoring Tool** - Land managers continue to use the Center's collaboratively developed *ForWarn*, a state-of-the-art forest disturbance detection and tracking tool, to rapidly detect unexpected changes in the Nation's forests. ***ForWarn highlights recent disturbances soon after they occur and tracks both disturbance and recovery through time. The dual-purpose nature of *ForWarn* provides a rich, national overview of forest health to better focus and prioritize management efforts. The development team added three new map products in 2014 and extended *ForWarn* accessibility to mobile devices, including smart phones and tablet computers.

- **Template for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Management Options** - The Center's Template for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Management Options (TACCIMO) continues to help forest managers and planners understand climate change impacts. A public-facing website put these resources at the fingertips of National Forest planning teams, the public, and other stakeholder groups. A special emphasis on reaching out to tribal communities and incorporating their needs was initiated in FY 2014.

Additional EFETAC efforts created opportunities for diverse audiences to integrate and benefit from cutting-edge science. For example,

- EFETAC developed new techniques to help decision-makers recognize and account for uncertainty in forest pest risk assessment maps.
- EFETAC collaborative research and publications alerted forest managers and Federal, State, and private agencies and organizations of forest health trends, which informed decisions regarding short- and long-term management of critical forest resources.
- Natural resource managers, land use planners, and conservation organizations used EFETAC research to identify tree species vulnerable to climate change for targeting of additional management consideration.
- EFETAC works collaboratively with the Appalachian and South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), bringing advanced tools and information to the efforts of these multi-organizational collaborations.

FY 2015 EFETAC Program

In FY 2015 the EFETAC program will:

- continue to lead the interagency National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy science team and facilitate understanding, support, and implementation of national recommendations;
- refine *ForWarn's* ability to monitor all lands, including agricultural, and expand use of its web-based tools, resources, and training among customers internal and external to the Forest Service;
- expand the TACCIMO web-based science resources and collaborative application opportunities throughout Forest Service regions and Tribal communities;
- advance the WSSI model in the United States and developing countries, to assess future climate scenarios for managed forests and to highlight the role forests play in water supply;
- prepare, for public release, a comprehensive database that aids in the prediction, prevention, and proactive management of invasive plants;

- further collaborative research that when implemented can slow the spread of invasive forest pest species, especially through human-assisted pathways in the U. S. and Canada;
- examine the effects of climate variability and forest management practices on forest ecosystem health, water supply, and carbon sequestration;
- work with the Appalachian LCC to develop a framework for examining the interactions of environmental threats and ecosystem benefits within the Appalachian region;
- lead a region-wide assessment of alternative management approaches and their impacts on forest productivity, carbon sequestration, and water availability;
- cooperatively lead Project CAPTURE, a three-year effort that determines forest tree species to target for monitoring, management, and conservation;
- work with tribal communities and organizations to provide science tools and information to aid management on tribal lands;
- enhance and increase training, workshops, informational sessions, and other awareness opportunities that introduce forest managers, partners, and diverse audiences to Center tools and technologies;
- actively engage the EFETAC Technical User Group to expand the Center's audiences and strengthen timely research and technology transfer activities;
- continue partnering with the Forest Service collaborative web-based Climate Change Resource Center to provide credible, science-based, and relevant information and tools to help land managers understand climate change impacts and ecosystem management options;
- collaborate with the USDA Climate Change Hubs to expand and facilitate understanding of climate change impacts on eastern forests; and
- continue communication with WWETAC, increase collaborative tool development, and explore ways to jointly share information to regional and national audiences.

FY 2016 EFETAC Work Plan

The EFETAC work plan for FY 2016 includes:

- advancing *ForWarn's* application on all lands and to multiple user groups and expand web-based tools, products, and training opportunities;
- establishing a prioritization framework that enables resource managers and scientists to evaluate genetic resources of forest tree species regionally and nationally;
- developing and promoting use of advanced tools that utilize remotely sensed data to assess and monitor landscape resiliency across all lands and within all jurisdictions;
- publishing a new version of the Forecasts of Climate-Associated Shifts in Tree Species (ForeCASTS) project report, used to predict and map the location and quality of habitat for several hundred North American forest tree species;
- collaboratively building the joint capacity of university researchers and extension specialists to deliver climate science information to the public using TACCAMO;
- exploring additional domestic and international applications for the WSSI model to evaluate effects of climate change on water resources, carbon sequestration, and changes in biodiversity—including a direct linkage to wildland fire management;
- increasing communications, science delivery, and partnerships to broaden the Center's audience and influence;

- continuing to support national Forest Health Monitoring activities and related programs and assessments;
- initiation and advancement of research in areas including wildland fire modeling, threat interaction mapping, hazardous fuels treatment decision support systems, broad-scale vegetation monitoring, hydrologic modeling, pest risk assessment, and climate and land use change; and
- increasing collaborative opportunities with the Forest Service Climate Change Resource Center and the USDA Climate Change Hubs to continue expanding climate change understanding.

The Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center

The WWETAC provides early detection and prediction of the potential effects of multiple interacting threats and stresses. The Center hosts workshops and conferences to identify and synthesize current knowledge regarding threat assessment and improve predictive modeling. The WWETAC collaborates with universities, local and federal government partners, and non-governmental organizations to advance the application of remote sensing and geospatial technologies, develop assessment tools, and make scientific knowledge more accessible to analysts and managers.

FY 2014-FY 2016 WWETAC Allocation
(dollars in thousands)

Expenditures	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted Budget	FY 2016 Pres. Budget
Personnel	$698	$650	$650
Partnerships, Technology Acquisitions, and Grants & Agreements	915	924	924
Equipment & Supplies	15	15	15
Communications	43	130	130
Travel	32	32	32
Rent & Utilities	56	56	56
Indirect Costs	332	359	359
Total Budget	**$2,091**	**$2,166**	**$2,166**

FY 2014 WWETAC Accomplishments

CIP, Communication accomplishments include:

- continued improvement of communication with National Grasslands, State Foresters, and Washington Office Wildlife, Economics, Fire, Ecosystem Management, Forest Management and Forest Health Protection directors;
- continued extensive communication, training, and user support for WWETAC tools;
- continued coordination of tool development and application with the EFETAC, especially TACCIMO, FP_DECK, and spin-offs from *ForWarn*; and

- continued funding socio-economic vulnerability assessments for western Forest Service regions.

Landscape assessments accomplishments include:

- co-developed a new tool to perform rapid assessments of forest disturbance for managers and planners, including extent, stand type and tree size affected (FIDAR); uses *ForWarn* as the source of imagery;
- co-developed a new tool to archive & search Forest Plans (FP_DECK); local forest stand naming conventions will also be standardized to the National Vegetation Classification System;
- published a user guide for an ArcMap extension tool to map forest disturbance;
- initiated development of a new tool to help manage and optimize range use with *ForWarn* as the source of imagery;
- proto-typed a high resolution remote sensing tool to detect, identify, attribute source, and predict tree mortality;
- tracked transmission of pesticides within a watershed and effects on carnivore survival;
- continued to develop national monitoring tool of fuel loading in non-forested lands;
- tailored the Wildfire Cohesive Strategy to individual Forests and Regions, targeting Forests in Accelerated Restoration; and
- completed risk assessment of spatial transmission of wildfires from different land ownerships.

Social, economic assessments accomplishments include:

- socio-economic vulnerability assessments (SEVA) to climate change: continued support of Region 6 effort; initiated southern Californian SEVA in Region 5;
- assessed effects of prescribed fire on wildfire suppression costs;
- identified communication approaches for impacts of smoke from fire;
- evaluated environmental threats to private lands; and
- evaluated non-market recreational values in a southern Californian wilderness area.

Assessments of Wildfire Risk and Fuels Treatments accomplishments include:

- assessed effects of prescribed fire on forest carbon stocks;
- a mixed model of fuels reduction (individual, clumped, open pattern) reduced Wildland Urban Interface wildfire risk;
- published the ArcFuels User Manual for a prior and current version of this highly utilized tool; and
- published a synthesis of crown wildfire behavior in conifer forests.

Environmental Change Assessments accomplishments include:

- supported the Pacific Northwest Climate Change Hub with tool demonstrations and products;
- completed TACCIMO for all western Regions providing user access to over 10,000 publications in a searchable database;

- documented significant loss of sage grouse habitat due to extreme drought using *ForWarn*;
- tested tool for within-year drought impacts on canopy health and whole tree risk for mortality;
- assessed climate change impacts on warm desert carbon stores and management;
- completed and published a vulnerability assessment for southwestern US ecosystems;
- linked carbon uptake gains and transpiration water losses within the context of climate change for the Priest Experimental Forest;
- supported the International Symposium on Air Pollution and Climate Change Effects on Vegetation;
- edited and published a book on the response of trees to changing environment.

Impacts of Invasives on Forest Health accomplishments include:

- identified interactive effects of dwarf mistletoe on post beetle epidemic lodgepole pine using a high resolution imagery tool;
- described effects of environmental change on competitive interactions between weeds and crop species;
- published a review of aspen health and damage agents in the western U.S.;
- supported symposium on Diseases and Status of Five-Needle Pines;
- applied a decision support tool to evaluate outcomes of invasives vs. Threatened and Endangered Species competition in Central Oregon scrublands;
- Incorporated Climate Change impacts into pest risk models for pathogens in the continental U.S.;
- assessed effects of bark beetle outbreaks on western ecosystem services;
- published symposium papers: Disease and Insect Resistance in Forest Trees.

FY 2015 WWETAC Plan of Work

Targeted Communication including:

- continued improvement of communication with national forests and grasslands, State Foresters, and Washington Office Wildlife, Economics, Fire, Ecosystem Management, Forest Management and Forest Health Protection directors;
- continued extensive communication, training, and user support for WWETAC tools;
- continued coordination of tool development and application with the EFETAC;
- implementation of a new way to develop products for the Center: for identified key goals, assemble and fund teams of scientists, resource specialists, and contractors to outline an approach, address, develop, implement, and communicate product(s) in 1-3 years;
- continued funding socio-economic vulnerability assessments for western Forest Service regions;
- complete website updates.

Tool development:

Continued development, application, and communication of the following tools:

- *ForWarn*-based tools: FIDAR, and a range management tool;
- a high resolution imagery tool to detect tree drought stress, reduced canopy health, and predict tree mortality;
- Landscape Treatment Designer, a fuels management tool that optimizes treatment area, effectiveness, and cost of implementation;
- FP_DECK, archives and provides a searchable database for Forest Plans; link to *ForWarn* and modeled current and future vegetation and carbon stores in western landscapes (MC2; BioMap)

Landscape assessments efforts include:

- FIDAR (a ForWarn-based product) was applied to a study area of the Medicine-Bow Routt National Forest in FY14. Predicted, attributed source of forest decline and mortality by tree species and size class will be field tested in 2015. High resolution imagery will be used to geographically extend and further test predictions; publish approach, and validation
- The new remote sensing tool (a *ForWarn*-based tool) to help manage range quality and timing of grazing will be developed on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland, and tested on Thunder Basin National Grassland in coordination with Region 1 resource specialists and managers
- FP_DECK will continue to be developed for western national forests, building from similar forest types (prototypes for Shoshone and San Juan National Forests in Region 2). National Forests with similar vegetation include Beaverhead-Deerlodge and Gallatin-Custer National Forests in Region 1 and Carson and Santa Fe National Forests in Region 3; Link tool to TACCIMO and modeled current and future vegetation using in-house dynamic vegetation model (MC2).
- An ArcMap extension tool to map forest disturbance (EWS) will be rolled out and delivered as an application tool for monitoring disturbances to spotted owl habitat (Siskyou and Rogue River National Forests).
- Continue working with the Nature Conservancy and the Fremont and Deschutes National Forests to evaluate effectiveness of different stand thinning approaches in improving canopy health and reducing tree mortality using a high resolution imagery tool; imagery will be calibrated then independently tested with quantitative ground validation.

Social, Economic Vulnerability Assessments to Climate Change (SEVA) efforts including:

- completion of Region 6 Socio-economic vulnerability assessment;
- continue to support southern Californian SEVA;
- continue to support an evaluation of policy target groups of the response of small to medium-sized communities to wildfire smoke.

Assessments of Wildfire Risk and Fuels Treatments efforts include:

- continue to maintain and support ArcFuels and Landscape Treatment Designer tools;

- continue to apply the cohesive wildfire strategy approach to western National Forests for use by managers, planners, early adopters, and accelerated restoration teams; work with Regional Foresters to develop a generalized product at the biome level;
- continue to cooperatively apply the Landscape treatment designer to National Forest lands;
- publish an assessment of wildfire risk in non-forested lands;
- re-work wildfire modules for our in-house dynamic vegetation model (MC2, BioMap).

Environmental Change Assessments include:

- support western Climate Change Hubs;
- TACCIMO will continue to be updated weekly;
- demonstrate use of MODIS imagery for identifying at-risk sage grouse habitat to extreme drought in the intermountain west; couple *ForWarn* imagery with ground verified and, quantified canopy health of sage dominated shrublands, and modeled current and future health of regional sage dominated shrubland;
- continue supporting development of current and future modeled vegetation and carbon stores for western National Forest Regions; completed to date: Washington, Oregon, California, Montana, Wyoming, and parts of New Mexico;
- begin working with USGS LCCs to incorporate a dynamic vegetation model into their projected impacts of climate change;
- implement a new version of our dynamic vegetation model (BioMap) and calibrate against current and past vegetation;
- publish a paper describing a remote sensing tool and proof of concept for identifying proportion of drought stressed trees and trees with poor canopy health in different management areas on the Fremont and Deschutes National Forests.

Impacts of Invasives on Forest Health efforts include:

- continue supporting the STDP program focusing on larger integrative studies;
- continue supporting risk assessment of competitive interactions between weeds and Threatened and Endangered species on the national grasslands, national forests and scrublands;
- develop and publish a new classification system for U.S. terrestrial plant invasives, using attributes that contribute to invasiveness and to resistance to treatment;
- write reviews and primary scientific literature on:
  - new developments in risk modeling paper on climate change impacts on pathogens in the continental U.S.;
  - physiological basis for pine susceptibility to bark beetle in the Pacific states;
  - physiological response of live oak to gold spotted oak borer.

<u>FY 2016 WWETAC Plan of Work</u>

CIP, Communication efforts include:

- continue to improve communication with the EFETAC, federal and state cooperators and develop new collaborations with Forestry- oriented NGOs and Industry;

- continue extensive communication, training, and user support for WWETAC tools;
- continue coordination of tool development and application with EFETAC;
- continue to implement a team approach to developing products for the Center: fund teams of scientists, resource specialists, and contractors to outline an approach, address, develop, implement, and communicate product(s) in 1-3 years.

Application Tools:

Continued development, application, and communication of the following tools:

- ForWarn-based tools: FIDAR (a rapid disturbance assessment tool), and a range management tool;
- Landscape Treatment Designer, a fuels management tool that optimizes treatment area, effectiveness, and cost of implementation;
- FP_DECK, archives and provides a searchable database for Forest Plans; link to ForWarn and modeled current and future vegetation and carbon stores in western landscapes (MC2; BioMap);
- TACCIMO

Landscape assessments efforts include:

- apply FIDAR (a ForWarn-based product) to two other areas of study; improvements in estimating stand composition will be investigated by using different remote sensing products and ground verification;
- apply and test the newly developed range management tool (a ForWarn-based tool) on two additional rangelands;
- FP_DECK will continue to be developed for western national forests;
- use of an ArcMap extension tool to map forest disturbance (EWS, based on ForWarn) will be evaluated;
- develop a cooperative study with an industrial forest land owner, and on state lands to test a high resolution imagery tool that tests effectiveness of forest management.

Social, Economic Vulnerability Assessments to Climate Change (SEVA) efforts include:

- complete southern Californian SEVA;
- with Regional Foresters' input, initiate the next highest priority SEVA to be completed in the western U.S.;
- complete an evaluation of policy target groups: response of small to medium-sized communities to wildfire smoke.

Assessments of Wildfire Risk and Fuels Treatments efforts include:

- maintain and support ArcFuels and Landscape Treatment Designer (LTD) tools;
- continue to apply the cohesive wildfire strategy approach to western national forests for use by managers, planners, early adopters, and accelerated restoration teams; work with Regional Foresters to develop a generalized product at the biome level;
- continue to cooperately apply LTD tools to National Forest System lands;

- re-work wildfire modules, and begin to develop prescribed fire modules for our in-house dynamic vegetation model, MC2, BioMap.

Environmental Change Assessments efforts include:

- continue to support needs of USDA's western Climate Change Hubs;
- TACCIMO will continue to be updated weekly;
- continue supporting development of current and future modeled vegetation and carbon stores for western Forest Service Regions;
- roll out new version of dynamic vegetation model, BioMap.

Impacts of Invasives on Forest Health efforts include:

- continue supporting STDP program focusing on larger integrative studies;
- continue supporting risk assessment of competitive interactions between weeds and Threatened and Endangered species on the national grasslands and scrublands;
- develop modules for our in-house dynamic vegetation model for terrestrial plant invasives based on the alternative classification system developed in 2015;
- develop a new, generalized approach to incorporate insect and disease outbreaks into our in-house dynamic vegetation model.

Stewardship Contracting

Background

This special exhibit is included to address requirements of P.L. 105-277 Appropriation Act 1999, General Provision Section 347(g) which directed:

The Forest Service shall report annually to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Committee on Appropriations of the Senate on -

- the status of development, execution, and administration of contracts under subsection (a);
- the specific accomplishments that have resulted; and
- the role of local communities in development of contract plans.

Overview

Stewardship contracts and agreements are used to manage natural resources by implementing ecosystem restoration projects. Stewardship contracts support new and emerging markets for utilization of wood removed through restoration activities, including use of woody biomass for energy, in addition to sustaining markets that are more traditional. Requests for proposals use best value criteria that emphasize criteria other than price, including use of local workforce and creation of jobs. This focus is intended to create green jobs and promote a diverse forest products industry to support sustainable communities and the forest contractor infrastructure needed to perform critical restoration work. Stewardship contracting helps the Forest Service achieve land and natural resource management goals while promoting closer public-private working relationships by using the value of forest products to offset the cost of services.

Improved economic conditions and expanded markets for products have contributed to the expanded use of this tool. Overall, over the past six fiscal years, stewardship contracting acreage has nearly tripled. In addition to improved economic conditions, a better understanding of how to best use the tool has led to the increased size of projects.

The Stewardship Authority

The stewardship contracting authority authorizes the Forest Service, via agreement or contract, to enter into stewardship projects to perform services to achieve land management goals and meet local and rural community needs. The authority is found under the Department of the Interior and Related Appropriations Act, 1999 (16 USC 2104 note) (P.L. 105-277, div. A, Sec. 101(e), [title III, Sec. 347], Oct. 21, 1998, Stat. 2681-231, amended by Department of the Interior and Related Appropriations Act, 2003 (P.L. 108-7, div. F, [title III, Sec. 323], Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 275). Section 323 of P.L. 108-7 supersedes the original authority granted to the Forest Service in section 347 of P.L. 105-277. The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) permanently extended stewardship contracting authority.

Stewardship contracting permits the Forest Service to apply the value of timber or other forest products from stewardship sales as an offset against the costs to accomplish additional land and resource management objectives. If the offset value exceeds the value of the resource

improvement treatments, those receipts are retained and deposited in the Stewardship Contracting fund and are available, until expended, for other authorized stewardship projects. Stewardship contracts are awarded on a best-value basis and may be up to 10 years in duration. The Stewardship Contracting fund may be used for:

- road and trail maintenance or obliteration to restore or maintain water quality;
- work to improve soil productivity, habitat for wildlife and fisheries, or other resource values;
- prescribed fires to improve the composition, structure, condition, and health of timber stands or improve wildlife habitat;
- removal of vegetation or other activities to promote healthy forests, reduce fire hazards, or achieve other land management objectives;
- watershed restoration and maintenance;
- restoration and maintenance of wildlife and fisheries habitat; and
- control of noxious and invasive weeds, and re-establishment of native plant species.

In FY 2014, the agency continued to inform employees, partner organizations, and contractors about the use of stewardship contracting through informational brochures, local field trips, and on-line training opportunities. This ensures a common understanding of stewardship contracting and facilitates its use in attaining land management goals while meeting local and rural community needs.

Introductory Brochure

This brochure, developed during FY 2009 to provide a basic understanding of stewardship contracting, describes stewardship contracting concepts and benefits, how stewardship contracts are used, what is unique about them, and more. This color tri-fold brochure is available at the following Web site:
http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/documents/stewardship/stewardship_brochure.pdf .

Training

The Forest Service worked with the National Forest Foundation to host a peer-learning webinar titled "Stewardship Agreements and Contracts - Important Tools for Accelerated Restoration" in December 2012. This webinar included the differences between stewardship agreements and stewardship contracts, highlights of recent improvements, and sharing of lessons by several community-based partner groups who have worked with stewardship agreements and contracts. Over 115 participants from partner organizations, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management attended the webinar. In addition, the Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation have collaborated on several other peer-learning webinars focused on stewardship contracting. Those webinars are posted on the National Forest Foundations Web site: http://www.nationalforests.org/conserve/peer/stewardship-authorities.

Various self-paced computer-based tutorials and recordings of webinar trainings are available at the following Stewardship Contracting Program Web site:
http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/Stewardship_Contracting/training.shtml.

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)

Ten projects across the country were selected for CFLRP funding beginning in FY 2010. Ten additional projects were selected in FY 2012 and three additional high priority projects were funded in FY 2013. Stewardship contracting is expected to be the primary instrument for implementing these projects. Please refer to the National Forest System section for more details on CFLRP.

Specific Accomplishments

The overall use of stewardship contracting was similar in FY 2014 as compared to FY 2013. In FY 2014, there was a slight increase in the acres treated and volume awarded in stewardship contracts. However, there were shifts in the focus of the accomplishments. For example, the acres of wildland urban interface treated in FY 2014 was approximately one-third greater than in FY 2013, but acres of hazardous fuels reduction outside the WUI dropped by about half. There was also a decrease in the miles of roads decommissioned, but there was a significant increase in the miles of passenger car roads improved. The FY 2014 accomplishments in stewardship illustrate the power and flexibility of the authority. Stewardship contracting allows the Forest Service to focus its efforts on a variety of land management activities and accomplish restoration work where it is needed. Through the use of stewardship contracting, the agency accomplishes a wide variety of forest restoration work, including hazardous fuels reduction, wildlife habitat improvement, forest health improvement, and nonnative invasive plant species control.

FY 2014 also saw continuing interest and expansion in the use of stewardship agreements, which allows the agency to leverage resources through working with partner organizations, and the addition of acres to large-term, large scale stewardship contracts, including the Four Forests Restoration Initiative in Arizona. Stewardship contracting has proved to be a valuable tool in many locations to implement restoration activities and meet multiple land management objectives. Table 1 below shows specific actual accomplishments during FY 2012 to FY 2014. Table 2 below shows the acres awarded, number of contract or agreements awarded, and volume awarded during the FY 2003 to FY 2014.

Table 1. Actual Stewardship Contracting Accomplishments (FY 2012 to FY 2014)

Accomplishment	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual
Acres of forest vegetation established	4,321	3,391	5,167
Acres of forest vegetation improved	25,763	36,925	50,399
Acres of noxious weeds/invasive plant treatments	2,356	2,746	4,035
Acres of wildlife habitat restored or improved	142,648	72,578	15,679
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	203	44	15

Accomplishment	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual
Miles of roads decommissioned	48	43	21
Miles of high clearance system roads improved	52	28	19
Miles of passenger car system roads improved	43	10	59
Volume of timber sold (million board feet (MMBF))	672	709	729
Green tons of biomass made available for energy production	577,590	865,560	247,541
Acres of stewardship contracts/agreements awarded	134,257	171,767	177,208
Acres of hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires	93,804	130,190	82,894
Acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) high-priority hazardous fuels treated	58,394	69,150	96,567
Number of stewardship contracts/agreements contributing to watersheds in fully functioning condition	9	17	25

Table 2. Acres Awarded, Number of Contract or Agreements Awarded, and Volume Awarded (FY 2003 to FY 2014)

FY	Acres Awarded	# of Contracts & Agreements	Volume Awarded (hundred cubic feet - CCF)
2003	11,696	35	69,547
2004	43,187	53	102,143
2005	34,491	43	196,079
2006	60,344	91	471,996
2007	77,676	110	655,072
2008	65,890	130	678,328
2009	88,304	141	743,417
2010	152,834	232	1,133,837
2011	100,577	208	962,486
2012	134,257	226	1,314,118
2013	171,767	195	1,346,470
2014	177,208	161	1,604,097

In many cases, multiple land management objectives are met through a single treatment activity. For example, a hazardous fuel reduction treatment can also improve wildlife habitat. These accomplishments not only result in ecosystem benefits, but also forest products for manufacturing and energy production, and the creation of jobs contributing to sustainable communities.

Local Communities

Collaboration with local communities is a key component of successful stewardship contracting. Collaborative efforts start early and continue throughout project planning, implementation, and monitoring. Collaboration during the development of stewardship contracting projects results in a sense of ownership in the project by the community, a better understanding by communities of natural resource issues, and increased public support. Collaboration also means the Forest Service can tailor stewardship offerings that address local issues, needs, and capabilities.

We have contracted with the Pinchot Institute for Conservation to conduct a programmatic multiparty monitoring process for FY 2014. In prior years, the Pinchot Institute found that stewardship contracting was maturing, and support has grown significantly. One of the major benefits identified is that stewardship contracting offers increased opportunities to frame a set of collaboratively defined desired future conditions. Participants increasingly welcome the use of stewardship agreements as a way to involve more stakeholders, increase learning opportunities, and positively influence forest management planning. The results of the FY 2014 programmatic monitoring efforts by the Pinchot Institute will be available in late winter or early spring 2015. When available, the entire report will be online at:
http://www.pinchot.org/gp/Stewardship_Contracting

Stewardship Contracting Success Stories

Here are a few examples of successful implementation of stewardship contracts and agreements.

- Wyoming

The Bighorn National Forest has awarded six individual stewardship contracts between 2006 and 2014. An example of one their contracts is the Babione (baby-un) Stewardship Contract. This five-year stewardship contract accomplishes the following land management activities:

- Integrates multi-product timber removal with fuels reduction.
- Commercially harvests 1,020 acres using traditional marking, designation by prescription, and load count scaling for efficiency of operations.
- Reduces hazardous fuels on 368 acres adjacent to private lands and infrastructure.
- Prepares sites for natural and artificial regeneration on 254 acres.
- Non-commercially thins 142 acres of young, regenerated lodgepole stands.
- Installs a gate to reduce illegal travel along a forest system road.

The 2005 Forest Plan revision has a strategy to "evaluate each vegetation project for its potential and feasibility as a stewardship contract, where appropriate, design treatments to facilitate stewardship projects." To meet this strategy the forest has used Integrated Resource Timber and Service Contracts. Changing markets and direction make this a challenge, but being able to accomplish the work with one contract in one entry has gained the forest support for this approach.

Montana

The Regional Forester and Montana State Forester entered into Master Stewardship Agreement signed on September 26, 2013 for the purpose of cooperatively working together on landscape restoration activities within the State of Montana. Under this Master Agreement, a Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) was signed on May 5, 2014 to begin implementation activities within the Red Mountain Flume Chessman Reservoir Project.

The Red Mountain Flume Chessman Reservoir stewardship project goals are to reduce hazardous fuels from trees killed by bark beetle epidemics, reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, and ensure the availability of clean, economically efficient water supply through the protection of critical infrastructure within the Helena municipal watershed. Under this agreement, the State of Montana is responsible for implementation and work started on approximately 470 acres of vegetative treatments in the fall of 2014. Currently, the State of Montana has completed approximately 75 acres of timber harvest and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) treatments.

Project restoration activities include timber harvesting, thinning, mechanical fuels reduction, road maintenance, road decommissioning, and noxious weed treatments that will provide jobs for the local workforce. Forest vegetation treatments are also supplying approximately 10,227 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of forest products to the local processing facility.

Kentucky and Tennessee – Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area

Land Between the Lakes (LBL) National Recreation Area began a cooperative agreement with the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) in January 2008. In 2009 when a catastrophic ice storm devastated the area during the winter, the NWTF was able to help facilitate multiple logging clean-up crews along all the roads and facilities. Since that time, multiple supplemental program agreements have occurred, and there are two active agreements in place that focus on forest and open lands restoration. A variety of activities occur under these agreements such as timber stand improvement, wildlife stand improvement, non-native invasive removal, pesticide application, mowing, grinding/mulching, planting, fertilization, pasture improvement, and restoration of native grasses. This partnership has expanded into the local community to the extent where local NWTF chapter members do free in-kind work such as developing fire breaks, maintaining fields, and improving access; furthermore, this has led to an "Adopt-an-Acre" program, where these volunteers actively manage fields annually. One example of local community impacts is that wood chips are provided to a local school and hospital to help them heat their facilities during the winter. Each year approximately 6,000 acres are directly impacted from stewardship activities. Finally, partnership efforts have been expanded into multiple media outlets that help attract more people to recreate on this highly used area each year. LBL attracts upwards of 1.4 million visitors annually.

North Carolina

The National Forests in North Carolina is now finishing up a very successful stewardship agreement with the NWTF, known as the Mulberry Globe stewardship agreement. This agreement was signed in November of 2010 and the last of the service work was completed in 2014. The project harvested over 10,000 CCF of Southern Appalachian hardwood with a stumpage value of over $175,000. The project completed 346 acres of site preparation and 346 acres of timber stand improvement work. In addition the project created 11 acres of new high elevation wildlife grass and forb habitat, which was significantly lacking in this area. Twenty-two acres of non-native invasive spraying was completed as well as blocking eight locations to remove off-road vehicle (ORV) access and improve water quality. During the life of this sale a large ongoing timber trespass was discovered in the area which was causing significant soil and water damage due to poorly located skid trails and creek crossings. The flexibly of the agreement allowed us to work with our partners and utilize funds remaining in this project to take immediate action to mitigate these impacts. The success of this project stems from the collaboration and partnership we have with the NWTF.

Colorado

The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, & Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests have been using stewardship authority to implement forest restoration work associated with the Uncompahgre Plateau CFLRP Project. Stewardship contracts and agreements have been important tools that have enabled the forest to trade the value of the timber for forest restoration, fuels reduction, and wildlife habitat improvement service work.

The forest has awarded five stewardship contracts and one stewardship agreement over the past five years (FY 2010 to FY 2014) to accomplish approximately 4,050 acres of mechanical treatment and prepare approximately 10,500 acres for prescribed burning. The forest plans to continue to use stewardship contracts and agreements as the key tools for implementing the

Uncompahgre Plateau CFLRP Project. Stewardship authority has enabled the GMUG National Forests to successfully provide valuable forest products to local industry, while accomplishing a wide variety of important forest restoration work.

Sustainable Operations

Background

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction; however, it is included to report on progress and plans for Sustainable Operations initiatives.

The Forest Service has refocused its efforts in alignment with sustainability and efficiency mandates including the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, and a series of Executive Orders (EO) including EO 13423 (Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management) and EO 13514 (Federal Leadership In Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance), as well as additional Presidential mandates issues on renewable energy and climate action plans. Sustainable Operations projects also directly support agency cost pool reduction goals for FY 2013 and FY 2014.

Overview

Sustainable Operations for the Forest Service refers to managing our environmental footprint and the resilience of the agency's operations and assets. To fulfill the Forest Service's obligation to present and future generations, the agency is reducing its environmental footprint by making its own operations more sustainable. Our land stewardship mission is being strategically integrated with practices that reduce our consumption and overall resource use. The direct relationship between healthy forests and our faucet water, our heating systems, our clean air, our modes of transportation, and many other goods and services has never been more apparent. Several laws, regulations, and executive orders have established targets for reducing our agency environmental footprint. We also have a growing number of initiatives in place to integrate best practices; build capacity in the agency and community; and save money and resources by implementing efficiencies in the areas of energy, water, fleet and transportation, waste prevention and recycling, green purchasing, and sustainable leadership.

Attention to consumption impacts of the Federal sector continues to increase, heightening the need for expanding adoption of Sustainable Operations. The Forest Service aligns its efforts with the President's Climate Action Plan and the December 2013 Presidential Memorandum on Federal Leadership on Energy Management along with existing sustainability and efficiency mandates, including the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, and a series of

Executive Orders including EO 13423 and EO 13514. Practicing sustainable business operations has also directly supported agency cost pool reduction goals.

Success Stories and Current Initiatives

The agency continues to integrate efforts in Business Operations, the Climate Change Advisor's Office, Research and Development, and the National Forest System to provide training for sustainable operations and prioritize actions to reduce the agency's environmental footprint. A few examples of progress in the areas of energy conservation, fleet and transportation, water conservation, green purchasing, and sustainable leadership are detailed below.

- The Climate Change Advisor's Office and the Nationwide Sustainable Operations Collective are completing a realignment effort to merge into one corporate office housed within the Chief's Office. This is an exciting time. This purpose of this office is to coordinate with a collaborative network to facilitate the achievement of the Forest Service mission in the face of a changing climate. The office will provide holistic policy and guidance for creating resilient landscapes, resilient communities, and a sustainable organization.
- The agency supports a chartered group of sustainability champions across the nation called the Sustainable Operations Collective (Collective), which uses the latest technology and ideas to reduce the agency's environmental footprint. The Collective host's peer-to-peer learning sessions, maintains a national sustainable operations website with tools and information, conducts a net zero fellows program to promote on the ground implementation of environmental footprint reductions and increasing awareness and actions, and continues to pilot multiple field-level projects. The Collective continues to be sought out as a collaborator for other agencies.
- The Forest Service is continuing to grow a "Net Zero Fellows" program. Individual offices apply to become a fellow and commit to developing and implementing an action plan to achieve net zero energy, water, fleet, or waste. The seven fellows over the past two years have achieved significant cost and consumption savings. National Renewable Energy Lab is a key technical assistance partner for energy conservation and renewable energy analysis.
- Develop national plans to reduce energy and water consumption and costs that reach across Staff Areas to integrate efforts and eliminate duplication. These plans focus on coordinating specific national and field-level actions with policy updates, and will include a continuous improvement framework.
- Develop a ground up approach to inventory greenhouse gases for operations. Provide a transition strategy to institutionalize sustainable operations efforts throughout all staffs and areas of responsibility within the agency.
- Identify better methodologies for estimating and tracking water consumption for both on-site and agricultural based activities at sites and facilities,
- Expand pilot projects for propane-based fueling stations, fleet life cycle tool analysis, and renewable energy projects.

FY 2014 Sustainable Operations Program Plans

In FY 2014 the agency focused on the following priorities for sustainable operations.

- We implemented the organizational framework for a Nationwide Sustainable Operations Collective established under an agreement signed in September of 2013 by every National Leadership Council member. This involves transitioning to a new core staff structure connected with coordinators and Points of Contacts at each Region, Station, Area, and the Washington Office. A continuous improvement framework will be coordinated under this agreement. Other agency partners and the Department of Agriculture are part of the Board of Directors.
- The Forest Service supported agency-wide participation and performance of two corporate priority action items: Power IT Down and Utility Bill Clean-up.
- We continued to implement the national energy cost and consumption plan and develop similar plans for other footprint areas.
- We explored further partnerships with other agencies: the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the General Services Administration.
- We continued to support making reliable utility consumption data available to field-level employees and managers.
- As part of the Forest Service strategic plan efforts five measures were developed to foster increased attention to environmental footprint reduction activities and creating greater resilience in our operations and assets. The proposed measures were:

1. Reduction of greenhouse gas Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 25 percent and a ten percent reduction in Scope 3 emissions by 2019, based on 2008 baseline.

2. Strive for Net Zero Watershed Impact from our facilities through:

- establishment of a water consumption baseline by 2016, and
- reduction of water use by 2 percent per year after 2016.

3. Strive for increased renewable energy use through:

- establishment of a measurement system for recording renewable energy systems and reporting yearly renewable energy consumption by 2017, and
- by 2019, 20 percent of Forest Service electricity use coming from renewable sources.

4. One hundred percent of units will implement the Corporate Priority Action Items.

5. Develop an agency-wide Cost and Consumption Reduction Plan for all six Footprint Area (Energy, Water, Fleet, Waste, Acquisition, and Leadership) that meets the vision of Net Zero and the goals in the USDA Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan.

FY 2015 Sustainable Operations Program Plans

In FY 2015 the agency will focus on the following priorities for sustainable operations.

- FY 2015 is a year of transition toward integration of the Climate Change and Sustainable Operations Programs within the Forest Service, with the goal of aligning climate science with sustainable action for how the agency operationally restores the health, diversity, and productivity of the natural resources. This will provide a broader platform to facilitate the

achievement of the agency mission in the face of a changing climate as well as holistic policy and guidance to strive for resilient landscapes, resilient communities, and a sustainable organization.

- We will further implementation of the continuous improvement framework established in FY 2014 as part of the Nationwide Collective.
- We will continue agency-wide participation and emphasized performance in two corporate priority action items: Power IT Down and Utility Bill Clean-up. We will finalize the development of a FY 2015 to FY 2019 plan for future corporate action items, which was begun in FY 2014.
- We will continue to make reliable utility consumption data and other sustainable operations data available to field-level employees and managers.
- We will continue growing the number of Net Zero Fellows across the agency.

FY 2016 Sustainable Operations Program Plans

- The Forest Service will launch the new Sustainability Office. In FY 2015 the Climate Change Advisor's Office and the Nationwide Sustainable Operations Collective will complete a realignment effort to merge into one corporate unit housed within the Chief's Office. The Sustainability Office coordinates with a collaborative network to facilitate the achievement of the Forest Service mission in the face of a changing climate.
- We will continue to grow the "Net Zero Fellows" program.
- We anticipate achieving agency-wide participation in new corporate priority actions. The planned actions will be adoption of a no idling policy, tracking of renewable energy systems, and shifting to 100 percent recycled paper. We will continue the implementation of the FY 2015 to FY 2019 plan for future corporate action items by preparing pre-work for FY 2017 action items.
- Further national plans include reducing energy and water consumption and costs that reach across staff areas to integrate efforts and eliminate duplication. These plans focus on coordinating specific national and field-level actions with policy updates, and will include a continuous improvement framework. A water consumption baseline was established in FY 2015. The Water Cost and Consumption Plan will be finalized in FY 2016.

Unobligated Balances

Background

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction; however, it is included to provide an update on the status of Forest Service unobligated balances.

Overview

The following table contains the Forest Service unobligated balances from all prior year appropriated funds (regular and emergency) carried forward into FY 2015. The table does not include the unobligated balances from offsetting collections such as reimbursable or advanced collections. The appropriation totals lines are actual amounts and program distributions are estimates.

FY 2014 Forest Service - Unobligated Balances, End of Year
(dollars in thousands)

Forest Service Appropriation Budget Line Item/Programs	**Prior Years** **Unobligated Balances**
Forest and Rangeland Research	
Research and Development	$10,227
National Fire Plan (NFP) Research Activities	1,398
Joint Fire Science	2,732
Total Forest and Rangeland Research	**$14,357**
State and Private Forestry (S&PF)	
Forest Health - Federal Lands	$6,916
Forest Health - Coop Lands	2,961
State Fire Assistance 1/	3,408
Volunteer Fire Assistance 1/	239
Forest Stewardship	2,630
Urban and Community Forestry	2,155
Forest Res Info & Analysis	0
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program	149
International Forestry	0
NFP Forest Health - Federal Lands 1/	627
NFP Forest Health - Coop Lands	0
NFP State Fire Assistance	0
NFP Volunteer Fire Assistance 1/	6
Landscape Scale Restoration	175
Total State and Private Forestry	**$19,266**
S&PF Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	
S&PF LWCF (Forest Legacy)	$9,321
Total S&PF LWCF	**$9,321**

FY 2014 Forest Service - Unobligated Balances, End of Year
(dollars in thousands)

Forest Service Appropriation Budget Line Item/Programs	**Prior Years** **Unobligated Balances**
National Forest System	
Land Management Planning	$765
Inventory & Monitoring	4,967
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	4,452
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	1,011
Grazing Management	3,830
Restoration Partnership	40
Forest Products	0
Vegetation and Watershed Management	5,294
Minerals and Geology Management	5,123
Landownership Management	3,520
Law Enforcement Operations	749
Integrated Resource Restoration	609
Valles Caldera National Preserve	337
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	8,237
Total National Forest System	**$38,934**
Wildland Fire Management	
Preparedness	$23,924
Suppression	28,915
Hazardous Fuels Management	6,031
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	225
Coop Fire – Volunteer Fire Assistance	0
Coop Fire – State Fire Assistance	1,022
Total Wildland Fire Management	**$60,117**
FLAME Fund	
Total FLAME Fund	**$0**
Capital Improvement and Maintenance	
Facilities Capital Improvement/Maintenance	$8,751
Roads Capital Improvement/Maintenance	328
Trails Capital Improvement/Maintenance	2,759
Legacy Roads	2,592
Deferred Maintenance	952
Construction Disaster Supplemental	1,940
Total Capital Improvement and Maintenance	**$17,322**
Land Acquisition - LWCF	
Land Acquisition	$11,446
Total Land Acquisition LWCF	**$11,446**

FY 2014 Forest Service - Unobligated Balances, End of Year
(dollars in thousands)

Forest Service Appropriation Budget Line Item/Programs	**Prior Years** **Unobligated Balances**
Other Appropriations	
Range Betterment Fund	$1,049
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research	117
Subsistence Management (Region 10)	32
Total Other Appropriations	**$1,198**
GRAND TOTAL	**$171,961**

1/Programs that were moved under Wildland Fire Management in FY 2014 but have balances in prior years.

USDA Working Capital Fund and Greenbook Charges

Background

This exhibit is included to provide a three-year display of total costs paid by the Forest Service for these centrally administered programs.

Overview

The Forest Service, as an organizational entity of the Department of Agriculture (USDA), is provided administrative services managed centrally on behalf of the Department. These centrally administered programs are broken into two activities, the Working Capital Fund and Greenbook. It is important to note that cost estimates for actual usage programs have changed in the last three fiscal years in response to demand for services on the part of the Forest Service. The Forest Service estimates for the activities assessed on a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) or standard methodology are likely to better reflect Forest Service shares of total costs, but these may vary during execution.

USDA Working Capital Fund

The Working Capital Fund (WCF) includes financial and administrative services provided with funding under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2235. The WCF is a financing mechanism that currently supports 17 activity centers across five Department-level organizations. These centers provide services to all USDA agencies, including the Forest Service, and a large number of non-USDA entities. Customers reimburse activity centers for the cost of services provided.

These WCF-supported activities do not receive appropriated funds and are not subsidized from other funding sources. All costs are recovered through reimbursements from serviced customers. The estimated reimbursement from customers represents their projected share of the costs of services delivered. Pursuant to the terms of the general provisions in annual appropriations to USDA, agency administrators must authorize billings to their agency for these services. Therefore, the Chief of the Forest Service (or his duly appointed representative) must sign an agreement at the beginning of the fiscal year authorizing billing for services provided and supplying the appropriate accounting data.

The Forest Service acts as one of the overseers in the review of cost estimates for the National Finance Center (NFC) through its participation in the WCF Executive Committee, a body comprised of representatives from various USDA agencies. The Executive Committee is charged with making budget recommendations and advising the Department's Chief Financial Officer as to the financial effectiveness of the WCF. The Forest Service actively works with the Department's Chief Financial Officer to review activities included in the Greenbook and the basis for any costs attributed to the Forest Service.

Tables on the following pages display Forest Service assessments for USDA WCF services and describe the range of WCF services that the USDA provides.

FY 2014 to FY 2016 Working Capital Fund Assessments for the Forest Service

Core Services

(dollars in thousands)

Core Service	FY 2014 Actuals	FY 2015 Planned	FY 2016 Estimates
Central Excess Property Operation[25]	$83	$0	$0
Consolidated Forms and Publications Dist. Center[25]	511	0	0
Mail and Reproduction Services	0	221	221
Material Management Service Center[25]	0	663	580
Credit Card Service Center[26]	1,002	0	0
Integrated Procurement Systems[26]	8,588	8,461	8,461
Central Mail Unit[27]	194	0	0
Computer Services Unit	102	98	100
Comptroller Operation Division	10,596	14,167	14,657
Creative Media and Broadcast Center	108	96	96
Enterprise Network Services	5,232	3,844	2,608
Financial Systems	37,394	38,734	37,413
Internal Control Support Services	325	365	365
Network Services	53	25	26
Office of the Executive Secretariat	642	579	445
Telecommunication Customer Services Center	134	148	227
Total Core Services	**$64,964**	**$67,401**	**$65,199**

USDA Agency Specific Services

USDA Agency Specific Services	FY 2014 Actuals	FY 2015 Planned	FY 2016 Estimates
Central Mail Unit[27]	$36	$0	$0
Copier and Duplicating Services[27]	295	0	0
Consolidated Forms and Publication Dist. Center[25]	225	0	0
Mail and Reproduction Services[27]	0	270	279
Enterprise Network Services	0	597	895
Material Management Service Center[25]	0	220	213
Procurement Operations Division	0	102	139
Creative Media and Broadcast Center	386	386	374
International Technology Services (ITS)	6,500	10,500	10,000
National Finance Center	9,442	9,659	8,537
National Information Technology Center (NITC)	21,858	27,915	22,434
Total USDA Agency Specific Services	**$38,742**	**$49,649**	**$42,871**

[25] *FY 2015 and FY 2016: These activities are merged into a single activity center - Material Management Service Center*
[26] *FY 2015 and FY 2016: These activities are merged into a single activity center - Integrated Procurement Systems*
[27] *FY 2015 and FY 2016: These activities are merged into a single activity center - Mail and Reproduction Services*

Total: Core Services Plus USDA Agency Specific Services

Core Services Plus USDA Agency Specific Services	FY 2014 Actuals	FY 2015 Planned	FY 2016 Estimates
Total Working Capital Fund Assessments	**$103,706**	**$117,050**	**$108,070**

The FY 2016 legislative cap for WCF activities, excluding NITC and ITS, is $82.0 million.

FY 2015 and FY 2016 NITC/ITS costs are estimates and subject to change based on agency execution year needs.

Working Capital Fund Activities
Cost Recovery Methodologies

Activity	Description	Cost Distribution
National Finance Center Agency Specific	Provides: • Payroll/personnel services to USDA/non-USDA agencies • Applications support to Office of Personnel Management • Record keeper/other services to support the Thrift Savings Plan • Support services for USDA accounting applications • PKI licenses/support	Beginning in FY 2005, services provided by NFC have been negotiated between NFC and serviced agencies. The nature, volume, and cost of services serve as the basis for Memoranda of Understanding between the parties.
National Finance Center Government Employee Services	Provides: • Payroll/personnel services to USDA/non-USDA agencies • Applications support to Office of Personnel Management • Record keeper/other services to support the Thrift Savings Plan • Support services for USDA accounting applications • PKI licenses/support	Beginning in FY 2005, services provided by NFC have been negotiated between NFC and serviced agencies. The nature, volume, and cost of services serve as the basis for Memoranda of Understanding between the parties.
Financial Systems	Operates/maintains the following systems: • Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI - core accounting) • Real property • Corporate integrated administrative payments • Other systems as necessary to support program agency missions and fulfill USDA's fiduciary responsibilities to taxpayers	Financial/Adm. Pmts: Costs recovered based on agency share of FMMI workload (measured in general journal records) Real Property: Costs recovered based on agency shares of USDA-owned and GSA/commercially-leased property
Comptroller Operations Services	Provides: • Core accounting/reporting services • Agency-specific services • Operates a corporate controller organization that integrates accountability and systems across USDA	Agencies are billed monthly at 1/12th their estimated annual charges.

Activity	Description	Cost Distribution
Internal Control Support Services	Internal Control Support Services (ICSS) promotes and supports the USDA's internal control program by assisting USDA agencies in their internal control compliance efforts. As part of its services, ICSS plans and manages the Department's annual assessment of internal control over financial reporting and promotes best practices across the Department to ensure greater consistency in regard to internal control of financial processes, administrative processes, and information technology. ICSS also provides training programs, group presentations, and other support services in order to improve the Department's internal control program and awareness of emerging events and current trends related to internal control.	Cost is distributed based on agency's FTE percentages.
Creative Media and Broadcast Center	The Broadcast Media and Technology Center (BMTC) provides a wide array of video production and teleconferencing (both audio and video) services. The Visual Communication Center offers a variety of planning, fabrication, and development services for graphic productions, exhibits, and visitor center needs. The Center also provides web page graphic design services.	Agency percentage shares are based on the most recently completed fiscal year billings for services. Actual costs reflect use of the service and are based on needed labor hours, contractual costs, and/or direct materials needed for the delivery of a product to the requesting agency.
NITC - IT Services	Provides mainframe computer operations and application development and support services to support agency programs. NITC also provides IT consulting services and training, and data warehouse support for FMMI.	Agency percentages are based on estimates of services to be provided to users during the current fiscal year. Actual costs are based on the cost of services provided to requesting agencies under terms of interagency agreements.
National Telecom Services	Provides centralized telecommunications support services nationwide for the USDA, manages and provide internet access to USDA agencies and data connections between agencies (USDA Intranet), and assists agencies in using telecommunication services in a cost-effective manner.	Agencies' percentage shares are based on their prior year utilization of voice and data telecommunication services. Actual costs for technical and data services are recovered via distribution through the WCF.

Activity	Description	Cost Distribution
Telecom Customer Services Center (TSCS)	Manages and maintains the USDA's voice telephone services in the Washington, DC metropolitan area (WMA); serves as the single point of contact for all local requests for telephone services and purchases; manages and administers the nationwide voice mail system; provides maintenance services for telephone equipment and voice mail services in the WMA.	Agency percentage shares are based on the number of telephone lines in the WMA and the number of voice mailboxes on the primary node.
Network Services	Provides technical/operational assistance on data networking telecommunications systems; designs, installs, operates, and manages shared services provided on departmental networks and platforms; participates in the design, engineering, and operations management of the Enterprise Network.	Agency percentage share is based on FY 2003 FTEs for the USDA facilities serviced by the Departmental LAN and e-mail usage.
Computer Services Network Support	Provides LAN, desktop, application, and web development support and maintenance to the Office of the Secretary (OSEC).	Basic services for OSEC are paid by the Office of the Chief Information Officer. The cost for support services to the Under and Assistant Secretaries are distributed among agencies based on estimated fiscal year nationwide FTEs.
Central Supply Stores	Provides required office supplies to the Office of the Secretary and USDA agencies in the WMA; provides nation-wide supply support to the meat and poultry inspectors for the Food Safety Inspection Service.	Agency percentage shares are based on actual use of store services in the most recently completed fiscal year. Actual costs are recovered on the basis of the acquisition cost of supplies procured by agencies, plus an overhead charge.
Central Forms and Pubs - Transport Costs	Provides acquisition (printing), warehouse, and worldwide distribution of administrative forms and publications for all USDA agencies and non-USDA agencies; provides warehouse distribution of agency programs and publications for all USDA agencies and for other participating government agencies.	Based on the most recently completed fiscal year.
Copier and Duplicating Services	Provides centralized copier facilities and equipment for employees in the downtown DC buildings complex and nearby satellite locations (Riverdale Carver Center). A large inventory of pool/convenience copiers is distributed throughout USDA agency offices in the DC area.	Agency shares are based on prior year billings.

Activity	Description	Cost Distribution
Mail Prep and Courier Services	Provides custom mailing services to USDA agencies.	0.0399 cents/piece for each piece of mail stuffed. Miscellaneous Services: Flat fee of $10.00 for courier deliveries in the local metro area, $0.30/mile for chauffeur services (plus overtime for drivers)
Procurement Systems Operations	Develops, implements, and maintains a suite of corporate acquisition software tools, streamlining processes and an interface with the USDA corporate financial system. Provides procurement support to USDA agencies.	Cost is distributed based on actual agency use of the Integrated Acquisition System (IAS) and SmartPay. Customers are billed monthly for 1/12 of their estimated annual share of costs.
Mail Distribution Services	Central Mail: Central processing of incoming, outgoing, and interoffice mail; special handling services for priority items in the WMA; door-to-door pickup and delivery service of routine and special mailings within the downtown DC buildings complex.	Central Mail/Door-to-Door: Agency shares are based on mail count samples taken by the Mail Unit.
Consolidated Forms and Public Distribution Center	Provides acquisition (printing), warehouse, and worldwide distribution of administrative forms and publications for all USDA agencies; provides warehouse distribution of agency programs and publications for all USDA agencies and for other participating government agencies.	Agency shares are based on costs of requisitions processed for AD and SF forms during the most recently completed fiscal year. Agency shares for agency-specific forms are based on square footage of space for storage of agency forms at the warehouse.
Central Excess Property Operations	Provides customer service and disposition for all excess property for USDA and other Federal agencies in the WMA under the concept of a Cooperative Administrative Support Unit (CASU); provides property rehabilitation services in an effort to promote utilization of serviceable excess and rehabilitated property in lieu of purchasing new property.	Agency shares are based on FY 2005 FTEs in the WMA.
Executive Secretariat	Provides referral and correspondence control services to the Department for mail addressed to the Department, the Secretary, and the immediate Office of the Secretary.	User percentages are based on a moving average of correspondence processed by the unit.

Greenbook

Central Cost Distribution Programs

USDA agencies pay a share of costs for external programs through "Greenbook" assessments. The Forest Service share is determined in a manner consistent with that for every other agency in the Department. Assessments are broken down into two categories:

Actual Usage - Costs are collected for programs such as GSA space, transit subsidies, postage, and unemployment and workers compensation insurance based on actual costs incurred by individual agencies.

Outside Assessments - Costs such as Office of Personnel Management Federal employment, FirstGov, and GSA blue pages are distributed to executive departments for reimbursement. The Department has no discretion as to the cost of the program.

Departmental Shared Cost Programs

These costs provide funding for department-wide initiatives authorized by the Office of the Secretary. Costs for these programs cannot be recovered on a usage basis and are generally distributed using an FTE methodology.

FY 2014 to FY 2016 Forest Service Greenbook Costs
Central Cost Distribution Programs
(dollars in thousands)

Central Cost Distribution Programs	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Planned	FY 2016 Estimated
GSA Space - Agency	$37,019	$37,389	$37,389
DHS GSA Building Security - Agency specific	3,113	3,144	3,175
U.S. Postal Service Mail - Agency specific	290	293	293
Unemployment Compensation	42,106	41,429	41,429
Workers Compensation	31,489	30,567	30,567
National Archives Records System	500	400	400
Ethics E-Filing	0	56	56
Flexible Spending Accounts FSAFEDS - Agency Specific	82	82	82
FEMA Emergency Preparedness	109	121	121
Federal Audit Clearing Service	16	16	16
OPM Federal Employee Svcs and Admin Law Judges	183	183	183
Transit Subsidy	1,422	1,422	1,422
Government-wide Council Activities	172	172	172
GSA HSPD12 Lincpass Maintenance	1,531	1,531	1,531
E-GOV Initiatives	3,243	2,973	3,063
Total Central Cost Programs	**$121,275**	**$119,778**	**$119,899**

Departmental Shared Cost Programs

Departmental Shared Cost Programs	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Planned	FY 2016 Estimated
Intertribal Technical Assistance Network	$994	$985	$985
Faith-Based Initiatives & Neighborhood Partnerships	127	125	128
Office of the Secretary White House Liaison Office (Advisory Committee Liaison Service)	261	261	261
Hispanic Serving Institutions National Program (Formerly HACU)	648	793	830
1890 USDA Initiative	956	1,214	1,214
USDA 1994 Program (Formerly AIHEC)	255	335	335
USDA Human Resources Transformation	564	552	552
Virtual University	638	623	623
Peoples Garden & Visitors Center	292	311	285
Honor Awards	25	25	25
TARGET Center (includes Sign Language Interpreter Services	408	491	489
Emergency Operations Center	755	755	755
Continuity of Operations Planning	659	668	668
Medical Services	21	40	41
Personnel and Document Security	454	338	339
Federal Bio-based Products Preferred Procurement Program (Formerly Bio-based Markets Program)	113	130	135
Facility Infrastructure Review and Assessment	146	143	143
Retirement Processor Web Application	185	192	192
Preauthorized Funding	1,213	1,186	1,186
Identity and Access Management (HSPD-12)	2,196	2,147	2,147
Total Departmental Shared Cost Programs	**$10,910**	**$11,314**	**$11,333**

Total: Central Cost Distribution Programs Plus Departmental Shared Cost Programs

Central Cost Distribution Programs Plus Departmental Shared Cost Programs	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Planned	FY 2016 Estimated
Total Greenbook	**$132,185**	**$131,092**	**$131,232**

The legislative cap for the Departmental Shared Cost Program activities is $14.5 million.

Greenbook Activities
Central Cost Distribution Programs

Activity	Description	Cost Distribution
General Service Administration (GSA) Space - Agency	Provides for the payment of rent to GSA for agency space, which is paid from agency funds.	User percentages are based on occupied agency space which is not covered by the departmental standard level user charges (SLUC) Appropriation.
Department of Homeland Security (DHS) GSA Building Security - Agency	Provides for the payment of security to DHS for non-appropriated funded agency security, which is paid from agency funds.	User Cost Estimates are based on security not covered in the central (departmental) appropriation for security.
U.S. Postal Service Mail	Provides reimbursement to the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) for mailing services provided to USDA agencies.	User percentages are based on prior year usage. Adjustments are made prior to the end of the fiscal year based on direct accountability (i.e., metered costs, sampling, and anticipated increases in postal rates).
Unemployment Compensation	Provides reimbursement to the Department of Labor (DOL) unemployment trust fund for payment made to unemployed former USDA employees.	User percentages are based on reconciled agency charges for the previous fiscal year.
Worker's Compensation Program	Provides reimbursement to DOL unemployment trust fund for payment made to unemployed former USDA employees.	Distribution is based on reconciled agency cases and dollars.
National Archives Records System	Effective in FY 2001, the National Archives became a fee-for-service records center. Each agency is assessed for costs associated with records in storage plus an additional amount for those departmental staff offices that store agency records as a part of their function.	Distribution is based on each agency's volume of records stored, plus a percentage of department-wide records stored based on nation-wide FTEs.
Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAFEDS) - Agency	The National Defense Authorization Act, Public Law 108-136, signed November 24, 2003, requires all Executive Branch agencies that participate in the Flexible Spending Accounts for Federal Employees Program (FSAFEDS) to cover administrative fees on behalf of their employees.	The agency cost shares are based on the participation level of their employees. Agencies are billed for the operating costs by OPM and contract administration by a commercial vendor.
OPM Federal Employment and Administrative Law Judges Service	This program reimburses OPM for Federal Employment Services and information provided to USDA agencies.	Distribution is based on FY 2003 nationwide FTEs of each agency.
Government-wide Council Activities	Reimburses GSA for projects of the Chief Financial Officers Council, Chief Information Officers Council, and Procurement Executive Council.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings in each agency.

Activity	Description	Cost Distribution
Intertribal Technical Assistance Network	Program addresses the unique challenges faced by American Indian and Alaskan Native tribal governments, communities and individuals in effectively utilizing USDA programs and services. These challenges require intensive technical assistance and program access improvement through in an intertribal coordinated network and coordination with the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, which also has jurisdiction and authority over Indian lands. Information on all USDA programs will be covered by the technical assistance efforts of staff within the Network. Program efforts will also focus on promoting the Department's strategic goals within Indian Country, including Tribal consultation responsibilities, in accordance with government-to-government and trust responsibilities of USDA.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings for each USDA agency.
Faith Based Initiatives and Neighborhood Partnerships	Provides for Department-level oversight of implementation efforts in the areas of faith-based and neighborhood outreach and supports the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives regional outreach conferences. This office was established at the USDA by executive order on December 12, 2002.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings for each USDA agency.
Advisory Committee Liaison Services	The Office of the Secretary provides guidance and direction to USDA agencies on Advisory Committees and Boards. Costs to support this function and screening/selection of members are reimbursed from agencies to the Office of the Secretary.	Costs are distributed on the basis of the number of advisory committees in each agency.
Hispanic Serving Institutions National Program	Fosters educational excellence in the Hispanic community and promotes Hispanic participation in fulfilling the USDA mission.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings in each agency.
1890 USDA Initiative	Supports initiatives on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the USDA 1890 institutions (Land Grant colleges and universities). USDA maintains an agricultural liaison office at each of the 17 qualifying campuses, including Tuskegee University.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings for each USDA agency.
USDA 1994 Program	Promotes, fosters, and encourages implementing programs for improving post-secondary and higher education opportunities for American Indians, and establishing information centers for post-secondary and higher education institutions.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings in each agency.

Activity	Description	Cost Distribution
USDA Human Resources Transformation Program (Includes Diversity Council)	Establishes policy, coordinates and evaluates USDA agencies' efforts to carry out diversity programs. Creates a culture of change within USDA agencies that ensures the Department's place as a model employer within the Federal government in terms of equal opportunity without barriers to achievement of diversity and inclusivity. Builds diversity awareness through formal training, participation in diversity programs, special observance events, participation in employee forums at listening sessions, and national employment conferences. Tracks progress of USDA agencies towards diversity goals, awareness, and best practices.	Distribution is based on the current year's nationwide FTE employment ceilings for each USDA agency.
Virtual University	The Virtual University program will provide Department employees with a central educational facility. The facility will focus on providing employees with training for today's workplace responsibilities and developmental programs to ensure a cadre of highly-skilled future leaders.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment in each agency.
Peoples Garden and Visitors Center	Supports the People's Garden and serves as a showcase for USDA programs and initiatives.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment in each agency.
TARGET Center	Supports the Department's workforce diversity and Federal Workforce 2001 policies. Provides information on technologies to ensure equal access to electronic equipment and automated systems essential to today's jobs for people with visual, hearing, speech, mobility, or dexterity impairments.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings for each USDA agency.
Drug Testing Program - Agency Specific	This program is mandated by Executive Order 12564 and PL 102-143. Its purpose is to help ensure a drug free work place with programs such as random, reasonable suspicion, post-accident, volunteer, and applicant testing.	Distribution is based on agency actual expenses.
Sign Language Interpreter Services	Provides interpretive services for Departmental programs and USDA agencies. During fiscal years 2010 and prior, the DC Metro Area Sign Language Services were handled through agency-level agreements. Beginning in FY 2011, DC Metro Area Sign Language Services was included in the Departmental Shared Cost Program and a Metro Area FTE cost recovery basis is now used. The intent of this change was to ensure that all employees have access to services.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings for each USDA agency. Agency-specific services will be billed directly to serviced agencies.

Activity	Description	Cost Distribution
Emergency Operations Center	Operates a secure emergency operations center on a 24/7 basis. The center provides critical communications and coordination systems.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment in each agency.
Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP)	Provides for USDA COOP activities including awareness training, exercises, and COOP plan reviews.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings in each agency.
Medical Services	Provides preventative health measures such as flu shots, health screening, nutritional principles, and fitness awareness that lead to a higher quality workforce environment for employees and contractors in the National Capital Region (Headquarters complex, the George Washington Carver Center, and the Patriot Plaza offices.)	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings in each agency.
Personnel and Document Security	Responsible for ensuring the proper protection of classified national security information through the adjudicative process of personnel clearances and the proper handling, storage, and transmission of classified information.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings in each agency.
Federal Biobased Products Preferred Procurement Program (Formerly Biobased Markets Program)	Supports the USDA-wide implementation of Bio-Preferred^{SM} procurement requirements as additional biobased items are designated for preferred procurement. Supports the development of USDA procurement reporting tools and provides information resources and training to the USDA procurement community, as well as to other Federal agencies, for the purchase of biobased products and the inclusion of biobased components in contracts.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings in each agency.
Radiation Safety	Radiation Safety is responsible for administering the USDA radiation safety program including ensuring compliance with licenses issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for use of radioactive materials in research and other programs. Six agencies use radioactive materials that require radiation safety oversight.	Distribution is based on usage of radioactive materials by agency personnel.
Facility and Infrastructure Review and Assessment	Provides risk-based security assessments with countermeasure recommendations for all critical infrastructure within USDA agencies.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings in each agency.
Retirement Processor Web Application (Formerly Self Service Dashboard (SSD) and Retirement Processor Web Application)	Serves as an e-authenticated single sign-on portal for several USDA human resources systems and contains a historical database that, together with the Retirement Processor Web application, enables employees to run various retirement calculation scenarios.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings in each agency.

Activity	Description	Cost Distribution
Preauthorized Funding	Provides a funding mechanism for reimbursable activities involving other Federal Departments and the USDA that arise during the current fiscal year.	Distribution is based on the current year nationwide FTE employment ceilings for each USDA agency.
E-Gov Initiatives	Improves information technology (IT) planning through the expansion of electronic government to deliver significant productivity and performance gains across all Federal departments.	Distribution is based on 50 percent of agency FTEs and 50 percent of the agency IT development, modernization, and enhancement (DME) spending.
E-Gov Initiatives HSPD12	Supports the implementation of the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (the Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors).	Distribution is based on 100 percent of agency FTEs. In FY 2006 the cost Distribution was based on a 50/50 blend of nationwide FTEs and agency IT DME investment budgets submitted as part of the Exhibit 53 submission to the Office of the Chief Information Officer.
E-Gov Initiatives - Content Management Services	Content Management Services is comprised of three related modules that utilize and rely upon the core components of the USDA's corporate document management infrastructure: Stellent, Oracle, and WebSphere. The Content Analysis Module (CAM) is designed to analyze and display content such as public comments regarding an issue or proposal.	Distribution is based on 50 percent of agency FTEs and 50 percent of the agency IT DME spending.
FEMA Emergency Preparedness	Supports actions for procurement of an emergency relocation site, telecommunications, and miscellaneous support in the event of an emergency.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings for each USDA agency.
Consolidated Federal Funds Report	Supports the Federal Assistance Awards Data System (FAADS) and the Consolidated Federal Funds Report (CFFR) and the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. The Census Bureau collects the information and prepares the report as executive agent for the Office of Management and Budget.	User percentages are based on each agency's share of Federal fund grants for the Department and Federal Audit Clearinghouse records.
USDA HSPD12 LincPass Maintenance	Mandates the establishment of a new standard for credentialing Federal government employees and contractors.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings in each agency.
Transit Subsidy	In accordance with Executive Order 13150, the USDA is providing all qualifying employees nationwide a direct transit subsidy in order to reduce Federal employees' contribution to traffic congestion and air pollution and to expand their commuting alternatives.	Distribution is based on each agency's percentage of the actual costs for each quarter.

Wood Education and Resource Center

Background

This exhibit is not required by Congressional Direction, but is included to provide information about this program.

Overview

The Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) was started in 1999 when legislation was enacted authorizing the Forest Service to assume operation of the former Robert C. Byrd Hardwood Technology Center (RCBHTC) in Princeton, West Virginia. Under Forest Service management, WERC focuses on primary and secondary wood processing, woody biomass utilization using multidisciplinary approaches, efficient utilization of urban tree removals, partnerships to solve forest products related issues, as well as the following activities:

- maintaining and expanding a competitive hardwood industry that provides jobs and markets for local community needs,
- increasing communication, cooperation, and collaborative problem solving within the forest products industry,
- supporting woody biomass utilization for energy,
- advancing market development and utilization of trees affected by insects, diseases, and weather events, and
- supporting appropriate green building initiatives and carbon storage in wood products.

WERC programs help maintain and improve wood industry productivity and competitiveness in a sustainable manner within the 35 states of the eastern hardwood region. Viable wood products markets enable sustainable forest management on private, State, and Federal lands. WERC staff includes a Biomass Coordinator position to provide leadership for woody biomass-to-energy efforts across the State & Private Forestry's Northeastern Area. WERC's biomass coordination efforts have resulted in a partnership with several engineering consultants that provide preliminary assessments of energy system conversions. These are completed for schools, hospitals, office, and business facilities.

The primary authority used in carrying out WERC activities is the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act. WERC is funded from a number of budget line items including Forest Health Management-Cooperative Lands, State Fire Assistance, Forest Stewardship, Urban and Community Forestry, and Hazardous Fuels.

FY 2016 Program Changes

The FY 2016 budget request includes $960,000 for WERC, the same as the FY 2014 and FY 2015 requests. Funds will provide priority services and support to the eastern hardwood forest region, particularly the wood industry. At this level of funding, WERC anticipates that few new competitive grants will be issued. Salaries for support activities will be approximately $740,000, leaving $220,000 for operating and other expenses. WERC staff will continue to work and expand partnerships to complete priority projects. Partners include State Foresters and their

staffs, wood products industry, non-profits, local governments and agencies, other Northeastern Area staff members to meet its mission and goals. Key aspects of WERC's staff time is to ensure appropriate grant monitoring and provide technical assistance, training, and information transfer specifically focused on meeting the market and utilization needs identified in the State Forest Action Plans from the northeastern and southern states and the new Northeastern Area strategic plan.

FY 2013-FY 2016 WERC Allocations
(dollars in thousands)

Program	FY 2013 Allocation	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Pres. Budget
WERC	$960	$960	$960	$960

In FY 2016, WERC will continue to work with partners to host or sponsor workshops and training for owners and managers of wood products businesses. In addition, WERC will provide technical assistance to a potential lessee of the WERC mill and shop in order to maintain a successful business operation that more fully utilizes the facilities and enhances employment opportunities to local residents.

The Forest Service will provide technical expertise to industry, States, and other partners on market development; wood processing; utilization of damaged trees from insects, diseases, and weather events; green building; and implementation of a woody biomass strategy.

FY 2014 Accomplishments

In FY 2014, WERC cooperated with the WO Cooperative Forestry office to successfully conduct a Statewide Wood Energy Team competitive grants program which enabled the funding of 11 statewide wood energy teams in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Kentucky, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. To assist with the successful development of statewide wood energy teams, WERC initiated quarterly webcasts for team leaders and team members. In addition, WERC also assisted WO Cooperative Forestry with a second national competitive grants (Wood-to-Energy) program. This competitive grants program focused on assisting potential wood energy projects with financial assistance for costs associated with final engineering and permitting expenses.

WERC's Woody Biomass Technical Support Team

WERC, in cooperation with several engineering firms, has developed a team approach to provide preliminary assessments and technical assistance to facility owners and managers considering the use of woody biomass as an energy and power source.

Since 2009, benefits have included over $4.5 million in annual operating savings, over $5.2 million in capital cost savings, and annual net CO2 offset of over 35.5 metric tons. Additional details about the program can be viewed at http://na.fs.fed.us/werc/biomass/index.shtm. The team will be providing support to the newly established statewide wood energy teams in the eastern U.S.

WERC continued its outreach efforts to industry and communities by providing over 20 industry-related workshops/training sessions/webinars/webcasts/presentations. Topics included: wood energy, urban wood utilization, firewood, and small sawmilling techniques. Three webcasts were conducted to specifically address needs of the urban forestry community pertaining to market development and utilization of trees affected by insect and disease issues.

WERC allocated $205,000 to three new or existing grants and agreements that focus on wood energy preliminary assessments and industry training. These agreements focused on maintaining or expanding the economic competitiveness and sustainability of wood products manufacturing businesses, ultimately leading to job creation as well as improved forest health and stewardship. WERC's Wood Energy Technical Assistance Team has prepared more than 120 prefeasibility studies for facility owners throughout its service territory, generating significant project savings for facilities that converted to wood energy. These projects have resulted in a more productive and sustainable wood products industry in the Eastern U.S.

Allocation and Partnerships

WERC accomplishes its mission through several venues including:

- workshops and trainings held at WERC, on the web, and at remote locations;
- biomass energy technical support through energy engineer consultants conducting prefeasibility evaluations of facilities considering conversion to woody biomass for heat and power;
- a Web site clearing house for information; and
- technical assistance and support regarding utilization and market development for trees damaged from insects, diseases, and weather events; and regional operations in a cluster model at the Princeton WERC (research, technical transfer, and private industry partnerships on-site).

Training programs focus on industry competitiveness, survivability, and sustainability issues. This focused effort will assist the wood industry in facing today's critical challenges especially in the areas of job preservation and creation.

WERC maintains and fosters partnerships with organizations, universities, non-profits, and for-profit organizations. WERC has invested over $12 million in over 200 projects in 26 states since 2005, in cooperation with the wood and forest industries. Project details and results can be viewed by visiting http://spfnic.fs.fed.us/werc/p_search.cfm.

Illinois Emerald Ash Borer Wood Utilization Team
2013 Governor's Sustainability Award

The Illinois Emerald Ash Borer Wood Utilization Team (Tem) (http://illinoisurbanwood.org/) champions the reclamation of valuable wood products from felled landscape trees. The introduction of traditional forest products industry technology into the management of urban forests is the innovation that allows the capture of wood material from the waste stream. Urban trees, maintained over decades for their contributions of shade, beauty, and air quality, energy conservation, and other benefits, come to an inelegant end at the conclusion of their useful life. Trees are felled and logs and limbs are usually processed into wood chips for mulch, or sometimes firewood. Yet, the market demands sustainable lumber products. The Team's new approach harvests logs that are considered waste, processes them into lumber, manufactures them into products and uses them locally. The Illinois Emerald Ash Borer Wood Utilization Team (WUT) promotes this new sustainable model by linking segments along the supply chain – from managers of urban landscapes to sawyers to woodworkers to end users of wood products. The initial efforts and success of the team was contributable to a grant from the Wood Education and Resource Center. The Team convened to address the anticipated large volume of ash wood that would result from the State's emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation and has broadened to promote reclamation of all useable urban wood material. Through advocacy, education and training, demonstration projects and technical support, the Team has built a network of 55 sawyers; trained 130 arborists; assessed the timber resources in the Chicago metropolitan region; promoted reclaimed baseball bats on national television; and transferred technology and know-how to help other states create similar regional urban wood efforts.

Working Capital Fund, Forest Service

Overview

The Forest Service Working Capital Fund (WCF) provides orderly and efficient supply and equipment service in support of Forest Service programs. The Department of Agriculture Organic Act of August 3, 1956, as amended by the Act of October 23, 1962 (15 U.S.C. 579b), established the WCF. The WCF is a self-sustaining revolving fund that provides services to national forests, research stations, other Federal agencies, and as provided by law, to State and private cooperators.

The WCF requires no appropriation. Initially, regular Forest Service appropriations purchased assets and donated the assets to WCF. The WCF rates are determined so that WCF recovers operating and replacement costs. The WCF provides the following services:

- Equipment Leasing Services, which owns and rents vehicles and aircraft, and
- Enterprise Services, which are reinvention teams accomplishing project work that improves customer service and reduces costs.

The table below displays the volume of business for major WCF activities:

Volume of Business for Major WCF Activities
(*dollars in thousands*)

Type	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted*	FY 2016 Pres Budg*
Equipment - Fleet	$164,880	$187,210	$189,409
Equipment - Aircraft	$11,095	$8,212	$8,606
Nursery	$11,028	$11,311	$11,659
Enterprise Services	$43,775	$45,000	$46,000
Total	**$230,778**	**$251,733**	**$255,674**

* FY 2015 Enacted and FY 2016 President's Budget estimates were calculated using approved 5-year Cash Flow statements. Each year the 5-year estimates can change based on specific needs at the time.

Working Capital Fund - Forest Service Fleet Management

Background

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction but is included to report expenses necessary for the Working Capital Fund - Fleet Management.

Overview

The Forest Service uses a working capital fund (WCF) to procure and operate motor vehicles and other fleet equipment in support of Forest Service programs. The WCF does not receive direct appropriations, but receives its authority through payment for services from appropriated accounts. The WCF rates are determined so that WCF recovers operating and replacement costs within a certain time period. The WCF supports Equipment Leasing Services, an entity that owns and rents vehicles and other fleet equipment.

Program Priorities

In FY 2007, a fleet feasibility study recommended increasing the percentage of agency-owned fleet. A later (FY 2011) fleet business process re-engineering study supported the 2007 recommendation. The Forest Service currently owns approximately 90 percent of its motor vehicles, and rents about 10 percent from the General Services Administration and commercial vendors. The goal of the agency is to retain and operate a total number of vehicles to provide the most cost effective and fuel efficient mix to meet the needs of the agency. The WCF expenditures will remain fairly constant over time, as the majority of fleet reductions will occur through the reduction of leased vehicles (which are not part of WCF).

Vehicle Allocation Methodology and Procurement Practices

As part of the annual vehicle replacement process, the Forest Service units conduct assessments of fleet operations that analyze vehicle effectiveness, cost-to-serve, life cycle cost, vehicle pooling, and operating costs. Concurrently, vehicles with utilization that falls below agency standards (minimum annual mileage or days of use) are placed in motorpools, transferred to other units or outplaced. On-going fleet needs are determined by the Forest Service managers based on transportation and equipment needs to achieve their goals within the allotted budget. Alternative fuel vehicles (AFV) are chosen, when available. Often the limiting factor in the use of AFVs is the availability of alternative fuel in the geographic area.

Utilizing national guidelines, the region and station fleet specialists identify vehicles eligible for replacement. The final decision to procure a replacement vehicle is made at the region and station level. When a fleet addition or upgrade is required, a formal review and approval procedure is followed and documented.

Program Oversight

To assure that the fleet program provides safe, efficient, and environmentally sound fleet equipment, and to ensure the safe, economical, and legal acquisition, operation, maintenance, and disposal of that equipment, the Forest Service uses a combination of the following:

Financial Incentives - Forest Service organizations, programs, and projects pay monthly rates on all WCF equipment assigned to them. This payment structure encourages dropping non-essential vehicles. Dropped vehicles are reassigned to other units in need, who pick up the payments on the vehicles.

Business Practices - Standard business practices require national and regional review. These include the physical property inventory, the annual assessments of fleet needs for scheduling replacements and holdovers, and the annual review and recalculation of monthly rates. The Forest Service recently implemented a formalized review and approval procedure for all fleet additions and upgrades. Reduction of vehicle upgrades and replacing larger vehicles with smaller vehicles could result in significant cost savings, in large part due to associated fuel efficiency savings from smaller, more efficient replacement vehicles.

Monitoring - Typically, a region reviews fleet management activities on two to four national forests each year, and the national office reviews one to two regions.

Unit line officers, with the concurrence of Forest Supervisors, regularly adjust the fleet size, mix, and assignment throughout the year. This helps ensure an optimal fleet and helps to keep the fleet safe, effective, cost efficient, and in line with legal requirements.

Forest Service Budget Authorities

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Acquisition of Lands, Special Acts, San Bernardino National Forest Land Conveyance and Settlement	Provides authority for the conveyance of a small parcel of public domain land in the San Bernardino National Forest in the State of California and changes the authorization for collection and retention of receipts first authorized under the Sisk Act P.L. 90-171.		NFS	P.L. 106-434	16 U.S.C. 484a
Agricultural Act of 2014, Insect and Disease Infestation	Amends the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) to require designation of an insect and disease priority treatment area in at least one National Forest per State, if requested by the Governor. Treatments in those areas may be conducted in accordance with the authorities provided for fuels treatments in HFRA and also may be categorically excluded. Also, authorizes $200,000,000 per year for these activities through 2024.		NFS, SPF	P.L. 113-79	16 U.S.C. 6591 et. seq.
Agricultural Act of 2014, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA)	Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to revise the FIA strategic plan within 180 days of enactment.		Research	P.L. 113-79	Not yet assigned.

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Agricultural Act of 2014, Forest Products Advanced Utilization Research	Amends the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 to add a Forest Products Advanced Utilization provision requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a forestry and forest products research and extension initiative to develop and disseminate science-based tools that address the needs of the forestry sector. These activities must be carried out in coordination with the Forest Service, inclidng the Forest Product's Laboratory.	September 30, 2018	Research	P.L. 113-79	7 U.S.C. 7655
Agriculture Grants and Powers Act of 1965	Provides authority to erect buildings and other structures on non-Federal land, if long-term lease on the land is obtained. Also, provides authority to make competitive grants to eligible institutions, including special grants and grants for facility renovation and refurbishment, to further the programs of the Department of Agriculture.		ALL	P.L. 89–106; P.L. 110–246	7 U.S.C. 450i

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980	This Act authorizes management of Federal lands in Alaska for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife, providing the opportunity for rural residents to continue their subsistence way of life. This Act also allows that receipts from oil, gas, timber, coal, and other natural resources collected by the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior are available to prepare, offer, and administer the timber sale program on the Tongass National Forest. Authorizing up to $5,000,000 in annual transfers of receipts to a special fund.		NFS	P.L. 96-487	16 U.S.C. 539d
Anderson-Mansfield Reforestation and Revegetation Act of 1949	Requires the agency to accelerate and provide a continuing basis for the needed reforestation and revegetation of national forest lands and other lands under Forest Service administration or control. This Act authorizes appropriations as needed to provide for reasonable continuity of reforestation and vegetation programs.		NFS	P.L. 81-348	16 U.S.C. 581j-k
Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979	Authorizes the use of appropriated funds for the preservation and protection of historical and archaeological resources.		NFS	P.L. 96-95	16 U.S.C. 469

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Arizona National Forest Improvement Act of 2000	This Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain administrative sites in national forests in the State of Arizona, to convey certain land to the City of Sedona, Arizona for a wastewater treatment facility, and for other purposes.		NFS	P.L. 106-458	16 U.S.C. 484a
Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937	Sections 31 and 32 of this Act authorize and direct the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a program of land conservation and land utilization, in order to assist in controlling soil erosion, reforestation, preserving natural resources, and to cooperate with Federal, State, territorial, and other public agencies in development and implementation of plans. This Act also provides authority to dispose of, or exchange, land acquired for the land utilization and conservation program.Section 32 also gives the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to regulate the use and occupancy of the property acquired by, or transferred to, the Secretary under or for the purposes of the Bankhead-Jones Act. This Act authorizes the transfer of lands acquired under the Act to other Federal, State, or Territorial agencies subject to a public reverter provision.		NFS	P.L. 75-210	7 U.S.C. 110-111; 7 U.S.C. 1000-1006

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, 25 percent of revenues to counties	This Act authorizes annual payments on a calendar year basis to counties, equal to 25 percent of net revenues received during the year (excluding receipts from the sale of land). Counties shall use these payments for schools and/or roads. This Act pertains primarily to national grasslands and land utilization projects.		NFS	P.L. 75-210	7 U.S.C. 1012
Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance Act	This Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other NFS land in the State of Oregon and use the proceeds derived from the sale or exchange for NFS purposes.		NFS	P.L. 106-526	16 U.S.C. 484a; 16 U.S.C. 480 et seq
Black Hills National Forest and Rocky Mountain Research Station Improvement Act	This Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other land in the Black Hills National Forest and use funds derived from the sale or exchange to acquire replacement sites and to acquire or construct administrative improvements in connection with the Black Hills National Forest.		NFS	P.L. 106-329	16 U.S.C. 484a
Boise Laboratory Replacement Act of 2000	Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange the Boise laboratory site (as defined by this Act), and use the resultant funds to acquire land and facilities to: (1) co-locate the laboratory with one of the Boise-area State institutions of higher		NFS	P.L. 90-171; P.L. 106-291	16 U.S.C. 484a

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	learning; (2) replace other laboratory functions; and (3) acquire other land or interests in Idaho.				
Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act of 1978	Section 18(e) authorizes the construction of dispersed recreation sites and trails outside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Section 7(d)(3) authorizes funding to acquire land and water within the designated wilderness. Also, see Thye-Blatnik Act of June 22, 1948, as amended (16 U.S.C. 577h), cited in paragraph 3.		NFS	P.L. 95-495	16 USC 1132 note
Brush Disposal Act of August 11, 1916	This Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to require purchasers of national forest timber to deposit the estimated cost to dispose of brush and other debris resulting from their cutting operations.		NFS	P.L. 64-190	16 U.S.C. 490
Burton-Santini Lake Tahoe Basin Act of December 23, 1980	Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, with the concurrence of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, to acquire specified unimproved, environmentally sensitive land to be administered as part of the United States National Forest System or, if unsuitable for administration as such, to be transferred to a unit of State or local government with specified restrictions. Permits the acquisition of specified portions		NFS	P.L. 96-586	

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	of the Lake Tahoe Basin. This authority expires when all Clark County, Nevada, land specified in the Act is sold by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.				
Carlson-Foley Act of 1968	This Act authorizes use of noxious plant control funds reimburse States for such activity on Federal land.		NFS, SPF	P.L. 90–583	43 U.S.C. 1241-1243
Coconino and Tonto National Forest Land Exchange Act	This Act provides for the exchange of five certain parcels of land in the Coconino and Tonto National Forests in Arizona, and for other purposes.		NFS	P.L. 108-190	43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.; 43 U.S.C. 1716(b); 16 U.S.C. 484a
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR)	The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 authorizes the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund, establishing a Treasury fund to be used to pay up to 50 percent of the cost of carrying out and monitoring ecological restoration treatments on National Forest System land. The Act authorizes $40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2019, to remain available until expended. Actual appropriated amounts have varied by year.	9/30/2019	NFS	P.L. 111-11 Title III	16 U.S.C. 7301

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act of 1986, land acquisition provisions	Sections 9 and 16a of the Act authorizes land acquisition within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.		NFS	P.L. 99–663	16 U.S.C. 544g
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act of November 17 of 1986, establishment	Establishes the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area in Washington and Oregon. Designates special management and urban areas within such scenic area. Directs the Secretary to administer the Federal lands within the special management areas according to forest and multiple-use management regulations applicable to the national forests. Authorizes the Secretary to make grants to each State for grants and loans for economic development in counties which have adopted conforming land use ordinances. Directs the Secretary to provide technical assistance to counties to develop land use ordinances under this Act. Allocates timber receipts from special management area funds. Directs the Secretary to make payments to local governments to compensate for lost real property taxes from federally acquired lands.		SPF, NFS	P.L. 99-663	16 U.S.C. 544

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Commercial Filming	The Act of May 26, 2000 authorizes retention of fees collected for commercial filming and photography land use authorizations and the obligation of the monies for the maintenance of the filming site. Land use fees are based on a schedule to use and occupy NFS land for filming/photo activities. This fee is separate from the cost recovery fee to process applications and monitor and the authorization for compliance with the commercial filming permit.		NFS	P.L. 106-206	16 U.S.C. 460l-6d
Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act (CSEA)	Title II of this Act created the Spectrum Relocation Fund (SRF) to provide a centralized and streamlined funding mechanism through which Federal agencies can recover the costs associated with relocating their radio communications systems from certain spectrum bands, which were authorized to be auctioned for commercial purposes.		NFS	P.L. 108-494	
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program	The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to establish a program to provide federal matching grants to help local governments, Tribes, or nongovernmental organizations acquire private forests that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Properties acquired are working forests open to public		SPF	P.L. 110-246	16 U.S.C. 2103d

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	access. Authorizes appropriations of such sums as necessary.				
Community Forest Restoration Act	Extends authorization to make funds available for use on non-Federal lands under State and Private Forestry appropriation.		WFM	P.L. 106-393	
Community Wood Energy Program	The Agricultural Act of 2014 authorizes $5,000,000 in annual appropriations for a Community Wood Energy Program through FY 2018. Grants of up to $50,000 to State and local governments or biomass consumer cooperatives to develop plans for, or to acquire or upgrade community wood energy systems.	09/30/2018	SPF	P.L. 113-79	7 U.S.C. 8113
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA)	Forest Service Policy is to use Forest Service CERCLA authority and processes to respond at sites under Forest Service jurisdiction or control where hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants threaten human health or the environment. Many abandoned mine sites are CERCLA sites, since heavy metals such as arsenic, cadmium, and others that may occur in surface water at mine sites are listed as hazardous substances. Further, the Forest Service may invoke CERCLA at mining sites where “pollutants or contaminants”		NFS	P.L. 96-510	42 U.S.C. 9601

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	such as sediment, or metals such as iron or aluminum which are not listed hazardous substances, are impacting the environment.				
Cooperative Firefighting Funds Retention	Any money collected from the States for fire suppression assistance rendered by the Forest Service on non-Federal lands not in the vicinity of National Forest System lands shall hereafter be used to reimburse the applicable appropriation and shall remain available until expended.		SPF	P.L. 105-277	16 U.S.C. 2106b
Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978	Authorizes cooperation and assistance to non-Federal forest landowners and communities in rural forest management, urban and community forest management, production of timber and other forest resources, insect and disease control, rural fire prevention and control, forest management and planning assistance, and technology implementation. Includes authorization for many State and Private Forestry programs, including the Forest Stewardship Program, the Forest Legacy		SPF	P.L. 95-313	16 U.S.C. 2101-2114

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	Program, and the Urban and Community Forestry Program.				
Cooperative Forestry Innovation Partnership Projects	Allows the Secretary to competitively allocate up to 5% of CFAA funds for innovative education, outreach, or technology transfer projects. Funds would be available to States, Tribes, local governments, land-grant, or private entities with a 50% cost share.		SPF	P.L. 110-246	16 U.S.C. 2101a and continuing
Cooperative Funds Act of June 30, 1914, Forest Investigations, Protection and Improvement	This Act authorizes the acceptance of contributions for cooperative work in forest investigations, protection, management, and improvement of the National Forest System.		NFS		16 U.S.C. 498
Cooperative Funds Act of June 30, 1914, Wildland Fire Protection	The Act grants Federal Agencies the authority to maintain wildland fire protection organizations for the protection of federal lands and for the States to assist local fire departments in maintaining wildland fire		WFM		16 U.S.C. 498

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	protection resources for the protection of State and privately owned lands. Structure and dump fire protection, which are the responsibility of local fire departments, are independent of this agreement.				
Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act	This Act authorizes the Forest Service and cooperator(s) to perform work from which they would accrue mutual non-monetary benefit in the areas of cooperative pollution abatement; cooperative manpower, job training, and development programs; development and publication of cooperative environmental educations and forest history materials; and, forestry protection. Authorizes cooperation for fire protection for public good and where there is mutual benefit, other than monetary consideration.		WFM	P.L. 94-148; P.L. 95-313	16 U.S.C. 565a1 – a3; 16 U.S.C. 2101-2111
Cradle of Forestry	The Act of July 4, 1968 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with, and receive the cooperation of, public and private agencies and organizations and individuals in the development, administration, and operation of Cradle of Forestry in western North Carolina. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to accept contributions and gifts to further the purposes of the Act. The 6,500-acre Cradle of Forestry Historic Site in the Pink Beds valley, NC, was established by Congress in		NFS	P.L. 90-398	16 U.S.C. 471h

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	1968 and contains the first official school for forestry in America..				
Department of Agriculture Grants and Powers Act of 1965	Section 1 authorizes the erection of buildings and other structures on non-federal land, with long-term lease and right-to-remove, and authorizes the use of appropriations for expenses necessary to acquire long-term lease. Provides authority for long-term leases on non-federal land and building structures on non-federal land, if a long-term lease on the land is obtained.		ALL	P.L. 89-106	7 U.S.C. 2250a
Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944	Section 703 authorizes the erection, alteration, and repair of buildings and other improvements on Federal land that are necessary to conduct authorized work, provided provision is made in applicable appropriations.		CIM	P.L. 78-425	7 U.S.C. 2250
Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1956	This Act authorizes the acquisition of land by purchase, exchange, or other means, to carry out authorized work, provided that provision is made in applicable appropriations. This is one of the primary authorities for acquisition of lands with Land and Water Conservation Fund moneys.		NFS	P.L. 84-979	7 U.S.C. 428a
Department of Agriculture Organic Act - Aviation, Lookout Towers, &	Authorizes the Forest Service, by contract or otherwise, to provide for procurement and operation of aerial facilities and services for the protection and management of the		WFM	P.L. 78-425	16 U.S.C. 579a

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Fire Management	national forests and other lands administered by the agency.				
Eastern Wilderness Act of 1975	Sections 6 and 9 authorize the acquisition, exchange, and donation of land for inclusion in the Eastern Wilderness system.		NFS	P.L. 93-622	16 U.S.C. 1132 note
Endangered Species Act of 1973	The Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides a program for the conservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals and the habitats in which they are found. Section 7 requires federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the NOAA Fisheries Service to ensure that actions they authorize, fund or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat of such species. Sections 5 and 15 authorize the acquisition of land to protect threatened and endangered species.		NFS	P.L. 93–205	16 U.S.C. 1534 and 1542
Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act (Forest Legacy)	Authorizes grants to States for carrying out the Forest Legacy Program, including the acquisition by the State of lands and interests in lands.		SPF	P.L. 104-127	16 U.S.C. 2103c

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996	This Act authorizes the acceptance of contributions for cooperative work in forest investigations, protection, management, and improvement of the National Forest System.		NFS	P.L. 104-127	16 U.S.C. 498
Federal Highway Act	This Act establishes the Federal Highway Trust Fund, managed by the Department of Transportation. Federal highway construction, maintenance, and other projects defined in the Act are financed from the Federal Highway Trust Fund. The Department of Transportation transfers these monies to the Forest Service for highway projects pertinent to National Forest System lands.		CIM	P.L. 85-767	23 U.S.C. 120, 125, 205
Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act of 1988	Section 4 of this Act authorizes appropriations to consider, process, and consummate land exchanges pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 USC 1701).		NFS	P.L. 100-409	43 U.S.C. 1716
Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act	This Act authorizes the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to sell parcels of public land regarded as “in –holdings” to reduce land management costs and fragmentation. This authority expires in the year 2010 at which time any unobligated funds will be added to the existing Land and Water Conservation Fund.	07/25/2011		P.L. 106-248; P.L. 111-212 sec. 3007	43 U.S.C. 2301
Federal Lands	This Act provides authority to implement a	09/30/2016	NFS	P.L. 108-	16 U.S.C.

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Recreation Enhancement Act	fee program for certain recreation sites on Federal lands. Fees collected from users of recreation facilities are used to pay for on-the-ground operation, maintenance, and improvements of recreation sites and services to maintain and enhance recreation opportunities, visitor experiences, and related habitat. Funds are available until expended. The Act directs the creation of Recreation Resource Advisory Committees to allow for public involvement on recreation fee programs.			447; P.L. 113-46; P.L. 113-164; P.L. 113-235	6806 and 6807
Federal Water Project Recreation Act, 1965	The Act has provided up to 50 percent of the costs of recreation facility development at certain reservoirs when a non-Federal entity entered into an agreement to provide the remaining development funds; to pay all of the costs of operations, maintenance, and replacement (OM&R); and to manage the area for public recreational use. For reservoirs constructed before 1965, the Federal contribution for the development of recreation facilities was limited to $100,000 for each reservoir.		NFS	P.L. 89-72	16 U.S.C. 460L-13

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
FLAME Act of 2009	The FLAME Act of 2009 states, " ..for fiscal year 2011 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amounts requested by the President for a FLAME Fund should be not less than the amount estimated by the Secretary concerned as the amount necessary for that fiscal year for wildfire suppression activities of the Secretary that meet the criteria specified…" The criteria are fires that 1) cover 300 or more acres, 2) pose significant complexity, severity, or threat to human life, property, or resources.		FLAME	P.L. 111-88	43 USC 1701 note; 43 U.S.C. 1748a
Florida National Forest Land Management Act	This Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange certain parcels of land in the State of Florida, and for other purposes.		NFS	P.L. 108-152	16 U.S.C. 484a
Food and Agriculture Act of 1977	Designates the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the lead agency of the Federal government for agricultural research, extension, and teaching. It also removes restrictions on the use of cooperative agreements with universities and permits cost reimbursable agreements with State cooperating institutions without competition.		ALL	P.L. 95-113	7 U.S.C. 3318-3319d
Food Security Act of 1985	Authorizes a conservation acreage reserve program, and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to utilize the services of the Forest Service and other Federal and State agencies to carry out the program.		ALL	P.L. 99-198	16 U.S.C. 3842

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990	Section 1241 authorizes the Modern Timber Bridge Initiative, with an authorization of $5,000,000 annually. Section 1271 authorizes assistance to landowners who suffer destruction of 35 percent or more of a commercial tree stand due to damaging weather, related condition, or wildfire. Section 2371 authorizes the establishment of and economic development and global marketing program, including technology transfer to natural resource-based industries in the United States. The Healthy Forest Initiative amended section 2371 the Act to create the "Rural Revitalization Technologies" program, which provides for the accelerated adoption of technologies in the biomass industry. Sections 2372-2379 authorize economic assistance to rural communities in or near national forests.		SPF	P.L. 101-624	16 U.S.C. 2106; 7 U.S.C. 6601; 7 U.S.C. 6611-6617
Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974	Requires preparation of a renewable resource assessment, program plans, inventories, and budget request, and an update to these plans every 10 years.		ALL	P.L. 93-378	16 U.S.C. 1601 note

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978	The Act authorizes the Forest Service to conduct, support, and cooperate in investigations, tests, and other activities necessary to obtain, analyze, develop, demonstrate, and disseminate scientific information about forest and rangeland renewable resources in rural, suburban, and urban areas. It authorizes competitive grants and advance of funds to cooperators and grantees; research encouraging improved reforestation of cutover lands; and development and implementation of improved methods of survey and analysis of forest inventory information. An amendment made under P.L. 101-624 established a forestry student grant program for minority and female students.		NFS	P.L. 95–307; P.L. 100-521; P.L. 101-624	16 U.S.C. 1641 - 1648
Forest Botanical Products	The Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act of 2000 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to charge and collect fees from persons who harvest forest botanical products to cover costs to the agency. Funds collected are deposited in a special fund in the Treasury. This authority is authorized through September 30, 2019, with the funds collected available for expenditure through September 30, 2020.	09/30/2019	NFS	P.L. 106-113; P.L. 111-88: P.L. 113-76	16 U.S.C. 528 note

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Forest Inventory Analysis Data Privacy	The FY 2000 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act added Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program to the existing Food Security Act of 1985, thus providing a legal basis for protecting the privacy of the data suppliers.		R&D	P.L. 106-113	7 U.S.C. 2276
Forest Service Administration of Rights-Of-Way and Land Uses (Cost Recovery)	This Act provides authority to implement a pilot program to improve customer service to applicants and holders of special land use authorizations and reduce the agency's backlog of expired authorizations. The authority allows the Forest Service to charge a fee for analysis of special use authorizations. The Act originally granted the authority until Sept 30, 2012; the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriation Act, 2013 extended the authority until September 30, 2013.	Permanent	NFS	P.L. 106-113, Sec. 331; P.L. 113-6, Sec. 1415, P.L. 110-161, P.L. 113-6; P.L. 113-46: P.L. 113-76	30 U.S.C. 185(l); 43 U.S.C. 1764(g); 16 U.S.C. 470h–2(g), U.S.C. 497 note
Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act (FSFREA)	This Act provided authority to convey unneeded administrative sites and retain the proceeds for building maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction. In addition, projects initiated under the pilot authority of P.L. 107-63, Section 329 may continue under the provisions of the FSFREA. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 extended the authority to September 30, 2016.	09/30/2016	NFS	P.L. 109-54; P.L. 111-8; P.L. 112-74	16 U.S.C. 580d note
Forest Service	The Interior and Related Agencies	09/30/2008	CIM	P.L. 107-63,	

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Facility Realignment Pilot	Appropriation Act of 2002 provided authority through September 30, 2008 to implement a pilot program that allowed the agency to retain proceeds from the conveyance of excess structures and expend the receipts for building maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction.			Section 329	
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research	The Act of June 30, 1978 authorizes the acceptance and use of donated funds for research activities.		R&D	P.L. 95-307	16 U.S.C. 1643
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests to the Department of Agriculture	The Act of October 10, 1978 authorizes agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture to accept donations for non-research activities (i.e., land or other real property).		ALL	P.L. 95-442	7 U.S.C. 2269
Global Change Research Act of 1990	Establishes the Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences, part of the Federal Coordinating Council on Science, Engineering, and Technology under the Office of Science and Technology Policy of the Executive Office of the President. Authorizes funded participation in the United States Global Change Research Program as the Forest Service Global Change Research Program.		R&D	P.L. 101-606	15 U.S.C. 2931
Global Climate Change Prevention Act of 1990	Establishes a Global Climate Change Program at USDA to study the effects of global climate change on agriculture and	09/30/2018	International Forestry; R&D	P.L. 101-624; P.L. 107-171;	7 U.S.C. 6701 to 6708

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	forestry. The Program Direction shall coordinate policy analysis, long range planning and research across the Department and with other Agencies. The Act also establishes the Office of International Forestry to be responsible for the international forestry activities of the Forest Service and establishes the Institutes of Tropical Forestry; authorizes the creation of a pilot project in urban forestry.			P.L. 110-234, sec 8202	
Good Neighbor Authority	The Agricultural Act of 2014 expanded Colorado Good Neighbor Act authority (CGNA) to Puerto Rico and all States with National Forest System lands. (Also includes BLM managed lands) Through this authority the Secretary of Agriculture, via cooperative agreement or contract, can permit State agencies to perform watershed restoration and forest management services on National Forest System lands when similar and complementary restoration services are being performed on adjacent State or private lands.	Permanent		P.L. 113-79	Not yet assigned.
Granger-Thye Act of April 24, 1950	This Act authorizes cooperation with other parties to perform work for permittees, agencies, organizations, and persons for work that the Forest Service is authorized to do, on lands of the United States. Also allows for research funds to be advanced to		ALL	P.L. 81-478	16 U.S.C. 572

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	Also allows for research funds to be advanced to cooperators. Authorizes assistance for work on other than Forest Service jurisdictions.				
Grazing Permits	The terms and conditions contained in the expired, transferred, or waived (or renewed prior to 2004) permit or lease shall continue in effect under the renewed permit or lease until such time as the Secretary completes processing of such permit or lease in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations or until the expiration of the renewed permit, whichever comes first. At which time such permit or lease may be canceled, suspended or modified, in whole or in part, to meet the requirements of such applicable laws and regulations.	Permanent (western States)	NFS	P.L. 108-108, Sec. 325; P.L. 111-88; P.L. 112-74; P.L. 113-46: P.L. 113-76; P.L. 113-291	43 U.S.C. 1752
Grey Towers National Historic Site Act of 2004	Creates permanently available Grey Towers National Historic Site Fund. The Secretary is authorized to enter into Agreements for grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements as appropriate with the Pinchot Institute, public and other private agencies, organizations, institutions, and individuals to provide for the development, administration, maintenance, or restoration of land, facilities, or Forest Service programs at Grey Towers or to otherwise further the purposes		NFS	P.L. 108-447, Sec. 348	16 U.S.C. 461 note

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	of this section.				
Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research	This Act establishes the Institute of Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research in Princeton, West Virginia, previously named the Robert C. Byrd Hardwood Technology Center in West Virginia. Certain revenues shall be deposited into a special Treasury fund to be available for obligation until expended.		SPF	P.L. 106-113	16 U.S.C. 1650
Hawaii Tropical Forestry Recovery Act of 1992	This Act grants authorities to the Secretary of Agriculture to treat invasive plants on Federal and non-Federal ownerships in Hawaii and in tropical forests on Federal lands in other States.		SPF, International Forestry	P.L. 102-574	16 U.S.C. 4505a, 4503
Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003	Title I of HFRA provides for expedited environmental review, a pre-decisional Forest Service administrative review process, and other measures on National Forest and Bureau of Land Management		ALL	P.L. 108-148; P.L. 110-246	portions of 16 U.S.C. 6501 - 18 and 16 U.S.C. 6541-

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	(BLM) lands that are at-risk of catastrophic fire. Titles II through VI authorize various forest health restoration programs, including promoting the use of woody biomass, creating the Health Forest Reserve Program, and providing watershed forestry assistance.				6591
Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forestry Recovery Act	This Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a pilot program to demonstrate the effectiveness of the resource management activities recommended in the Quincy Library Group-Community Stability Proposal. The Secretary shall conduct the pilot project on the Federal lands within Plumas National Forest, Lassen National Forest, and the Sierraville Ranger District of Tahoe National Forest in the State of California designated.	09/30/2012	NFS	P.L. 105–277; P.L. 110-161, Sec 434	16 U.S.C. 2104 note
Historic Preservation Act of 1966	This Act authorizes use of appropriated funds for the preservation and protection of historical and archaeological resources.		NFS	P.L. 89-665	16 U.S.C. 470
Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Preservation of Historical and Archaeological Data	These Acts authorizes use of appropriated funds for the preservation and protection of historical and archaeological resources and protection of archaeological data.		NFS	P.L. 93-291; P.L. 96-95; P.L. 106-355	16 U.S.C. sections of both 460 and 470

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Illinois Land Conservation Act of 1995	The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to charge reasonable user fees for the admission, occupancy, and use of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie; and may sell for salvage value any facilities and improvements which have been transferred under this Act. The Secretary may use amounts in the fund, in such amounts as are provided in advance in Appropriation Acts, for restoration and administration of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.		NFS	P.L. 104-106	16 U.S.C. 1609 note
Illinois Land Conservation Act of 1995, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie creation	Established the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Illinois, to be managed as part of the National Forest System. This Act also authorized the conversion of Joliet Army Ammunition Plant to the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Further, certain revenue receipts from the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie are authorized for deposit into a special Treasury fund to be available for obligation until expended.		NFS	P.L. 104-106	16 U.S.C. 1609; 16 U.S.C. 698u
Illinois Land Conservation Act of 1995, special use authorizations	The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to issue agricultural special use authorizations or grazing permits for purposes primarily related to erosion control, provision for food and habitat for fish and wildlife, or other resource management activities consistent with the purposes of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.		NFS	P.L. 104-106	16 U.S.C. 1609 note

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
International Forestry Cooperation Act of 1990	Authorizes support (including cooperation, financial, and technical assistance, without reimbursement) for international forestry and related natural resource activities outside the United States and its territories. Authorizes expansion of the research capabilities of the Institute of Tropical Forestry in Puerto Rico.		International Forestry	P.L. 101-513; P.L. 102-574	16 U.S.C. 4501
Interpretive Associations *(FS Partnership Agreements*)	Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture may enter into an agreement with a Federal, Tribal, State, or local government or a nonprofit entity to develop, produce, publish, distribute, or sell educational and interpretive materials and products and other purposes.	09/30/2019		P.L. 94-148: P.L. 113-76	16 U.S.C. 565a-1
Job Corps	Comptroller General Decision B-215842, dated June 25, 1986, (65 Comp.Gen.666). In accordance with this Comptroller General Decision Job Corps reimbursable authority is restricted to the activities of collections from non-students for meals in the students' dining hall and collections from students for lost and/or damaged tools and clothing.		NFS		
Knutson-Vandenberg Act of June 9, 1930	The Knutson-Vandenberg Act established a special fund to collect a portion of timber sale receipts to pay for reforesting the area from which the timber was cut. The Act was amended in 1976 to allow the use of these funds for other sale area improvement		NFS	P.L. 71-319; P.L. 94-588; P.L. 109-54	16 U.S.C. 576b

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	activities. The FY 2006 Interior Appropriations Act amended this authority to allow for the expenditure of unused funds, not needed for work on the sale area, on other areas in the same Forest Service region.				
Lake Tahoe Restoration Act	This Act enables the Forest Service to plan and implement environmental restoration activities and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, along with other Federal, State, local, regional, tribal, and private entities to improve water quality.		NFS	P.L. 106-506	
Land Acquisition Act of March 3, 1925	This Act authorizes the purchase of land for administrative sites and acceptance of donations of land when no suitable Government land is available. Appropriated funds must be available for the purpose for which the land is to be used. This authority is subject to an annual, service-wide limitation of $50,000.		NFS	P.L. 68-575; P.L. 85–464	16 U.S.C. 555
Land and Facilities Conveyance (Realignment)	CONVEYANCES AUTHORIZED.—In the manner provided by this title, the Secretary may convey an administrative site, or an interest in an administrative site, that is under the jurisdiction of the Secretary. The conveyance of an administrative site under this title may be made—(1) by sale; (2) by lease; (3) by exchange; (4) by a combination of sale and exchange; or (5) by such other	9/30/2016		P.L. 109-54 P.L.1 11-8 P.L. 112-74 16 U.S.C. 580d	

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	means as the Secretary considers appropriate.				
Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965	Created by Congress in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides money to federal, state and local governments to purchase land, water and wetlands for the benefit of all Americans. The Fund receives money from fees paid by companies drilling offshore for oil and gas. Other funding sources include the sale of surplus federal real estate and taxes on motorboat fuel.	9/30/2015	NFS	P.L. 88-578	16 U.S.C. 460l-4
Land Between the Lakes Protection Act of 1998	This Act establishes the Land Between the Lakes (LBL) Trust Fund and the LBL Management Fund. In accordance with Title V of the Act, responsibility for the LBL National Recreation Area in Kentucky and Tennessee transferred from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Act directed the Tennessee Valley Authority to deposit into the LBL Trust Fund $1,000,000 for five years, to be available until expended. The Act also authorizes the Forest Service to retain certain recreation revenue receipts from the Land Between the Lakes National		NFS	P.L. 105-277, Title V of Sec. 101 - e	16 USC 460lll (Chapter 1, subchapter CXXIII)

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	Recreation Area, to be deposited into the LBL Management Fund to be available for obligation until expended.				
McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962	Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate and assist State colleges and universities in forestry research on a matching funds basis. Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make competitive grants to a State agricultural experiment station, college, or university, research institution or organization, Federal agency, private organization, or corporation with the demonstrable capacity to conduct forestry, natural resource, and environmental research; and to update research facilities and equipment available for this type of research.		R&D and SPF	P.L. 87-788; P.L. 101-624	16 U.S.C.. 582a and 582a-1-582a-7
Mineral Materials Act of 1947	This Act provides authority to: (a) dispose of mineral material and (b) approve and issue permits to explore and develop oil and gas leases.		NFS	P.L. 80-291	30 U.S.C. 226, 601-602, and 611

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Mississippi National Forest Improvement Act of 1999	Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange U.S. right, title, and interest in and to specified lands in Mississippi. Makes proceeds from such sales or exchanges available for the construction of a research laboratory and office at the Forest Service administrative site at Mississippi State University at Starkville, Mississippi; the acquisition, construction, or improvement of administrative facilities in connection with National Forest System units in the State; and the acquisition of land and interests in land for units of the NFS in the State.		NFS	P.L. 106–113	7 U.S.C. 1281 Note
Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960	Clarifies Forest lands are to be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, wildlife, and fish. Authorized and directed the development and administration of the renewable surface resources of the National Forests for multiple use and sustained yield of the several products and services obtained there from.		NFS	P.L. 86-517	16 U.S.C. 528 note
Mutually Beneficial Agreements	Established permanent authority for the Forest Service to enter in to mutually beneficial agreements with public or private agencies, organizations, institutions, or persons. Exempts watershed restoration and enhancement agreements and agreements		ALL	P.L. 111-11, sec. 3001	16 U.S.C. 1011

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	under the first section of P.L. 94-148 from Chapter 63 of Title 31, United States Code.				
National and Community Service Act of September 21, 1993	Authorizes the Secretary to enter in to contracts or cooperative agreements with any qualified youth or conservation corps for completion of conservation work.		NFS	P.L. 103-82	42 U.S.C. 12501, 12572-12681
National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976	The NFMA requires that the Forest Service prepare and revise at fifteen-year intervals a land management plan (LMP) for each national forest to provide for multiple use and sustained yield of the products and services obtained from the forest. NFMA also establishes restrictions on timber harvest, such as provisions that harvest can only occur where soil, slope or other watershed conditions will not be irreversibly damaged. The Act directs the Secretary to develop regulations to set out the process for the development and revision of land management plans.		NFS	P.L. 94-588	16 U.S.C. 472a
National Forest Roads and Trails Act of 1964	This Act authorizes the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of National Forest System roads and trails. Also authorizes the construction of roads using cooperative financing from other agencies.		CIM	P.L. 88-657	16 U.S.C. 532-538

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986	The Act authorizes the issuance of permits for use and occupancy of suitable lands within the National Forest System for construction and maintenance of buildings, structures, and other facilities for hotels, resorts, summer homes, stores, industrial or commercial purposes, education or other public use, alpine and nordic skiing operations, and so forth.		NFS	P.L. 99-522	16 U.S.C. 497 and 497b
National Forest System Drug Control Act of 1986	Authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to prevent and control drug abuse on National Forest System lands, including investigative powers beyond the exterior boundaries of the National Forest System. For employment, equipment, facilities, training, and cooperative programs, $10 million annually.		LEI	P.L. 99-570	16 U.S.C. 559b note, 559b-559g
National Trails System Act of 1968	Sections 7 and 10 authorize the acquisition, exchange, and donation of land for the National Trails System and for development, management, and volunteer assistance on the system.		CIM	P.L. 90–543	16 U.S.C. 1241-1251

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Organic Administration Act of 1897	The Act provides authority for the administration, protection, and management of the National Forests, for the purposes of improving and protecting the forest, securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States. The Act also directs the Secretary of Agriculture to protect National Forests against destruction by fire and depredations.		NFS, WFM		16 U.S.C. 473-478, 479-482, and 551
Organizational Camp Fees	The Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 provides authority to establish a land use fee system for the occupancy and use of NFS lands by organizational camps that serve young people or individuals with a disability.		NFS	P.L. 108-7	
Payment for Receipts for Schools and Roads	The Act of May 23, 1908, as amended, commonly known as “Payments to States”, authorizes annual payments on a fiscal year basis to States equal to 25 percent of revenues from the sale of goods and services by the national forests. States shall use these payments for schools and roads.			P.L. 60-136	16 U.S.C. 500
Pest and Disease Revolving Loan Fund	Pest and Disease Revolving Loan Fund (Section 10205) – establishes a revolving loan fund to provide low interest loans to local governments to finance purchases of authorized equipment to monitor, remove,		SPF	P.L. 110-246	16 U.S.C. 2101a and continuing

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	dispose of, and replace infested trees. Authorizes appropriations of such sums as are necessary.				
Pipelines Act of 1920, Mineral Leasing Act	Rights-of-way through any Federal lands may be granted by the Secretary of the Interior or appropriate agency head for pipeline purposes for the transportation of oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or any refined product.		NFS	P.L. 66-146	30 U.S.C. 185
Private Schooling, Puerto Rico	Funds available to the Forest Service may be used for the purpose of expenses associated with primary and secondary schooling for dependents of agency personnel stationed in Puerto Rico at a cost not in excess of those authorized for the Department of Defense for the same area, at the discretion of the Chief of the Forest Service.	09/30/2019	ALL	P.L. 108-447; P.L. 109-54; P.L. 111-88; P.L. 113-76	
Quarters Operations and Maintenance	This Act authorizes the collection of rental income from employees living in government residences. Such rents and charges shall be deposited in a special Treasury fund, to remain available for obligation until expended, for maintenance and operation of quarters.		ALL	P.L. 98-473	5 U.S.C. 5911

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Quinault Special Management Area	The Act of November 8, 1968 establishes the "Quinault Special Management Area" from part of the Olympic National Forest, and assigns responsibility to the Forest Service for managing its natural resources and distributing proceeds from the sale of forest products according to provisions of the Act.		NFS	P.L. 100-638	
Reciprocal Fire Protection Act, Fire Protection Agreements and Mutual Aid Agencies	Authorizes agreements between agencies of the United States Government and other domestic agencies, including State and local entities and instrumentalities for mutual aid in fire protection and allows for reimbursements for costs incurred by the Department of Agriculture for fire protection rendered to be credited to the same appropriation or fund from which the expenses were paid. .		WFM	P.L. 84-46; Not yet assigned.	42 U.S.C. 1856a-d; Not yet assigned.
Reforestation Trust Fund	The Recreational Boating Safety and Facilities Act establishes the Reforestation Trust Fund which receives monetary resources through an annual warrant from Treasury, of monies received for certain customs duties and tariffs. No more than $30,000,000 may be deposited annually. The trust fund balance is available for reforestation and other "treatment of acreage." The Act's provisions give investment authority to the Forest Service		NFS	P.L. 96-451	16 U.S.C. 1606a

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	for the trust fund balance.				
Research Facilities Act of 1963	This Act authorizes support for agricultural research (including forestry) at eligible institutions through Federal grant funds, on a matching funds basis, to help finance physical facilities and equipment as required for the effective conduct of agricultural research and related academic programs.		R&D	P.L. 88-74; P.L. 95-113; P.L. 99-198	7 U.S.C. 390 - 390c
Research Grants Act of 1958	Provides, to agencies authorized to enter into contracts for basic scientific research with nonprofit institution and organizations, authority to make grants to such institutions and organizations; title to equipment purchased with such grants being vested with the nonprofit organization or institution. Such sums as are necessary; no expiration date.		R&D	P.L. 85-934	42 U.S.C. 1891-1893

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)	An Act to provide technical and financial assistance for the development of management plans and facilities for the recovery of energy and other resources from discarded materials and for the safe disposal of discarded materials, and to regulate the management of hazardous waste. RCRA was last reauthorized by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984. The amendments set deadlines for permit issuance, prohibited the land disposal of many types of hazardous waste without prior treatment, required the use of specific technologies at land disposal facilities, and established a new program regulating underground storage tanks.		ALL	P.L. 94-580	42 U.S.C. 6901
Resource Management Timber Receipts	The 1990 Appropriations Act made excess receipts from timber sales available for support costs of National Forest System programs as follow: 6 percent for trail maintenance, 4 percent for trail construction, 20 percent for wildlife and fish habitat management, 20 percent for soil, water and air management, 5 percent for cultural resource management, 5 percent for wilderness management, 10 percent for reforestation and 30 percent for timber sale administration and management. No excess receipts were generated after 1989 and the balance of this fund was expended in FY	does not expire but there have been no excess receipts generated since 1989; final funds spent in FY 2012.	NFS	P.L. 101-121	

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	2012.				
Restoration of National Forest Lands and Improvements Act	This Act authorizes establishment of a fund for improvement, protection, or rehabilitation of National Forest System lands. This fund receives monies from (a) a forfeiture of a bond or deposit by a permittee or timber purchaser (b) the result of a judgment, compromise, or settlement of any claim, involving present or potential damage to lands or improvements. Funds are available until expended to cover the costs of performing the required work.		NFS	P.L. 85-464	16 U.S.C. 579c
Retention of Receipts, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993	This Act authorizes the Forest Service to retain 15 percent of certain recreation receipts to defray the costs of collecting those receipts.		NFS	P.L. 103-66	16 U.S.C. 460i-6c, 16 U.S.C. 500, 16 U.S.C. 460

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Rights-of-Way for Highways	Forest highways are generally constructed by the FHWA and then transferred to State ownership and control. This act authorizes appropriate transfer, to States, National Forest System lands for highway rights-of-way.		CIM	P.L. 85-767	23 U.S.C., Sections 107(d), 204(f) and 317
Roads and Trails for States (Ten percent fund)	Act of March 4, 1913, as amended, commonly known as "Ten-percent Roads and Trails", authorizes 10 percent of all moneys received from the national forests during each fiscal year shall be available to be expended for the construction and maintenance of roads and trails within the national forests in the States from which such proceeds are derived. Annual appropriation acts have amended this Act to allow the Secretary of Agriculture to expend funds without regard to the State in which the amounts were derived.		NFS	P.L. 62-430	16 U.S.C. 501
Roads and Trails for States (10 Percent) Fund), transfer to Treasury	The Department of the Interior Appropriations Act of 2010 directed "That funds becoming available in fiscal year 2010 under the Act of March 4, 1913 (16 U.S.C. 501) shall be transferred to the General Fund of the Treasury and for any other purpose unless the funds are appropriated."		CIM	P.L. 111-88	16 U.S.C. 501

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum and Nature Center	The Act of June 6, 1968 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with, and receive the cooperation of, agencies, organizations and individuals in the development, administration, and operation of the Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum and Nature Center in the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to accept contributions and gifts to further the purposes of the Act.		NFS	P.L. 90-327	16 U.S.C. 693b-d
Rogue River Conveyance and Improvement Act	This Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the administrative site for the Rogue River National Forest and use the proceeds for the construction or improvement of offices and support buildings for the Rogue River National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management.		NFS	P.L. 105-282	
Rural Communities Technical Assistance	Starting in FY 1993, the Administrative or General Provisions language of the Interior Appropriations Act allows employees to interact with and provide technical assistance to rural communities for sustainable rural development outside the boundaries of National Forest System lands.		NFS	P.L. 102-381	

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Rural Revitalization Technologies	Authorizes $5,000,000 in annual appropriations for forestry rural revitalization technologies to: (A) accelerate adoption of technologies using biomass and small-diameter materials; (B) create community-based enterprises through marketing activities and demonstration projects; and (C) establish small-scale business enterprises to make use of biomass and small-diameter materials.	09/30/2018	SPF	P.L. 110-246; P.L. 113-79	7 U.S.C. 6601;
Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000	This Act, originally authorized through FY 2006 as P.L. 106-393, provides choices to counties to either receive a guaranteed level of annual payments for roads and schools and other authorized purposes, as well as funding for specific resource improvement projects on the national forest where the county is located, or to receive payments under the Act of May 23, 1908. The Act was reauthorized through FY 2011 on October 3, 2008 in P.L. 110-343, Division C, Title VI. It was then reauthorized through FY 2012 on July 6, 2012 in P.L. 112-141 with some changes to funding levels, and reauthorized through FY 2013 by P.L. 113-40. (The last payment will be made in 2014 for FY 2103 receipts.)	09/30/2013		P.L. 106-393; P.L. 110-343; P.L. 112-141; P.L. 113-30	16 U.S.C. 500 note; 16 U.S.C. 7101 et seq

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Service First	The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, subject to annual review of Congress, may establish pilot programs involving the land management agencies referred to in this section to conduct projects, planning, permitting, leasing, contracting and other activities, either jointly or on behalf of one another.		ALL	P.L. 106-291; P.L. 109-54; P.L. 111-8; P.L. 112-74	43 U.S.C. 1701 note
Shasta Trinity Marina Permit Fee Collection	A permit fee for a marina on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest shall be deposited in a special account in the Treasury established for the Secretary of Agriculture, and shall remain available to the Secretary of Agriculture until expended, without further appropriation, for purposes stated in section 808(a)(3)(A-D) of title VIII of division J of Public Law 108-447 (16 U.S.C. 6807), and for direct operating or capital costs associated with the issuance of a marina permit.	9/30/2019	NFS	P.L. 110-161; P.L. 111-88; P.L. 113-76	16 U.S.C. 497; 16 U.S.C. 6807
Sisk Act of 1971	This Act authorizes cooperation with States and political subdivisions in enforcement of State and local laws on National Forest System lands, and reimbursement of States and political subdivisions for expenditures incurred in such activities.		NFS, SPF	P.L. 92-82	16 U.S.C. 551a

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Small Tracts Act of January 12, 1983	This Act authorizes the sale, exchange, or interchange of National Forest System lands of forty acres or less and of $150,000 or less in value.		NFS	P.L. 97-465	16 U.S.C. 521d
Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977	This Act authorizes cooperation in soil and water resource appraisal and conservation.	12/31/2018	ALL	P.L. 95-192; P.L. 110-246	16 U.S.C. 2008-9
Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998	This Act authorizes proceeds from the sale of public lands in Southern Nevada to be used to acquire environmentally sensitive lands in the State of Nevada. Lands acquired that are within the boundaries of a unit of the NFS, become part of that unit.		NFS	P.L. 105-263	
Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004, Ecological Restoration Institutes	Establishes institutes to demonstrate and promote the use of adaptive ecosystem management to reduce the risk of wildfires, and restore the health of fire-adapted forest and woodland ecosystems of the interior west. If the Secretary determines that an Institute does not qualify for further Federal assistance under this Act, the Institute shall receive no further Federal assistance under this Act until such time as the qualifications of the Institute are reestablished. Authorizes $15 million annually.		WFM	P.L. 108-317	16 U.S.C. 6701-6707

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State and Private Forestry Redesign	Allows for a portion of CFAA funds, determined by the Secretary, to be competitively allocated to State Forestry agencies. No new authorization of appropriations.		SPF	P.L. 110-246	16 U.S.C. 2101a and continuing
State-wide Assessment and Strategies for Forest Resources	Authorization of appropriations for State-wide assessment and strategies for forest resources. Authorizes $10,000,000 in annual appropriations for State-wide assessments of forest resource conditions. Plans must be submitted by May 22, 2010 for a State to be eligible to receive funds under the authorities of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-313), as amended. Additionally, the Secretary may use any other funds made available in the FY 2008 farm bill for planning, not to exceed $10,000,000 per fiscal year. Annual reports from the States on the use of funds are required.	09/30/2018	SPF	P.L. 110-246	16 U.S.C. 2101a
Stewardship Contracting	This Act authorizes the Forest Service to enter into stewardship projects via agreement or contract to perform services to achieve land management goals and meet local and rural community needs. The Agricultural Act of 2014 made this authority permanent.	Permanent	NFS	P.L. 108-7; P.L. 113-46; P.L. 113-76; P.L. 113-79	

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Terry Peak Land Transfer Act of 1999	This Act requires the conveyance of certain NFS lands at the Terry Peak Ski Area to the private ski area owners and to utilize the proceeds to acquire more desirable lands for the United States for permanent public use and enjoyment.		NFS	P.L. 106-138	16 U.S.C. 497b; 16 U.S.C. 484a; 16 U.S.C. 521
Texas National Forests Improvement Act of 2000	To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain administrative sites for National Forest System lands in the State of Texas, to convey certain National Forest System land to the New Waverly Gulf Coast Trades Center, and for other purposes.		NFS	P.L. 106-330	16 U.S.C. 484a
The Smokey Bear Act	This Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to deposit all fees collected under regulations promulgated by the Secretary relating to “Smokey Bear”, into a special Treasury account to be available to further the nationwide forest fire prevention campaign. Most fees deposited under this Act are royalty fees from Smokey Bear character-licensing collection agreements with merchandisers.			P.L. 82-359	16 U.S.C. 580p-2; 18 U.S.C. 711

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The Woodsy Owl Act	This Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to deposit all use or royalty fees collected for the manufacture, reproduction, or use of the name or character "Woodsy Owl" and the associated slogan, "Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute". The Secretary shall deposit all fees revenue into a special Treasury account, to be available for obligation and expenditure for the purpose of furthering the "Woodsy Owl" campaign to promote the wise use of the environment and programs which foster maintenance and improvement of environmental quality.			P.L. 93-318	16 U.S.C. 580p-3
Thye-Blatnik Act of June 22, 1948, Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness	The Act established the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in the Superior National Forest and subsequently revised the designation and boundaries to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) and Mining Protection Area.		NFS	P.L. 87–351; P.L. 94–384	16 U.S.C. 577h
Thye-Blatnik Act of June 22, 1948, Payments to Minnesota Counties	This Act, commonly known as "Payments to Minnesota Counties", authorizes annual payments on a fiscal year basis to the State of Minnesota from any national forest receipts not otherwise appropriated, an amount equivalent to three-quarters of 1 percent of the fair appraised value of certain national forest lands specified in the Act, situated in three Minnesota counties (sec. 61.2). Payments under the Act of May 23,		NFS	P.L. 87–351; P.L. 94–384	16 U.S.C. 577g

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	1908 (sec. 60.1 paragraph 1), shall not be applicable to the national forest land to which this Act applies.				
Timber Salvage Sales (authorized by NFMA)	NFMA authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to require purchasers of salvage timber to make monetary deposits in a designated Treasury fund to cover the costs for sale preparation and administration, and the engineering design and administration of any needed roads necessary for the harvesting of salvage timber. Funds are available until expended.		NFS	P.L. 94-588	16 U.S.C. 472a (h)
Timber Purchaser Elect (authorized by NFMA)	NFMA authorizes the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of National Forest System roads and trails; cooperation with States, counties, and other subdivisions; construction of roads by timber purchasers; and election by timber purchasers to have the Forest Service construct the roads.		NFS	P.L. 94-588	16 U.S.C. 472a

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Timber Roads, Purchaser Election	The Department of the Interior Appropriations Act of 1999 authorizes small business timber purchasers to elect to pay the Forest Service to construct or reconstruct any permanent roads or bridges required by the timber sale. The timber purchaser must be classified as a small business operator, and the total estimated reconstruction and construction cost in the timber sale contract must exceed $50,000.		NFS	P.L. 105-277	16 USC 535a
Timber Roads, Purchaser Election Construction Program	This Department of the Interior Appropriations Act of 2008 authorized the use of $15,000,000 from current balances of the Purchaser Election Fund for vegetative treatments.		NFS	P.L. 110-161	
Timber Sale Pipeline Restoration Fund	The Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Action of 1996 authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to collect and deposit revenues from a specific set of timber sales. The sales, known under the program as first generation sales, had been suspended legally for various environmental reasons and were released under P.L. 104-19, [title II, Sec. 2001(k)], July 27, 1995. The revenues are to be used prepare timber sales and addressing the backlog of recreation projects. Revenues from the sale of timber prepared using these funds are also deposited into this fund and		NFS	P.L. 104-134	16 U.S.C. 1611 note

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	are available for preparation of additional timber sales and recreation backlog projects.				
Timber Sale Pipeline Restoration Fund, Office of General Counsel opinion	Office of General Counsel Opinion dated December 13, 2002. This opinion states that timber sales under the Timber Pipeline Restoration program must use sales receipts for payments to States before net receipts are deposited into the Timber Sale Pipeline Restoration Fund.		NFS		
Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990	This Act established the Tongass Timber Supply Fund with related appropriations to finance the consistent supply of saw timber from the Tongass National Forest to meet the annual market demand as defined in the Act and to use wood products which might otherwise not be utilized.		NFS	P.L. 101-626	16 U.S.C. 539d
Transfer of funds to BLM for Wild Horse and Burro and Cadastral surveys	Authorization to transfer up to $10,000,000 from the National Forest Systems appropriation to BLM for removal, preparation, and adoption of excess wild horses and burros from NFS lands, and for	Permanent	NFS	P.L. 108-447; P.L. 111-88; P.L. 113-76	

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	cadastral surveys..				
Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2002	This Act authorizes Federal agencies to receive and use revenue resulting from waste prevention and recycling programs. Such revenue shall be available until expended for the purpose of waste reduction, prevention and recycling. The FS uses this authority for its "Go Green" program in which funds are collected from recycling and can be used to accomplish clean-up activities on the unit.		ALL	P.L. 107-67 Title VI	
Treatment of Contributions of Volunteers	The Forest Service may consider the value of services performed by person who volunteer their services to the Forest Service and who are recruited, trained, and supported by a cooperator as an in-kind contribution of the cooperator for purposes of any cost sharing requirement under any Forest Service authority to enter into mutual benefit agreements.	9/30/2019	ALL	P.L. 113-76	
Trust Fund Authorization	Section 1321 of Title 31 of the United States Code authorizes Trust Funds.		NFS		31 U.S.C. 1321
U.S. Mining Laws Act of May 10, 1872	This Act governs mining activities for valuable minerals on public domain lands.		ALL		30 U.S.C. 22 and 28

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Use and Occupancy Permits Act of 1915	To permit the use and occupancy of areas for the purpose of constructing or maintaining hotels, resorts, summer homes, commercial purposes, and other structures. (Note: There are special provisions under P.L. 99-522 for ski areas).		NFS	P.L. 63-293	16 U.S.C. 497
Use of Funds for Program Information Purposes and for Nonmonetary Awards	Hereafter, any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service may be used to disseminate program information to private and public individuals and organizations through the use of nonmonetary items of nominal value. This act also provides for nonmonetary awards of nominal value and to incurring of necessary expenses for the nonmonetary recognition of private individuals and organizations making contributions to Forest Service programs.			P.L. 105-277	16 U.S.C. 556h
Valles Caldera Preservation Act of July 25, 2000	This Act authorizes the Valles Caldera Trust to receive and collect funds in support of the management and administration of the Preserve. Pursuant to the 2015 Defense Authorization Act, the Valles Caldera Preserve will be transferred to the management of the National Park Service in FY 2015. Any unobligated balances in the fund after the transfer is complete will be transferred to the Department of the Interior.		NFS	P.L. 106-248	16 U.S.C. 698v-4, 698v-6

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Virginia Land Conveyance and Improvement Act	Authorizes the sale or exchange of all or parts of certain administrative sites and other lands in the George Washington National Forest and the Jefferson National Forest. Authorizes the use of sale revenue to acquire a replacement site and to construct on the site suitable improvements for national forest administrative purposes.		NFS	P.L. 105-171	16 U.S.C. 484a
Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Agreements	Appropriations for the Forest Service may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture for the purpose of entering into cooperative agreements with willing Federal, tribal, State and local governments, private and nonprofit entities and landowners for the protection, restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other resources on public or private land, the reduction of risk from natural disaster where public safety is threatened, or a combination thereof or both that benefit these resources within the watershed.		ALL	P.L. 105-277 Sec. 323; P.L. 111-11 Sec. 3001	16 U.S.C. 1011 note
Weeks Act of 1911	Sections 1 and 2 authorize land acquisition for watershed protection and timber production. One of the primary authorities for land acquisition with Land and Water Conservation Fund moneys.		NFS	P.L. 61-435	16 U.S.C. 516, 521b
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968	Sections 6 and 16 authorize land acquisition, exchange, and donation of land for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System.		NFS	P.L. 90–542	16 U.S.C. 1277

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Wilderness Act of 1964	Sections 5 and 6 provide authority for acquisition, exchange, and donation of land for inclusion in the Wilderness System.		NFS	P.L. 88-577	16 U.S.C. 1131-1136
Wildfire Suppression Act	This Act authorizes reciprocal agreements with foreign fire organizations for mutual aid in wildfire protection.		WFM	P.L. 101-11	42 U.S.C. 1856m note
Youth and Conservation Corps activities	Together, the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 and the Public Lands Corp Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2005 provide for the conduct of projects that protect forests, and for other purposes by qualified youth or conservation corps up to $12 million per year.		NFS	P.L. 109-154	16 U.S.C. 1701 - 1730